

WHAT SHALL I DO TO BE SAVED?

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Title: What Shall I Do To Be Saved?

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ISBN: 9789773212458

Printed in Egypt
First Edition 2024

For requests: Address to the library or via WhatsApp/
Viber at this number (002001222351652)

Introduction:

Some questions about salvation may have been crossing the minds of many specially those who are young or just starting their walk with the Lord!

Some of these can be summed up in the next 7 questions:

1. How can I be saved? And how do I know that I am saved?
2. Is salvation an act that happens at certain moment?
3. Is Salvation by faith or by good deeds?
4. Is it normal to feel less joyous sometimes after walking with the Lord than when I first believed ?

5. I have doubts that I am saved and someone assured me that It's okay to have doubts, am I okay?
6. Isn't it prideful to think and say that I am saved and certainly going to heaven?
7. I am afraid that I may miss out on the opportunity to be saved!?

Now, by God's Grace we will try to answer those questions to the best of our ability with supporting biblical quotes praying that this booklet will be a blessing to many, in Jesus's holy Name. Amen

1. How can I be saved? And how do I know that I am saved?



Please know that God is eager and long to your salvation, “Who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:4. It is easy and simple if you would know and realize the following,

1. Trusting that salvation is being offered to you:

Salvation is assured and available through the Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord whose blood was shed on the cross for you and me and it is sufficient for your salvation. It sufficient for God the Father to forgive your sins and accept you. In your sins, “you were dead in your transgressions and sins,” Ephesians 2:1, you couldn’t save yourself! You can only accept the Savior’s gift of salvation.

2. Know that you are a sinner needing to be saved:

You need to realize that you are a sinner and need Him for salvation and forgiveness of sins as Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”. Luke 5:31-32. Jesus also gave a Parable to illustrate needing to realize one’s own need, He said: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me,

a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Like 18:10-14

3. Desire and seek salvation:

Willful desire and seeking salvation is essential since God will not force you against your own will. The sinner (tax collector) in the above Parable realized his sinfulness and needs for forgiveness and so did the sinful woman who came to Jesus in tears and alabaster in Luke 7:36-50 and the people of Jerusalem when heard the message of salvation from Peter the apostle on the day of the Pentecost, “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Acts 2-37.

4. Repentance of sins:

This should follow the above realization since feeling bad and regretting are not repentance. To repent is to accept responsibility, ask forgiveness and leave the life of sins behind! “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent” Acts 17:30. “I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds” Acts 26:20. The good news is that “even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.” Acts 11:1

5. Accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

Full repentance is not just realizing our sinfulness and leaving behind the life of sins but accepting Jesus and His death on the

cross for our sins putting our trust in Him, His love for us accepting His forgiveness and righteousness. God's Love and forgiveness and Christ's loving sacrifice is for all, so come to Him now just as you are, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

John 3:16-17

Signs of Salvation:

After you get saved, you will have a new nature that loves righteousness and hate sins just like Christ does, "You love righteousness and hate wickedness." Psalms 45:7

You will also have the Holy Spirit in you for guidance, “He will guide you into all the truth” John 16:13. The farther away from faith the more evidence of change will be after salvation and for those who grew up in Christian homes may not notice many changes but all will have new nature and evidence of being born again, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Let us take Paul the apostle’s conversion story as recorded in the book of Acts 9:1-20; and also in chapters 22 and 26 as an example and extracts from it seven evidences of being born again or saved,

1. Submission to The Lord’s Will:

Before His encounter with Christ, Paul (Saul of Tarsus then) was like untamed wild

horse doing what he wants killing Christians thinking he was serving God! After his faith, Paul's words and life attitude were "What shall I do, Lord" Acts 22:10.

Paul remained faithful witness in full submission to His Will even before kings, "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven." Acts 26:19.

2. Prayer:

"He is praying", said the Lord to Ananias about Paul! Ananias was afraid to go to Saul due to his infamous history of persecuting and killing Christians, but the Lord said to Ananias not to be afraid and that Paul is now "a chosen vessel" with the evidence that "he is praying"!

3. Studying the Word of God: The Apostle Paul taught how the scriptures bless our lives.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Just like the apostles of Jesus spent 3 years with him learning His teachings, Paul said to the Galatians : “I did not consult any man, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus” (Galatians 1:16-17) then he met with the apostles and confirmed that their teachings are all consistent. It is widely accepted by scholars that Paul the apostle has written 13 out of the 27 New

Testament books and possibly one more, the book of Hebrews.

