



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

3449 Cherryville Rd., Northampton • Sun. 10:45 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7:30 pm
Daniel E. Lundmark • pastor@NAOG.ws • 610-262-5645

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" That was the question that the Philippian jailer asked the Apostle Paul in Acts 16. How would you answer such a question? Some would say, "Do good," "Love your neighbor," "Join the church," "Give to the poor," "Be baptized," "Study the Bible," "Do the best you can," "Obey the teachings of the church," etc. While some or all of these things may be good, **NONE of them will save you.** You can do all of them and other good works, too, and still end up in hell—that place of torment that was prepared not for man, but for the devil and his angels.

What then can I do to be saved? Let's look at Paul's answer in Acts 16:31 to the jailer: ***Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.*** What? Is that all? Is it that simple? Yes! Yes! Yes! Ephesians 2:8 says, ***...by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*** Faith in God's abundant grace saves us. Not grace plus works, not grace plus ritual, not grace plus the church, not grace plus baptism. Grace! **Grace!** Pure grace of God—undeserved, unmerited, coming only by faith. How marvelous is this grace of God, that an evil, immoral, selfish, hateful, wicked-hearted, hell-bound sinner with no goodness of his own, can look by faith to the finished work of Calvary, believe in his heart that Jesus paid the price for his sins, and emerge from that encounter with God's grace as pure, as holy, as righteous, as the Son of God Himself! When man touches God by repentance and faith, the record of **his sin is washed away in the blood of the Lamb of God** and replaced by Jesus's Own purity, holiness, and goodness. Isaiah said it best: ***...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*** (Isaiah 1:18). **Will you believe on Jesus and be saved today?**

—Submitted by church member, Carl Edwards