

# **What Are the Steps to Salvation?**

**By Louis Rushmore**

Someone inquires, “What are the steps to salvation?” For we who live in the Christian Age, the New Testament holds the answer to this question. There is no more important question, and consequently there could be no more important answer or answers than to this question. There are a number of elements to which the New Testament attributes saving qualities. For some of these elements there is a discernible sequence of steps leading to the forgiveness of past sins. Following is a list of these saving components.

## **GOD’S REDEMPITIVE PLAN**

### **GOD’S PART**

Love (John 3:16)  
Grace (Ephesians 2:8)  
Mercy (Titus 3:5)  
Gospel (Romans 1:16)

### **CHRIST’S PART**

The Blood of Christ (Revelation 1:5)  
Our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5)

### **HOLY SPIRIT’S PART**

Revelation (2 Peter 1:20-21)

### **MAN’S PART**

Bible Faith (John 8:24)  
Repentance (Acts 17:30)  
Baptism (1 Peter 3:21)  
Obedience (Hebrews 5:8, 9)  
Purity (Revelation 22:14)  
Faithfulness (Revelation 2:10)  
Love (1 John 2:10)  
Hope (Romans 8:24)  
Works (James 2:24)  
Endurance (Matthew 10:22)  
Confessing Christ (Romans 10:9-10)

Being Born Again (John 3:3-5)

Laying Aside Evil (James 1:21)

Preaching (1 Corinthians 1:18, 21)

Calling on the Name of the Lord (Romans 10:14)

Knowledge of the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:15)

As components, all of the above work together toward the salvation of a soul, rather than being a shopping list from which one might select only some of them that one found desirable to the exclusion of the rest. In addition, there is a point at which one receives the forgiveness of sins. Everything before that juncture leads in the direction of salvation. A person must turn exclusively to the Word of God – for we who live today, the New Testament.

Hear God's Word to produce biblical faith (Romans 10:17)

Believe or have faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 8:24)

Repent of one's past sins (Luke 13:3)

Be willing to acknowledge publicly one's belief that Jesus is the Christ (Matthew 10:32-33)

Be baptized (immersed, Romans 6:3-5) in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

Live faithfully until death (Revelation 2:10)

Repent and pray when sin enters one's life as a Christian (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9)

Summarized in the words of Jesus Christ Himself, salvation occurs through belief or faith and baptism. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved..." (Mark 16:16 NKJV).

## **Let Him Hear**

**Nat Evans**

In Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29 and 3:6, 13, 22, we have this admonition, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." We see Christ walking in the midst of the churches. He is the Great Inspector. He sees everything that

is taking place in all the congregations. He does the same today (Hebrews 4:12-13). He bids all to take heed to His Word.

**What is meant by ‘hearing’ in these verses?** *Cruden’s Concordance* points out that the word “hear” is often used for the listening to the Word of God with a firm purpose to obey His commands. Those having ears to hear are willing to listen to God’s Word. They are to give heed to what is said. “He that hath an ear” is to call attention. It is a personal challenge to each of us to recognize the authority of Christ (Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21).

**Who is to hear?** Each individual is addressed and charged with the responsibility of hearing. This command cannot be obeyed by mere passive listening, but demanded is an active obedient response to what is heard with the consequence that the judgment of God will fall upon the disobedient (John 12:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). How many people pretend to listen to the Word proclaimed and then choose not to obey it? “All ye, assemble yourselves and hear” (Isaiah 48:14). “O earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord” (Jeremiah 22:29).

**Who is to be heard?** We are to hear Jesus the Christ. He “hath the sharp two-edged sword.” It is the Word of God that goes forth from His mouth. His Word is authoritative and powerful (Revelation 2:12; Matthew 28:18; Romans 1:16-17; John 8:31-32; 12:48). “Hear ye him...” (Matthew 17:5). “God...Hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2). (See also Deuteronomy 18:15-18 and Acts 3:22-23.) To hear the apostles is to hear Christ; thus, to reject their teaching is to reject Christ (Matthew 10:40).

**What is to be heard?** One must hear the Word of God for it produces faith (Romans 10:17). Only the truth can make us free (John 8:31-32). One must hear the Gospel of Christ and obey it, for it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Our hearts are purified through our obedience unto the truth (1 Peter 1:22; James 1:21).

**Why must we hear?** “Hear and ye shall live” (Isaiah 55:3). We should hear and heed the Bible because it meets man’s need for salvation, for worship, for the home and for morals. It alone meets our needs in preparing for death and the Judgment.