4. Fellowship with other believers:

as it says in the scriptures “I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.” Psalm 119:63, Paul “for some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.” Acts 9:19. The Holy Spirit connect us believers as different organs in the one body the head of which is Christ. “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:13 “, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working prop-

erly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” Ephesians 4:15-16

5. Spreading the good news about Jesus:

being born again, a desire to serve the Lord and proclaim Him a Savior is born in the believer’s heart. Paul “immediately (he) proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”” Acts 9:20

6. Spiritual growth:

“But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.” Acts 9:22. Growth is part of and an evidence of being a live. “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18

7. Endurance of persecution:

when the Lord sent Ananias to Paul, He said to him, “For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”” Acts 9:16 and it was! (See 2 Corinthians 11:23-26)

More signs of salvation:

Love for all people even one’s own enemies just as Jesus did and taught, “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” Matthew 5:44. **Love for the believers**, “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.” 1 John 3:14. **Love of righteousness and hate of sin**, following our Savior’s footsteps “You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.” Hebrews 1:9

Lastly but not least, “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,” Romans 8:16.

Caution: Feelings alone don't provide assurance of salvation, so we should be careful for “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”- Jeremiah 17:9. Assurance is based on God's work, His Word and promises.

2. Is Salvation an act that happens at certain moment?



We can assure you from the experience of many and from scriptures that Salvation is an act that occurs at certain moment in the life of the person but Sanctification is a process that

involves the whole life of that person. Yes, God can and He does, He changes hearts, attitudes and behavior in momentary encounters. The change in person's life will be noticed by himself and others even if gradually observed!

The encounter that leads to Salvation is preceded by a process during which the Holy Spirit Works on the person's life "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood."

1 Peter 1:2. So, this preparation leads to the momentary encounter called Salvation, repentance, Regeneration or being born again! This process leads the person to realize the need for Christ and come to repentance and being saved!

Examples of Salvation encounters in the Bible:

- **“There was a man named Zacchaeus.** He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was,..he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus..said to the Lord, “Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.”

And Jesus said to him, “**Today** salvation has come to this house..for the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
Luke 19:2-10

- “**A woman from Samaria** came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.””
John 4:7 and after a long conversation with such woman of flawed characters and behaviors, not only she accepted Jesus as The Messiah, but also went out and told the whole people of Samaria about Him, that very day! “Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.”” John 4:39
- **The Philippian jailer conversion:** “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prison-

ers were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**" And they said, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.**" And they spoke the

word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and **he was baptized at once**, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. **And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.**”

Acts 16:25-34

- “There was an **Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians**, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet

and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,..” And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and **beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus...**going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down

into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water.. **the eunuch went on his way rejoicing.**” Acts 8:27-36, 38-39

More stories of Salvation and change is that of Saint Augustine who acknowledged that his old self running into debauchery has died and that he was a new Augustine! He became a great Christian scholar and theologian.

Same abrupt conversion happened to Saint Moses the Black who is also known as Moses the Strong, Moses the Assyrian, Moses the Ethiopian and Moses the Robber! His salvation lead him from being a chief of robbers into a priest and monk and changed his life from a life of crime to that of asceticism and evangelism!

Some may think that such teaching of salvation may lead to laziness and lack of spiritual fervor, but that is not accurate! The word of God teaches us to stay vigilant spiritually and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Someone may say, **“I can be saved and do what I want!”** Well, the new nature given you through salvation will not draw towards evil! You will love righteousness and hate evil. The Spirit in the believer will draw him towards holiness.

The three stages of Salvation:

I would like to share briefly some of what I have read in the “The Great Salvation” by F. B. Hole saying that God’s salvation is saving us from all dangers, past, present and future that threaten our spiritual being. We can talk of that salvation through the cross of Je-

sus as a salvation we have received, hence we believers can refer to ourselves as the Saved. Jesus is our Savior from the upcoming wrath of God, we are safe, so we are saved!

“For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **he saved us**, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:3-7

Yes, He saved us but we live in the flesh, human nature and surrounded by worldly traps set by Satan our enemy and because of that we need to daily deliverance or salvation! This deliverance is attainable to us through Jesus Christ's priesthood on our behalf! **"Consequently, he (Christ) is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him,** since he always lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25.

