**BIBLE TALK Radio Broadcast**

**On KTTR (99.7 FM) Every Sunday at 8:30 a.m.**

**Rolla, Missouri**

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**How Can I Be Saved By The Death Of Christ?**

Last week on our program we talked about the crucifixion of Christ. When Jesus died on the cross He was offering Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. He was the Lamb of God being offered to take away our sins. We talked about what Jesus went through in His crucifixion. Crucifixion was a cruel tortuous slow death intent on inflicting the most pain and suffering. Jesus went through all of that for our salvation, because He loved us. Paul says in Eph. 5:2 that *“Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”*

Dear listener, Jesus Christ loves you. He loves you more than you can comprehend. He died for you. And the Bible conveys the idea that if you were the only one who needed salvation from sin, He still would have come to this earth and died for you. In Romans 14 Paul is instructing his fellow disciples not to eat certain foods that would cause a weak brother to stumble, that is, to cause the weak brother to eat the food and violate his conscience. Paul said in verse 15, *“…Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.”*  Notice, this weak brother is said to be *“the ONE for whom Christ died.”* You see, Christ died for each one. He died for you, if you will come to Him and be saved.

You may be thinking, “I want to do that. I want that salvation, but HOW? How can I have it?” That is what I want to talk about on the program today. How can you be saved by the death of Christ?

First of all, if you are to be saved you need to realize that there is something you need to do. Yes, Jesus provided the way for salvation, through His death, but for you to be saved by His death, there is something you must do. It is interesting that whenever the question, “What must I do to be saved?” is asked in the Bible, the answer is always something to be done. For example, when the Jews on the day of Pentecost came to realize that this Jesus whom they crucified is both Lord and Christ, they were cut to the heart and they asked, *“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* Peter answered by giving them something to do (read Acts 2:36-38). Also, when the Philippian jailor asked Paul and Silas, *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* Paul and Silas told him something to do (read Acts 16:30-34). And when they did what they were told to do, they were saved. Obedience is required to be saved. Heb. 5:9 says that Jesus *“became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”* Only those who come to Christ and obey Him will be saved by the death of Christ. There is something we must do.

Some people teach that we are saved wholly by the grace of God, meaning there is nothing man must do to be saved. If that be the case, then we must conclude that all men will be saved. Titus 2:11 says, *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.”* God’s grace is extended to all men. God desires all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). And Jesus died for everyone. The writer of Hebrews said, *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”* (Heb. 2:9) If men are saved from sin by grace only, if they are saved by the death of Christ without any response on man’s part, then all men will be saved. But this is not what the Bible teaches. Jesus said in the sermon on the mount, *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* (Matt. 7:13-14) Jesus says that many are lost. We, therefore, must conclude that salvation from sin by God’s grace is conditional. In other words, there are conditions that man must meet before he will be saved by the grace of God. If you are to be saved, there are some things you must do. What are they?

First, you must meet the condition of FAITH.

Eph. 2:8 “*For by grace you have been saved through faith…*” Paul and Silas told the Philippian jailor *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,”* (Acts 16:31). Jesus said, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16) One must believe in Jesus to be saved. He must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, that He died for our sins, that He was raised from the dead, and ascended and is now sitting at the right hand of God reigning as King over His kingdom. One must believe the truth about Jesus. And faith also involves the element of trust. One must trust Jesus as Lord and Savior. We must believe what He says is true and what He promises He will fulfill.

And the Lord expects us to show our faith in Him. Jesus said in Luke 6:46, *“But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?”* It is not enough to believe that Jesus is Lord, we must show our faith by doing what He says. Now, there are many today who believe that one is saved the moment he believes in his heart. They believe that salvation is by faith alone; that what you do has nothing to do with your salvation. The Bible teaches that saving faith is a faith that must be demonstrated. If it is a saving faith it is a faith with works. It is a faith that will show itself in obedience. James says in James 2:14, *“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?”* Can faith without works save a man? James is saying, No, faith without works cannot save him. And notice here, James is talking about faith by which one is saved. In verse 24 he says, *“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”* The only time in scripture where the phrase “faith only” is found is here in this passage, and James says that justification, which means being free from the guilt of sin, is not by faith only. Yes, we are justified by faith, but it is a faith that demonstrates itself in obedience. Therefore, one with saving faith will do the following:

We are also commanded to REPENT OF SIN to be saved. Peter said in Acts 3:19, *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”* What is repentance? Repentance is a change of mind. It is a turning away from all sin to God. Paul preached that the people *“should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”* (Acts 26:20) The works befitting repentance are the changes ones makes in how lives. A liar who repents will stop lying. A thief who repents will stop stealing. An adulterer who repents will stop committing adultery. Repentance is genuinely turning away from all sin and committing one’s life to Jesus Christ in Whom he has put his faith.

Now, this repentance is preceded by godly sorrow. 2 Cor. 7:10 says, *“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted…”* “Godly sorrow” is a sorrow that has God in it. It is a sorrow that comes from the recognition that I have sinned against God; I have grieved God by my sins; and this godly sorrow produces repentance, a repentance that involves a turning away from sin and to God. This is essential for salvation.

The Bible also teaches that we must CONFESS FAITH IN CHRIST in order to be saved. Paul says in Romans 10:9-10, *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* In John 12:42-43 we read of certain rulers who believed in Jesus, *“but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of*

*the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”* Just believing in Jesus is not enough. We must repent of our sins. We must confess Him.

The Bible also teaches that the penitent, believer must BE BAPTIZED for the remission of his sins.

Earlier we read that some of the Jews who had crucified Jesus were cut to the heart when they learned that this Jesus is both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36-37). You remember, they asked what they must do. Peter told them what to do. He said, *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* Notice, repentance and baptism are “for the remission of sins,” that is, into or in order to the remission of sins. Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, *“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* (Acts 22:16) For Saul to have his sins washed away he had to be baptized. Baptism is an immersion in water. Read Acts 8:34-39. Baptism in water is commanded to be saved. It is essential to salvation according to these passages. 1 Peter 3:21 says that baptism now saves us. When the penitent believer is baptized, he does not earn his salvation, he is just complying with a condition that God has given in order to receive the gift of salvation. For example, In John 9 we read of Jesus spiting on the ground, making clay with the saliva, and anointing the eyes of a blind man with the clay. He then tells the blind man to *“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.”* The text says*, “So he went and washed, and came back seeing.”*  The blind man received a gift from God by God’s grace. He did not earn it, nor did he deserve it. It was a gift. But the receiving of the gift was conditional. He was told to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he met the condition, he received the gift. In the same way, we receive the gift of salvation when we believe in Jesus, repent of our sins, confess our faith, and are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. The Lord saves us when we obey Him, and He adds us to His church.

But in order to be saved eternally, we must REMAIN FAITHFUL. Jesus said to the church in Smyrna, “*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life*.” (Rev. 2:10). Peter says in 1 Peter 1:5 that Christians *“are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last* *time*.” (1 Peter 1:5) As long as we live by faith we have God’s power to protect us. But if we walk out of that stockade of faith, we are vulnerable and Satan will devour us. This does not mean that we will live a sinlessly, perfect life, but as we live by faith, we will strive for perfection, and we will find the forgiveness of our sins through the shed blood of Christ.

Dear listener, you can be saved by the death of Christ if you want to. But you must choose to come to Him and obey Him.

If we can assist you in your study or in your obedience, please give us a call. You may call us at 573-263-4690. Or you may email us at sjchurch@sjchurchofchrist.com.