

Fundamental Principles

God's Plan Of Salvation

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Retaining The Standard Of Sound Doctrine

Observing All

Matthew 28:18-20

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (Matt. 28:18-20). With authority Jesus says disciples are to observe all that He commanded the apostles. We cannot pick and choose what aspects of His teaching we like, and which we will discard. It must all be "observed", implying it is applied, obeyed and adopted.

Nowhere is this principle more true than in a consideration of God's plan of salvation. Men proclaim all sorts of different ways in which a man is supposedly saved. The plan we must observe is the plan of God as taught by Jesus and His apostles. What saved men then, saves men today. God's plan has not changed. "Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He does not change, nor does His teaching.

Hear

Romans 10:17

How does faith come (Romans 10:17)?

Some people want to spend their time reading from religious journals, creed books and popular religious books. This is not the way in which a person builds faith. The focus must be on the word of God.

Who are we supposed to listen to (John 5:24; 10:27)?

How do we hear today:

John 20:30-31

1 Corinthians 1:21

Believe

Hebrews 11:6

What is necessary to please God (Hebrews 11:6)?

What did Jesus teach about belief?

John 8:24

John 3:16

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name..." (John 1:12). It is not that belief makes a person a child of God, or that belief brings eternal life, but that belief indicates a receptive heart. God gives the right to become His child and this right is limited to those who believe. No one who disbelieves can be His child. Without question, salvation is by the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8). God has given the right to become His child. He has chosen to provide a plan of salvation. Without His mercy and love no man could be saved.

Is a man saved through faith only (James 2:19, 24)?

We must hear the word of God. We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God. We must remember that we are to observe ALL that Jesus commanded. We cannot stop our investigation at this point and believe we are right with God because we believe. We have not yet observed all that He commanded.

Repent

Acts 17:30

We must hear. We must believe. We must repent. It is necessary for our salvation. Repentance is a decision to change, to turn away from sin and begin living for God in obedience to His will. “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent” (Acts 17:30). If we are going to observe all that Jesus commanded, we must consider Luke 13:3 which states, “unless you repent, you will all likewise perish”.

Why did Jesus come to the earth (Luke 5:32)?

What did Peter teach about salvation?

Acts 3:19

2 Peter 3:9

Repentance alone will not save a man. It must be preceded by belief. No one will repent who does not believe. Nor will a man be saved who does not observe ALL that Jesus commanded. 2 Corinthians 7:10 makes it plain that repentance is merely a step in the process of salvation, for it says, “the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation”. The repentance is not salvation, but leads to it.

Confess

Matthew 10:32-33

What does Jesus teach, which we need to observe (Matthew 10:32-33)?

What example do we see in Acts 8:35-37?

We learn that we must hear, we must believe, we must repent, and we must confess. All of these are necessary for our salvation (Romans 10:10). If we desire to be a disciple of Jesus we must observe ALL that He commanded.

Be Baptized

Acts 2:38

“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). We learn in this text that the people had heard the message proclaimed (Acts 2:14-36), they believed the message about Jesus (Acts 2:37) and are taught to repent and be baptized. To observe ALL that Jesus commanded we must examine all of these things.

What is the purpose of baptism (Acts 2:38)?

What is Peter’s teaching about baptism (1 Peter 3:21)?

What is Jesus’ teaching about baptism?

John 3:3-5

Matthew 28:19

Mark 16:16

It is at the point of baptism we are saved. (See the study guide on *Conversions in Acts*). Baptism is necessary for our salvation. It is part of what Jesus taught, which we must observe to be His disciple.

Live Faithful

Revelation 2:10

Obedience to God’s plan of salvation puts us into a relationship “in Christ” (Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 1). Our manner of living must change to one of obedience, putting off the old man of sin and putting on the new man in Christ Jesus (Colossians 3:1-17). To observe ALL that Jesus commanded, we must be “faithful unto death” to receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). God’s plan of salvation must first be heard, then believed, which causes a repentance and confession, and leads to obedience in baptism for the forgiveness of sin, resulting in a new manner of life and ultimately eternal salvation.