Future salvation will be through Christ's return since "our citizenship is in heaven, and from it **we await a Savior,** the Lord Jesus Christ, **who will** transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself." Philippians 3:20-21

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” Philippians 2:12 which means living every day in obedience to the Holy Spirit and by God’s Grace following Christ’s example in humble loving and meek Spirit. This keeps us united as Christians and gives us effective testimony of God’s love for all till Christ returns and take us home.

“Therefore, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

3. Is Salvation by faith or by good deeds?



“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

It is by **grace** through **faith** and available to all, though not all people will accept and be saved!

“God our Savior..desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” 1Timothy 2:3-4, but everyone has free will to accept the free gift of grace through faith or just refuse the offer and stay condemned, for “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his

grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” Romans 3:23-24. It is obvious then, that Salvation is by faith, “and without faith it is impossible to please him (God).” Hebrews 11:6.

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.” John 3:36

So, how can be salvation by grace and by faith in the meantime? God’s Grace is offering salvation, man’s responsibility and way of receiving is faith. “Therefore, the promise (of salvation) comes (is received) by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be **guaranteed** to all.” Romans 4:16-16. If it was by deeds, it would have not been “**guaranteed**”!

**4. Is it normal to feel less joy-
ous sometimes after walking
with the Lord than when I
first believed?**



When we first believe, a flood of joy and peace overwhelming takes us into heavenly realms with our realization of our forgiveness of sins and obtaining eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord! Nothing matches such an experience! The intensity may decrease but the experience continues to be profound like water falls that may seem less intense in the deep, yet powerful and clear!

In our walk with the Lord, “the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are

not to (always) do whatever you want.” Galatians 5:17, “so I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16 for “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,” Galatians 5:22.

Do you want to stay in peace and joy? “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:29-32

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die (spiritually); but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live (spiritually).” Romans 8:12-13

You may not be fruitful for the kingdom of Christ and you may not enjoy peace and joy if you walk according to the desires of the flesh, but you will not lose your salvation which is guaranteed by God’s Grace through the redemption of Jesus Christ, praise His Name!

“My sheep listen to my voice; **I know them**, and they follow me. **I give them eternal life**, and **they shall never perish**; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father,

who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”” John 10:27-30

5. I have doubts that I am saved and someone assured me that It's okay to have doubts, am I okay?



Sometimes we tend to express our doubts so we may hear a reassuring and affirming statement from the hearer, it's almost human natural tendency! Hearing such affirmation can be comforting, I can say. But we should be careful where we stand from salvation and the work of the Holy Spirit. To the doubters I say, have you experienced the evidences of

salvation we have talked about above? Are you harboring a sin in your heart that you enjoy and did not yet seek forgiveness and repentance?

Here are some reasons of doubting one's own faith:

1. Depending on emotions:

Emotions are deceptive and unreliable and it's dangerous to depend on them rather than on the solid unchanging Word of God! If you have accepted Jesus Christ and forgiveness of sins, then you are surely saved whether you feel that or not for God's Word states that.

2. Spiritual laziness:

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness,

knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;" 2 Peter 1:5-6

3. Falling into particular sin, repeatedly:

This would cast doubt "how can God allow this to me", he may ask not realizing that his fight against the flesh and sin can lead to falling of believers into sin. If you don't get up and keep going, you would be like "Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless" 2 Peter 2:7

How did tens of thousands of the people of Israel in Exodus 12 were certain of their firstborn safety on the night of Passover? It was the blood of the innocent slaughtered lamb on the upper posts and side frames of their doors of their homes! Let's imagine that

two of those families did exactly what was asked to do and their door was stained by the blood of the Passover lamb. The first family was not sure if their first born will be saved and spent a night of fear and stress till the morning while the second family was happy rejoicing and praising God all night long! Which family do you think had their first-born safely in the morning? Both of course, because it was not how they felt but the actual blood of the lamb that saves. Amen! If you doubt but you're saved, no eternal harm but waste of time, talents and treasures like the first family, but your salvation stands because of the blood of Jesus! If not sure, talk with a believer and come to Jesus, repent of your sins and accept the blessed assurance of God's Grace by faith through Christ Jesus our Lord! Come now..

