

Human Responsibility in the Light of Christ's Death

What is man's responsibility in the light of Christ's death? This is the key question of salvation. The message of the gospel is this: Jesus has died for our sins, He was buried, and He has risen again (1 Corinthians 15:1-6). That is the news. That is the good news. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. The question is: what am I supposed to do with that information? What is my responsibility in light of that information. What does Jesus' death burial and resurrection have to do with me?

And to that, we say this: Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and rose again so that you might be saved. He did what He did so that you might have eternal life. We take the stance that to have eternal life and to be saved is the exact same thing. If you are saved, you have eternal life. If you have eternal life, you are saved. If you are not saved, then you do not have eternal life. If you do not have eternal life, then you are not saved.

What does having eternal life look like? It looks like having a Father/child relationship with the God of creation (John 1:12-13), being completely forgiven of all sin and never being punished for your sins after you die (Col. 2:13), being welcomed into the presence of God forever to be with Him the moment you die (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 3:20), and ultimately being completely removed of a sin nature so that you appear with Christ in glory (Rom. 8:30; 1 John 3:2; Col. 3:4; Jude 24-25; Eph. 5:26-27).

What does not having eternal life look like? It looks like having no Father/child relationship with the God of creation but rather, being a child of wrath (Eph. 2:3), being punished eternally for sins (Rev. 20:11-15; Rom. 2:5), being away from the presence of God for eternity (2 Thess. 1:9), and never being removed of a condition described as torment (Luke 16:25-26; Rev. 20:10; 21:8).

The Bible describes two complete opposite ends of the spectrum. Eternal life involves every spiritual blessing a person can be given (Ephesians 1:3). Not having eternal life involves unending punishment. And according to the Bible, every individual person will have one of these two results. This is what Jesus said in John 5:28-29, *"Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment."*

Every individual faces one of two results - life or judgment. And the overwhelming stance of the Bible is that all of this has to do with Christ's death and how one responds to His death.

So the question is this: what does the Bible say is man's responsibility in the light of Christ's death in order to end up with eternal life instead of eternal judgement?

Well, here is the answer I'll give you, and then I will give you a lot of Scripture to back up that answer.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE CROSS-WORK OF CHRIST, SALVATION/ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT OF GOD, OFFERED TO MAN BY GRACE AND ACCEPTED THROUGH BELIEVING IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. TO ADD ANY WORK OF MAN AS A CONDITION FOR SALVATION/ETERNAL LIFE IS A PERVERSION OF THE GOSPEL OF GRACE AND IS CONDEMNED BY GOD IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

Man's responsibility is to receive God's free gift offer of salvation totally and completely by faith in Jesus. The key word is BELIEVE. To believe means to rely upon, trust in, place confidence in, or place faith in.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved (Acts 16:31). That is the one and only responsibility of man. Man must do nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else than believe.

Now before I run through a huge list of Scripture, let me define for you some key words.

SALVATION - to be saved/delivered by God from spiritual and eternal death unto spiritual and eternal life.

BELIEVE - to rely on, trust it, or place faith in.

FAITH - faith is to believe. The two words are synonymous in the Bible.

GRACE - unmerited/unearned favor. Receiving something that you did not earn or work for.

REPENT - to have a change of mind.

CONFESS - to say the same thing about; to agree with God.

Genesis 15:6 - *And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*

Habakkuk 2:4 - *Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.*

Mark 2:5 - *And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

Luke 7:48–50 - *And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

Luke 8:12 - *The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.*

John 1:7 - *He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.*

John 1:12 - *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

John 3:15 - *that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

John 3:16 - *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:18 - *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

John 3:36 - *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

John 4:39–42 - *Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."*

John 4:53 - *The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household.*

John 5:24 - *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

John 5:38 - *and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.*

John 6:29 - *Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."*

John 6:35 - *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*

John 6:40 - *For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."*

John 6:47 - *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*

John 7:38–39 - *Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' " Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

John 8:24 - *I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."*

John 9:35–38 - *Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.*

John 10:24–26 - *So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.*

John 11:25–27 - *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."*

John 12:11 - *because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.*

John 12:36 - *While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.*

John 12:46–48 - *I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.*

John 14:1–6 - *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

John 17:20–21 - *"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

John 20:27–29 - *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my*

God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:30–31 - *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Acts 3:16 - *And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.*

Acts 4:4 - *But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.*

Acts 4:32 - *Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.*

Acts 9:42 - *And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.*

Acts 10:43 - *To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

Acts 10:45 - *And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.*

Acts 11:17 - *If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"*

Acts 11:21 - *And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.*

Acts 13:39 - *and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.*

Acts 13:48 - *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*

Acts 14:23 - *And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*

Acts 14:27 - *And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.*

Acts 15:7–9 - *And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.*

Acts 16:29–31 - *And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

Acts 17:4–5 - *And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked*

men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.

