



Reading Our Bible Together in 2021

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Point 4: How the Bible Answers the Question.

Before this study, most of us thought *saved* meant only *inherit eternal life*, and in the letters of the New Testament, *sozo/save* seems to mean almost exactly that: *save (spiritually)*. In the first part of this long examination of salvation, however, we saw that God’s idea about salvation is much broader:

- 1: God wants to save everybody, both corporately and individually, and sometimes it’s hard to distinguish the two.
- 2: You can reject God’s plan for your salvation. This option is Not Recommended.
- 3: God’s plan for your salvation is broader than you think.
 - 3a: God wants to save your physical life and health.
 - 3b: God wants to give you abundant life.
 - 3c: God wants to give you eternal life.

Now that we’ve seen what the Bible says about those subtopics, we’re going to look at the question that got us started, “What must I *do* to be saved?”

Giant Important Final Disclaimer: I am perfectly well aware of the teaching of the Church about what we must do to be saved; I’m also aware that there’s a fair amount of variation between Orthodox and Catholic, Catholic and Protestant, Methodist and Baptist, and in general any two denominations, between what the teaching on this topic *is*. Strangely enough, the scripture itself unambiguously answers the question in several different ways, and we’re going to read a number of those scriptures in this final installment of our study. If some of them don’t sound very orthodox to you, then I assure you that orthodoxy, and not scripture, is at fault.

And by the way, many of the scriptures we’ll read in this segment are ones we’ve read before. That’s okay; I discover something new every time I read a passage.

May 10	Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:17-19	Keep the Law, Chiefly to Love God and Love Your Neighbor. Moses said it first; Jesus says he came to fulfill, or “complete” the Law and the Prophets.
May 11	Mark 12:28-34; Matthew 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-37	Jesus says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself,” and take pity on your neighbor.
May 12	Mark 10:17-22; Matthew 19:16-22; Luke 18:18-23	Jesus says, “Keep the commandments.” When pressed, he says that you (singular) should give up what you (singular) have and come with him.
May 13	Mark 10:23-31; Matthew 19:23-30; Luke 18:24-30	Jesus says, no one who has left everything for the sake of the kingdom of God will not be given eternal life in the world to come.
May 14	James 2:1-13; Galatians 5:13-14, 22-25	James and Paul reiterate the second of the Great Commandments and the importance of the Law.

May 17	Micah 6:6-8; Amos 5:14-15, 24; Galatians 6:1-10	Do Justice, Love Mercy. Do good, do justice to reap eternal life.
May 18	Romans 1:16-17, 2:1-16	It's always perilous to take Paul out of context, but here he says that those who always do good will obtain eternal life.
May 19	Acts 2:14-21, 2:36-41	Be Baptized Repent and be baptized, or believe and be baptized.
May 20	Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20	Believe and be baptized.
May 21	Romans 6:1-23	Be baptized and give up sin.
May 24	John 3:1-21	Believe in, Have Faith in, or Trust Jesus (all the same word in Greek) ... Unlike the synoptic Gospels and the other letters, the books of John and 1, 2, and 3 John have no call to repentance, and very few comments on behavior. John the Disciple wants you to <i>believe</i> in Jesus, and to <i>love</i> God and one another.
May 25	John 3:22-36	
May 26	John 5:19-30	
May 27	John 6:26-47	
May 28	John 6:48-71	
May 31	John 10:22-42	... and, as an aside, keep the commandments.
June 1	Hebrews 10:37 – 11:19	
June 2	Hebrews 11:20 – 12:2	
June 3	John 12:44-50, 17:1-3, 20:30-31	
June 4	1 John 5:1-12	... and be baptized.
June 7	Acts 10:34-48, 11:1-4, 17-18	
June 8	Acts 16:19-34	
June 9	1 Peter 1:1-21	
June 10	John 11:17-27	
June 11	1 John 5:11-21	... and be holy. ... but notice here who is asked about having faith: Martha. I never noticed before that Lazarus seems to be the beneficiary of her belief. "Keep yourselves from idols." And by the way, does my faithful prayer make it possible for somebody else to gain eternal life?
June 13	Matthew 5:21-48	Even Though We Are Mercifully Saved by Grace, there are Some Requirements After That. As near as I can tell, these requirements are not optional. Failure to do them won't (usually) get you unsaved, but it will require some embarrassing explanations on Judgment Day. Exceed the requirements of the Law. Keep the commandments of Jesus. Confess and seek forgiveness for your sins. Forgive the sins of others against you "Go and sin no more." "Sin no more." Sin is forbidden; good works are required. Sin is forbidden; good works are required. Flee evil; pursue good. Sin is forbidden.
June 15	John 14:15-26	
June 16	Luke 18:1-14	
June 17	Matthew 18:23-35, 6:12-15	
June 18	John 8:1-11	
June 21	John 5:1-15	
June 22	Titus 1:1-4, 2:1-15	
June 23	Titus 3:1-15	
June 24	1 Timothy 6:1-21	
June 25	Jude 1:1-25	

June 28	James 1:1-21	“Be slow to speak, slow to anger, quick to hear.”
June 29	James 2:14-26	“Faith divorced from deeds is barren.” (New English Bible)
June 30	James 4:1-17	Not doing good when you know how is a sin.
July 1	1 John 2:1-17	Break with sin.
July 2	Luke 24:36-53	Proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus.
July 5	John 13:12-17, 31-35, 14:15-21	A New Commandment: Love One Another. “Love one another as I have loved you.”
July 6	John 15:1-17	“This is my commandment to you: love one another.”
July 7	1 Peter 4:8	“Keep your love for one another at full strength.”
July 8	2 John 1:1-13	“Let us love one another.”
July 9	1 John 4:7-21	“God is love. ... He who loves God must also love his brother.”

“Reading Our Bible Together” originated in 2007 at St. John’s United Methodist Church in Albuquerque and is our largest continuing Bible study. A scripture passage and a brief study tip are distributed to most participants by email five days a week. The study tips are made available outside our walls through an archive at www.daily-bible-study-tips.com. We each read at a time and place of our own choosing. Answers to reader questions and other supplements occasionally come out on Saturdays. Subscribe to receive daily study tips by email.