6. Isn't it prideful to think and say that I am saved and certainly going to heaven?



Some may think that it is humble to say “I’m not sure of my salvation till I day” and they may spend all their life saying that they are sinners needing forgiveness and never certain of their salvation. Well, Jesus declared to Zacchaeus “today salvation has come to this house” and He said to the repentant woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace”. Would they be prideful to say that they received Christ’s salvation? Shouldn’t they believe that He actually has saved them? It’s God’s declaration and assurance of a guaranteed salvation that we accept and when appropriate indicate.

Please review more scriptures:

“We accept human testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. **And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”** 1 John 5:9-11

“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other.” 1 John 3:14

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,” Romans 8:1

The question however may be stemming from another question in mind, “can I trust

myself staying in the faith the rest of my life?” Again the Lord Himself has started the encounter by grace and He is the guarantor of its completion.

“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” Jude 1:24-25

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in

heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

1 Peter 1:3-5

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."

John 10:28, Jesus Christ the Savior has promised, and He is faithful and able, amen!

So, when a believer expresses his confidence in his salvation, it's not trusting himself but the Savior and His Word and fulfilling the command, "Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming." 1 Peter 1:13

7. I am afraid that I may miss out on the opportunity to be saved?



Some were indeed very close to the message and could have been saved but they unfortunately didn't. They sadly missed out on the opportunity to be saved!

Here are three persons as example of missing the opportunity:

1. Felix the Procurator/ Governor of Judea:

Felix had the opportunity to hear Paul the apostle in person and his testimony of Jesus Christ, yet his heart was not right with the truth and kept postponing for his heart was on earthly treasure rather than salvation.

“Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.” At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.” Acts 24:24-26

So, examine your heart and do not delay responding to God’s Grace by faith.

Listening to many sermons without you taking a step forward and repentance wouldn’t help you. You may be totally convinced but you just want to wait for tomorrow before

you accept Jesus and repent and you keep postponing, please don't! Tomorrow may never come and the opportunity will be forever gone! God is calling you, not tomorrow but today, even now!

“As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

2. “Remember Lot’s wife!” Luke 17:32

This woman was married to Lot, son of Abraham’s brother. She enjoyed being a close relative and in company of our father Abraham, the godly man who was like a friend with God. She herself however did not show any in-

dication of having a relationship with God but she and her husband Lot have chosen worldly richness and lived and raised her two daughters amongst the people of Sodom, and “the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.” Genesis 13:13

When Sodom and Gomorrah’s measure of wickedness was complete and the Lord decided to burn it down, He sent two angels to save Lot and his family rushing them out to a safe place. “When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you

will be swept away!” Genesis 19:16-17. **“But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.”** Genesis 19:26

Why did Lot’s wife look back? Was it her possessions or her neighbors? She looked back at what is condemned in this world and forward to the promise of salvation and safety!

Did you notice, dear friend that just being of a family member of believers is not enough for salvation? It is up to you, your attitude and decision to leave behind the life of sin and worldly cares and accept by faith the grace of Jesus Christ and forgiveness of sins.

3. Judas Iscariot, “It would be better for him if he had not been born.” Matthew 26:24

To participate in church activities and even in ministry without accepting Jesus

Christ into your life and asking for forgiveness, you will not be saved!

Judas Iscariot joined Jesus's disciples, heard His teachings, saw His life and was entrusted treasurer but his heart was not changed, "he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it." John 12:6

Of course, the Lord knew Judas' heart and actions but gave him a chance to repent and get right with God but Judas went on to the full measure of his sinfulness as he "went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over." Mark 14:10-11

Judas knew that Jesus is innocent of all accusations.

“When Judas saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”
Matthew 27:3-4

If Judas returned to Jesus in repentance, he would have been forgiven, but he “threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.” Matthew 27:5

Do you see, my friend that being close to the church and being active and even with remorse for sins are not enough for salvation? Only by accepting forgiveness by faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. “Many will

say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evil-doers!’” Matthew 7:22-23

You can’t be too far away to come back to Jesus! Your sins are not too many or too evil to be forgiven, for **“the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”**¹ John 1:7

Come to Jesus, from wherever you are
“For the Son of Man came to seek and
to save the lost.” Luke 19:10

Amen