

What Must One Believe in Order to Be Saved?

One must believe that Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for sins committed against the laws of God. One must believe that Christ is the end of the law for salvation. One must believe in the new birth, viz, the old self died with Christ and is no longer under the law, and the new self is now resurrected to new life with Christ. The old goal was to please self, the new goal is to please God. All of this is symbolized by baptism. It is a public proclamation that this is what you believe. 1Cor 15:3,4.

One Mediator Between God and Man

Christ is to be sought by every person individually. He is the only mediator. No man is a mediator between others and God. 1Tim 2:5; Jer 29:13.

**Basic Fundamentals
of the True Gospel**

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The Fall

Sin entered the world through a rebellion by the angels. The leader of that rebellion deceived Adam and Eve, and brought sin into humanity. God immediately promised a Redeemer through the offspring of Eve. Isa 14:12; Eze 28:12-9; Rev 12:4; Gen 3:1-24.

The Promise

God appointed a man named Abraham to be the father of our faith. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a multitude that will be saved by faith alone. There was very little of God's written law at that time. Gen 15:1-18:21; 22:15-19; Acts 2:39; 26:6; Rom 4:13; 9:9; Gal 3:18; Eph 3:6.

The Two Laws

God creates the works of His law in the hearts of every person born into the world. Conscience is the administration of that law, either accusing or excusing our actions. Man will be judged by both of these laws. Those who have never heard or read the Bible will be judged by the law of conscience. Where there is no law—there is no sin; culpability for sin begins with the developed, active conscience. “Law” is a term that encompasses the full counsel of God in all categories of life and reality. “Gospel” refers to the good news of God's wisdom in general, and the good news of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection in particular. Rom 2:12-16; Matt 4:4, Jn 17:17; 1Cor 15:3,4.

The Promises

The “promises,” based on “The Promise,” are covenants that make up the grand plan of God to fully consummate The Promise to Abraham. Central to The Promise is the nation that came out of the offspring of Abraham, Israel. Through Abraham and his offspring, Israel, all of the nations will be blessed through faith alone. Most of the promises (covenants) are to Israel. Eph 2:11,12; Gal 3:15.

The New Birth

Those who believe in God's redemption by faith alone are born again. The Redeemer, from the beginning, was known to be the one who would save God's people from the penalty of the law—the law of the conscience, and the written law which was increased over time. Before a person is born again, they do not love God's law, and will be judged by the law. Furthermore, obedience to the law cannot give them life. After a person is born again, they are infused with spiritual life leading to a love for God's law. But, they WILL NOT be judged by the law. Their faith is shown to be alive and living through a direction of obedience and concern for what pleases God. Jn 3:3; 1Jn 3:7-10.

The Old Testament and New Testament

The Old Testament is law, but it is also a will that promised an inheritance of redemption for those who believe in the Redeemer by faith alone. The coming of Christ executed the will, but much of the Old Testament is yet active and unfulfilled. The New Testament builds on the Old Testament towards God's new heaven and new earth.

The “New Covenant” is a “better” covenant that was made specifically to Israel and will not be fully consummated until the end of the ages. For those who are born again, obedience to the Old and New Testaments can give life. There is no law that can give life in regard to salvation, or what we call “justification,” but the law can give life to the born again person. We call their life, “sanctification.” Heb 8:6,7; 9:15-18; 2Pet 3:13; Jer 31:31-40; Matt 4:4.

The Assembly of Christ

Israel rejected the testator of the will, Jesus Christ. Christ then began His assembly on earth with a remnant of believing Jews. Through this assembly, the Gentiles are grafted into the Promise and united as one with Israel. Both Jew and Gentile are sealed as one by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption. They will rein together in the future kingdom on earth promised to Israel. Eph 2:13-16.

Bible Interpretation

All Bible passages must be interpreted in their context of justification or sanctification. Rom 3:21; Gal 4:21; 1Thess 4:3-8.

Future Judgment

Those who do not believe in Christ will be resurrected and judged by the law. Those who do believe in Christ will be resurrected and will receive a reward for their acts of love towards God and others. These are two different judgments because followers of Christ are justified apart from the law. Rev 20:4-6.