Acts 17:11–12 - *Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.*

Acts 18:8 - *Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.*

Acts 18:27 - *And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed,*

Acts 19:2 - *And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”*

Acts 19:4 - *And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.”*

Acts 20:21 - *testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Acts 21:20 - *And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, “You see, brother; how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law,*

Acts 21:25 - *But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality.”*

Acts 22:19 - *And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you.*

Acts 26:18 - *to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’*

Romans 1:16 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

Romans 3:22–30 - *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.*

Romans 4:3 - *For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”*

Romans 4:5 - *And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,*

Romans 4:9 - *Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.*

Romans 4:11 - *He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well,*

Romans 4:13 - *For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.*

Romans 4:16 - *That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,*

Romans 4:24 - *but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,*

Romans 5:1–2 - *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Romans 6:23 - *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 9:30–33 - *What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”*

Romans 10:1–4 - *Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

1 Corinthians 1:21 - *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.*

1 Corinthians 7:12–13 - *To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.*

2 Corinthians 4:4 - *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

2 Corinthians 4:13 - *Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak,*

Galatians 2:16 - *yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*

Galatians 3:1–26 - *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.*

Ephesians 1:13 - *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,*

Ephesians 2:8–9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Philippians 1:29 - *For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,*

Philippians 3:9 - *and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—*

1 Thessalonians 1:6–7 - *And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.*

1 Thessalonians 2:10 - *You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.*

1 Thessalonians 4:14 - *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*

2 Thessalonians 1:10 - *when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.*

2 Thessalonians 2:12 - *in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

2 Thessalonians 2:13 - *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*

2 Thessalonians 3:2 - *and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.*

1 Timothy 1:16 - *But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.*

1 Timothy 4:3 - *who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.*

2 Timothy 1:12 - *which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.*

2 Timothy 3:15 - *and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Titus 3:8 - *The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.*

Hebrews 4:2–3 - *For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, “As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’” although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.*

Hebrews 10:39 - *But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.*

James 2:23 - *and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.*

1 Peter 1:3–5 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

1 Peter 1:9 - *obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

1 Peter 2:6–7 - *For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”*

1 John 3:23 - *And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.*

1 John 5:1 - *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.*

1 John 5:5 - *Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

1 John 5:13 - *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)*

The Bible is overwhelming clear that belief in Jesus is man's only proper response in the light of Christ's death. It's not about simply believing the facts. It is about trusting in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Now, in response to that, there are some objections that often come up, and I would like to now take time to cover 11 common objections to a faith alone in Christ alone stance.

Objection #1 - Don't you need to ask Jesus into your heart to be saved?

The answer to this is no. Christ comes into your life when you believe, not by asking Him in. Ephesians 1:13; Colossians 1:20; Galatians 4:6; John 1:12

Objection #2 - Don't you need to give your life to Christ and make Him Lord of your life?

This is called Lordship salvation and the answer to this question is no. 1 John 5:13 states we know we have eternal life if we believe, and Romans 10:9 makes it clear that believing in Him is admitting He is Lord, but giving your life to Him as Lord is not something we do for salvation. If so, the question becomes, how much do you have to give? And have you given enough? Submission in obedience to Christ as Lord is a response to already having salvation (Rom. 12:1-2), not a pre-requisite for getting salvation. Lordship is a matter of progressive and practical sanctification, not salvation.

Objection #3 - Don't you need to make a commitment to live like Christ?

The answer to this is no. Living a Christlike life does not get a person salvation, for that would be adding man's works to the equation of salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:8 are clear that no work of man is involved in salvation. Both of those texts go on to speak about works, but that is only in relation to the works after obtaining eternal life, not in order to obtain eternal life. Committing to live like Christ is for the individual who is already saved, not for the one who is trying to become saved. A believer who commits to live like Christ is on the path of practical and progressive sanctification, but a person who commits to live like Christ for salvation is not fully believing in the finished work of Christ on the cross for salvation. That person is depending on his own lifestyle.

Objection #4 - Don't you need to get baptized?

