

Blessings Found In Christ

The one question that should be of concern to all is “How does one obtain forgiveness of sin”? In fact, how does one go from being unsaved to being saved?

Saved – In Christ

To appreciate what it means to be saved, study the blessings to be found “In Christ”. All spiritual blessings are to be found “in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). One becomes a new creature “in Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:17). There is no condemnation “in Christ” (Romans 8:11). Salvation is “in Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:10). Eternal life is “Christ” (1 John 5:11). It is “in Christ” that redemption is found (Ephesians 1:7). It follows that if a man is “in Christ” that he is saved - he has the forgiveness of sin.

Unsaved – Out Of Christ

Why are men unsaved? Why is there a need to be found “in Christ”? The answer is summed up in one word - SIN. The word sin means to miss the mark. We miss the mark by committing sins of omission (James 4:17) or sins of commission (1 John 3:4). All men everywhere are sinners (Romans 3:10, 23). The end result of sin is eternal death (Romans 6:23).

What God Has Done

Because of man's lost or unsaved state, God gave His Son that all men might be saved (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). It is through God's grace (His unmerited favor) that we are saved (Titus 2:11). By giving Christ as a sin substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21), God was doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

What God Would Have Us Do

Since we have learned that to be “in Christ” is to be saved, that sin is the reason we are unsaved and that God gave His Son to save us, it is important for us to know what God wants us to do in order to be saved (Acts 2:37; 9:6; 16:30).

First, we are to believe on Christ as being God's Son (John 8:24). Unless we believe on Him we cannot be saved. Are we saved by faith alone? James answers this question by declaring, “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:24). While faith is essential to salvation, more is required if one is to be saved.

We are also commanded to repent or turn from our sins if we would be saved (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; 3:19).

Next, Christ is to be confessed as God's Son (Matthew 10:32,33; Romans 10:9,10). The man from Ethiopia confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37). So should we, if we would be saved.

The Bible also teaches the importance of baptism. There are at least three ideas that men have about baptism: (1) that baptism is sprinkling not for salvation; (2) that baptism is a burial in water not for salvation; (3) that baptism is a burial in water and is essential to one's salvation. The Bible teaches the third concept.

Jesus taught, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). According to this passage those who would be saved must believe and be baptized. On the day of Pentecost, Peter told those present to "repent and be baptized and wash away thy sins" (Acts 22:16). The apostle Peter wrote, "baptism doth also save us" (1 Peter 3:21). In summary, we see that one is to be baptized to be saved, have sins remitted and to have sins washed away.

What About The Blood Of Christ?

It might be suggested by someone that men are saved by Jesus' blood. This is true. It is not a question if men are saved by Jesus' blood. The question to ask is "When does His blood save us"?

To answer the question of when we are saved by Jesus' blood, ask two questions: (1) What washes away sin? To answer this question we read, "Unto him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Revelation 1:5). It is the blood of Christ that washes away sin. (2) When does the blood wash away sin? Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Jesus' blood washes away sin when one is baptized.

It should be further noted that it is the blood that remits sin (Matthew 26:28). Sin is remitted by the blood when one repents and is baptized (Acts 2:38).

A purged conscience comes through the blood of the Lamb (Hebrews 9:14). When does the blood purge or cleanse the conscience? It is when one is baptized (1 Peter 3:21).

From the foregoing we learn that in order to have sin washed away, have sin remitted, to have a purged conscience one must be baptized.

