

#1 Summary

In this sermon, Pastor discusses the essential steps to salvation, drawing from Acts 2:38-41. He explains that salvation begins with repentance (changing your mind about sin), followed by belief in Jesus Christ, and finally obedience - with water baptism being the first act of obedience for new believers. The pastor emphasizes that sin separates us from God, guilt condemns us, but conviction draws us to Jesus. He clarifies that salvation comes through Jesus alone, not through moral living, and that God's grace guides believers while providing eternal security.

#2 Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the path to salvation, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to Your truth. Help us to understand what it means to repent, believe, and obey. Remove any barriers of pride or self-sufficiency that prevent us from fully surrendering to You. Guide our conversation today and reveal to each person here exactly what their next step with You should be. In Jesus' name, amen.

#3 Ice Breaker

What's the most memorable swimming or water experience you've had in your life?

#4 Key Verses

Acts 2:38-41

Romans 3:23

1 John 1:9

Titus 2:11-12

John 5:24

Romans 6:3-4

#5 Questions

1. The pastor opened with a story about a drowning man who couldn't be saved until he stopped trying to save himself. How might this relate to your own spiritual journey?
2. What's the difference between guilt and conviction, and how have you experienced each in your life?
3. How would you explain the concept of repentance to someone who has never heard the term before?
4. The pastor said, "You don't go to heaven because you're a good moral person. You go to heaven because you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior." How does this challenge common misconceptions about salvation?
5. What does baptism symbolize, and why does the pastor emphasize its importance as the first act of obedience?
6. How has your environment (people, places, media) influenced your thought patterns?
7. Every single person has a next step. What is your next step in your relationship with Jesus?

#6 Life Application

This week, take time to examine your salvation journey. If you haven't yet repented and believed in Jesus, make that decision today. If you've already done that but haven't been baptized, schedule your baptism as an act of obedience. If you've completed all these steps, identify one area where you need to more fully obey what God is asking of you. Write it down, share it with someone in this group for accountability, and take concrete action toward obedience before we meet again.

#7 Key Takeaways

- Salvation requires repentance - changing your mind about the sin in your life because sin separates us from God.
- Believing in Jesus is essential for salvation - it's not about being moral, but about trusting in what Jesus did on the cross.
- God's grace not only saves us but guides us to live godly lives in this present age.
- Water baptism is the first act of obedience after salvation - it doesn't save you, but it reflects your faith.

- You cannot earn salvation through good works; it comes only through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

#8 Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for making the path to salvation clear through Your Word. We're grateful that You don't ask us to save ourselves but instead offer us the free gift of salvation through repentance and faith. Forgive us for the times we've tried to earn our way to You or when we've been disobedient to Your commands. Give each person here the courage to take their next step with You, whether that's repentance, belief, or obedience through baptism. May we walk in the security of Your salvation and the guidance of Your grace. In Jesus' name, amen.