

## What must one do to be saved?

Take a moment and think about your answer to this question. Now, if you are able, write it down in the space below before you continue.

For many, the above question is “*the most important question of all.*” Why? Because being saved from “*an eternity burning in the fires of Hell*” is something they definitely do not want to experience! So, what must one do to be saved from an eternity in Hell? Christians do not agree on the answer, as you will see in the answers below:

- *One must belong to the only one universal Church, outside which no one at all is saved.*
- *One must believe that salvation comes only by God's grace or "unmerited favor."*
- *One must have been chosen to be saved by God at the creation of the Heavens and Earth.*
- *One must believe in free grace, free salvation, free will, the Bible is the very word of God without error in all that it affirms, tithe, totally abstain from alcoholic beverages and do no work on Sunday.*
- *One must have a personal religious experience of overpowering emotions.*
- *One must believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, the Atonement of Jesus for human sins, the physical Resurrection of Jesus, the imminent return of Jesus to earth, and the inerrancy of Scripture.*
- *One must believe in their heart that Jesus is Lord, confess with their mouth that he rose from the dead and that he will return and judge all people.*

All of the above are the answers given by different Christian institutions. Did the answer you wrote above match any? Before we consider the answer of Yeshua, the Jewish Jesus, it is important for us to understand the context in which it was given:

- (1) *He was speaking to a Jewish audience.*
- (2) *He was speaking a Jewish subject they understood.*
- (3) *He was speaking in the Hebrew language.*
- (4) *The meanings of his words were shaped by his First Century Jewish culture.*
- (5) *His words were linked to Jewish Scriptures they regularly heard at their synagogues.*

Now let's look at Yeshua's answer. It is found in Matthew 25:31-46 and I changed it to a conversation format. The “*Narrator*” is the unknown author of the *Gospel of Matthew*. It is not usually associated with “*salvation,*” but it is the only “*salvation message*” given by Yeshua.

## REAL YESHUA HANDBOOK

- Narrator: When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory and before him shall be gathered all nations. He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. He shall set the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.
- King: (To those on the right) *“Come, you (plural) blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. (I was) naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me.”*
- The Right: *“Master, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and gave you a drink? When did we see you (as) a stranger and took thee in, or naked and clothed you? Or when did we see you sick or in prison and came to you?”*
- King: (To the righteous – the ones on the right) *“Amen! I say to you, inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me.”*
- King: (To those on the left) *“Go from me you cursed into the eternal fire, having been prepared for the devil and his angels, because I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me no drink. I was a stranger and you did not take me in; naked and you clothed me not; sick and in prison, and you did not visit me.”*
- The Left: *“Master, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or as stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to you?”*
- King: (To those on the left) *“Amen! I say unto you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.”*
- Narrator: The ones on the left shall go into eternal punishment, but the righteous (ones on the right) shall enter life eternal.

The righteous, the ones on the right, shall enter life eternal. That is it – the only salvation message of Yeshua. It has nothing to do with “*belonging to the right church*,” “*believing the right beliefs about Jesus*,” praying a “*Sinner’s Prayer*,” etc. And, this wasn’t just a message for Jews - *all nations were gathered before the Son of Man*.

It is essential to understand that the things the members of the group on the right did “were not acts of charity” – *random acts of helping the poor and needy*. These were conscious acts of (צדקה) *tzedakah* by people that saw themselves as co-shepherds of God – *the loyal guardians and protectors of God’s flock (all the people of the Earth)*.” *This is the salvation message Yeshua taught. So, if that isn’t the one that you wrote down above, what are you going to do?*

We suggest that you quickly learn about “*tzedakah*.” Then, even if you don’t want to let go of your old belief, “*add doing tzedakah*” to what you believe. A key point to understand is that people doing *acts of tzedakah* makes lives better – *regardless of anyone’s beliefs*.