

Answering Basic Questions (Part 7): What Is the Plan of Salvation?

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: 1 Peter 3:15

In our text, Peter explained that each Christian needs to be ready to give an answer for what we believe. Giving a defense for the HOPE within us requires an ability to articulate the basics of our faith. In this series, we are going to discuss some basic questions that may arise. This is to help reinforce our own faith and help prepare us to teach others as opportunities arise.

What Is the Plan of Salvation?

- Jesus came to earth and died on the cross in order to make salvation possible
- But how can we take advantage of His sacrifice and be saved? – the New Testament shows how this can be done

The Need for Salvation

- The reason we need to be saved is because of SIN – sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2); because of this, sin leads to eternal destruction (Romans 6:23)
- The gift of eternal life is available to all – salvation from sin is needed by all (Romans 3:23)

The “Steps” of Salvation in the Book of Acts

- When Peter preached the first gospel sermon, he convicted the audience of crucifying the Messiah – they asked what they needed to do and Peter told them (Acts 2:37-38); belief, repentance, baptism; the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch also specifically mentions confession (Acts 8:37)
- In every account of conversion in the book of Acts, these “steps” are either directly stated or implied

This Plan Originated with Jesus

- After His resurrection, Jesus gave His apostles the Great Commission – different emphasis in each account; belief and baptism (Mark 16:16); repentance and baptism (Matthew 28:19); repentance (Luke 24:47)
- Taken together, they provide a complete picture – belief, repentance, baptism; harmonizes with what we see in Acts

Different “Plans” in the Religious World

- We hear of the “sinner’s prayer,” inviting Jesus into your heart, infant baptism, etc.
- But if we are looking to the Lord to save us, we need to follow His plan

Conclusion

- So what is the plan of salvation? – as Jesus and the apostles taught, we must believe, repent, and be baptized
- If we will do this, we can be saved from our sins and have hope of eternal life