No. Publicly professing faith in and identification with Jesus through baptism is a work of man. Water baptism is not a pre-requisite for salvation. Paul told the Corinthians that he was not sent to baptize but to preach the gospel (1 Cor. 1:17). If water baptism were a requirement for salvation, Paul would not have put such little emphasis on it. (For further study on baptism, see: Christology #28 - Jesus' baptism part 2)

Objection #5 - Don't you need to confess all your sins?

No. Admitting the truth of your sin condition may be involved in the Spirit's work of convicting you that will bring you to the point of belief (John 16:8), but confessing all your sins is impossible. Can you remember all your sins?

Objection #6 - Don't you need to turn from your sins in repentance?

Repentance means a change of mind. In relation to salvation, a person repents by changing his mind about his sin condition before God then chooses to believe completely and only in Jesus. The believer in Jesus is immediately given by God eternal life, and then God begins a process of progressive and practical sanctification whereby He continually changes the mind of a saved individual so that he chooses to abandon sinful patterns through the help of the in-dwelt Spirit of God.

Objection #7 - Don't you need to keep the Ten Commandments?

No. Christ nailed the Ten Commandments to His cross, making the Law of Moses obsolete (Col. 2:14; Heb. 8:13). No one in the Old Testament was ever saved by keeping the Ten Commandments. They were saved by faith (Gen. 15:6; Hab. 2:4). 9 of the 10 commandments are repeated in the New Testament as commands for the believer in the process of sanctification, but those expectations from God are only given to those who already are saved by faith. They are not given in order that a person might be saved.

Objection #8 - Don't you need to pray the sinners prayer?

No. There is no sinners prayer in the Bible.

Objection #9 - Don't you need to come forward or raise a hand?

No. The Bible never teaches that. "Come" is an expression of Christ used in the Bible to invite a person to come to a personal trust in His work on behalf of the sinner, not physically coming to the front of a sanctuary to talk to a minister. Faith in Christ is a matter of believing within your mind and heart, not walking down an aisle or raising a hand.

Objection #10 - Didn't James say that a man is not justified by faith alone?

Yes. He did, but James was not talking about a person being justified before God. He was talking about a person being justified before man. Man cannot see faith. Man can only see works. God, however, can actually see faith. He can see a man's heart (1 Sam. 16:7). A man is justified before God by faith alone (Romans 4:2-5; Galatians 2:15-16). James was discussing justification before man, and justification before man requires works even though justification before God has nothing to do with works (note: "someone" in 2:18 and "you" in 2:24; also note that James quotes Gen. 15:6 that declares Abraham was justified by God years before Abraham worked through offering the sacrifice).

James is talking to saved people about maturing, demonstrating what God has done in their life to other people. In doing so, saved believers are maturing in their walk with God through their work, not becoming saved through their works. They are already saved (note: brothers in 1:2, 16, 19; 2:1, 14; 3:1; also note that James knew his audience were already believers in Jesus - 2:1).

Objection #11 - Didn't Jesus say that it's those who do the will of God that are saved, not just those who call Him Lord, Lord?

He did. He said that in Matthew 7. In fact, Jesus said those who say Lord Lord to Him will come to Him saying they did a lot a great work for Him in His name, but He will say He never knew them. Why would Jesus not know them? Because they did not do the will of the Father? What is the will of the Father? John 6:40. The Bible tells us that we come to be known by God not by works of the law, but by hearing the Word of God with Faith (Gal. 3:2; 4:9; Rom. 10:17).

Jesus made it clear as could be, faith comes first, and faith alone provides salvation. That is the gospel message, and Paul said that if anyone comes preaching to you a different message than believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, that message and messenger is to be condemned (Galatians 1:6-9).

Adding works to salvation is a perversion of the gospel of the grace of God and the Bible condemns that.

So those are 11 common objections to man's only responsibility in light of the death of Christ being faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and each of those objections not only put the cart before the horse, but they also make the equation of salvation faith + works. The Bible would tell us: FAITH + NOTHING = SALVATION.

We started tonight with a question: What is man's responsibility in the light of Christ's death? And our answer was this.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE CROSS-WORK OF CHRIST, SALVATION/ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT OF GOD, OFFERED TO MAN BY GRACE AND ACCEPTED THROUGH BELIEVING IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. TO ADD ANY WORK OF MAN AS A CONDITION FOR SALVATION IS A PERVERSION OF THE GOSPEL OF GRACE AND IS CONDEMNED BY GOD IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

That is our answer, and we do believe that our answer is in harmony with the Bible.