

# Salvation

**This is the greatest theme of the Bible. It is important for all people of the world to search out this truth.**

## **I. The main purpose of Jesus – Matthew 1:21**

**“Jesus” means Jehovah saving. In His name we see his purpose. Here the explanation is given to the Jews. They had been trusting in their religion for hundreds of years. It seems that they not only needed to be saved from the penalty of sin, but also from their own religion.**

## **II. By dying on the cross – I Peter 2:21-24**

**Jesus would accomplish salvation for all man-kind by dying on the cross. In His death He satisfied the sin debt for every person that ever lived (Romans 6:23).**

## **III. Salvation is personal, not national – Matthew 7:21-23**

**To the same Jewish people, Jesus now says that many of them will miss Heaven. This verse in great conflict with Matt. 1:21. He came to save people but many will NOT be saved. WHY?**

## **IV. Check out Nicodemus – John 3:1-18**

**Here is the classic example why people will not be saved. Nicodemus was trusting in his religion to help him approach God. His religion was the right religion. His book was the right book. His prayers were the right prayers. His God was the right God. He was highly religious, which ALWAYS gets in the way of a personal relationship with God.**

**Jesus said to him, “you must be born again.” A supernatural birth must take place, directed by God. Religion can never fill such a need. In his amazement, Nicodemus said “how can these things be?” Imagine the frustration of this highly religious man. Religion is never the answer.**

**One must “believe”, John 3:16.**

## **V. What kind of belief – Romans 10:9**

**The kind of belief required is told to be from the “heart.” This was the missing element in the journey of Nicodemus.**

## **VI. The culmination of the process:**

**Creation – relationships, choice**

**Fall – separation, mercy**

**Flood – picture, grace**

**Abraham – faith, substitute**

**Moses – details**

**David – sincere heart**

**Remember the lessons we have taught. Piece together the ingredients and find the process for “true” salvation.**

## **VII. The unique prayer – Romans 10:13**

**Having included each element on the above list, it is now time to tell God, through Jesus, that you accept JESUS. Open your heart and tell JESUS that you want HIM in your life. This prayer is unique because it only deals with ETERNAL matters. Most of our prayers are about temporary things, health, money, relationships, home, family. This prayer deals with your soul and your eternal destiny.**

## **VIII. When was that? – Romans 13:11**

**In this verse we read a very interesting phrase, “when we believed.” In the spirit of that verse, let us examine the idea of “when.” When did this miracle of the new birth take place? When did you open your heart to HIM? Not, when did you join a religion. Each of the listed people would have a different story.**

### **Zacchaeus**

**“I was a tax collector. One day I heard that Jesus would pass by. I decided that I wanted to see Him. I had heard that He might be the Messiah. I had climbed a tree to see Him when He spotted me there. He beckoned me down. My heart burned within me to know Him. My heart was fertile soil for His love. That day I opened it to Him.”**

### **Thief on the cross**

**“I was hanging on a cross next to Jesus. I recognized that He was there unjustly. The man on the other cross was mocking but not me. I knew that HE was the Son of God. I asked Him, with a sincere heart, to “remember me when you enter your kingdom.” He said “today you will be with Me in Paradise.” How thrilled my heart was to hear those words. For the first time in my miserable life, I had hope.”**

### **You**

**Teacher, tell your story in a brief form. Include, before, what happened, after.**

## **IX. The dangerous question**

**Is it possible that somewhere along my spiritual journey, I did this? This is a dangerous question to ask because of the weight of the consequences. Are you prepared to stake you eternal destiny on a “perhaps?”**

**TODAY:**

**Ask Jesus to be your savior. Don't take an eternal chance. Sincerely open your heart to Him.**

**“Dear Jesus, I BELIEVE that You died for my sins, and I accept you as my Savior. I need you in my life and heart. Please save me from my sins.”**

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**Zacchaeus**

**Thief on the cross**

**Philippian jailer**

**Me**

**IX. The dangerous question**