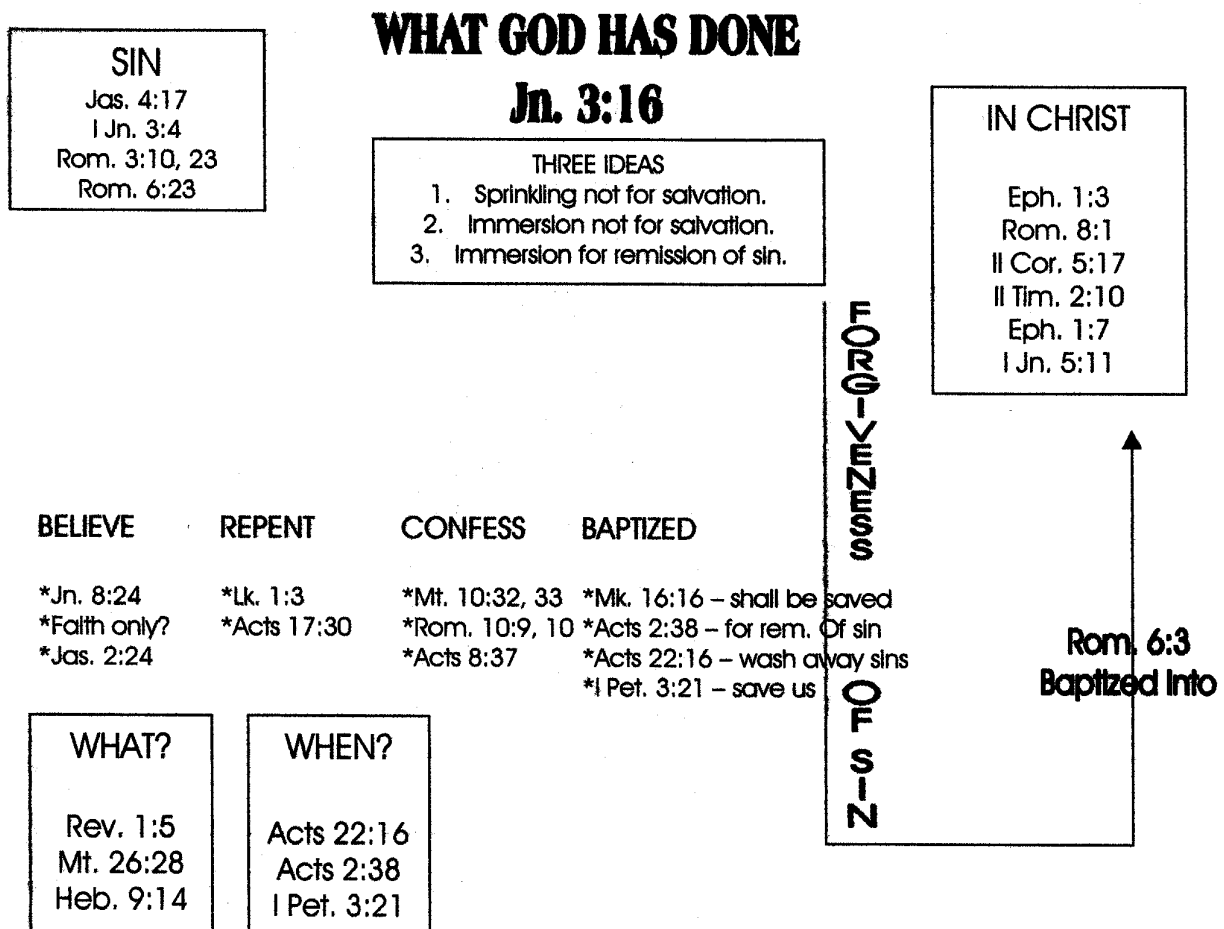
Getting Into Christ

We have seen the blessings we have in Christ, why we need to be saved, and what God has done for our salvation and what we must do.

If all blessings are in Christ, what must be done to get into Christ? This is answered by the apostle Paul, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death" (Romans 6:3). This passage teaches that baptism puts one into Christ where all spiritual blessings are found. We are baptized into his death. He shed His blood in dying, hence it is in baptism that we, by faith, come in contact with His blood.

It is in baptism that one not only gets into Christ, but also puts on Christ (Galatians 3:27).

Baptism also puts one into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).



This article was written by Billy Lambert