

Subject: “What Must I Do?”

Scripture Reading: Acts 16: 19-40

Key Verse: V. 30

Introduction: “Must” “An imperative; a requirement; a command.”

I wrote this sermon back in 1996 but recently, the Lord brought it to my memory, and I have studied it again and revamped it.

What are some things we learn in this text coupled with some important cross-references in Scripture that if we are Christians, we “must” possess in our lives?

First and foremost:

I. **You “Must” be Saved (V. 30)!**

The earthquake happened to save this one man (and consequently his household)!

See also:

John 3:3-7 (NKJV)

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is

old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”

⁵ Jesus answered, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**”

⁶ **That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

⁷ **Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’**
Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we **must** be saved.”

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God **must** believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

II. **You “Must” be Submissive (Vv. 28 & 32)!**

Paul and Silas could have RAN once their chains were loose and the doors of the prison were open!

However, they were “submissive” to the will of God and the needs of this poor soul!

Dear friend, does “submission” to God and the help of others emanate from your life?

CP:

John 3:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ He **must** increase, but I *must* decrease.

Proverbs 16:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Better *to be* of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 22:4 (NKJV)

⁴ By humility *and* the fear of the LORD *Are* riches and honor and life.

Proverbs 29:23 (NKJV)

²³ A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

III. **You “Must” be Sincere in Worship (V. 25)!**

Instead of cursing the jailor and the magistrates, instead of doubt and questioning God, the apostle Paul and Silas were sincere in worshipping and praising God!

? How would you or I react?

Notice closely that little line here, “*and the prisoners heard them!*”

? Do people see you worshipping sincerely amid your negative circumstances, or do they see and hear your curses and complaints?

John 4:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him **must** worship in spirit and truth.”

Ephesians 5:18-20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

IV. **You “Must” Serve the Lord (text)!**

Dear friends, that is what this whole passage is talking about! Paul & Silas were in jail for this very fact!

CP:

Acts 9:6 (KJV)

⁶ And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what **wilt** thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, **Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.**

Acts 9:6 (NKJV)

⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord *said* to him, "**Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.**"

V. **You “Must” Stand Before the Lord!**

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For we **must** all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,

that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Romans 14:10-12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

¹¹ For it is written: "*As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.*"

¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (NKJV)

¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Matthew 16:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ *For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

Conclusion:

Dear friend, I am not trying to place a boatload of guilt upon you but rather in all gentleness and humility I ask, "*are these things present in your life? Do you claim to be a Christian?*"

Perhaps you need to be saved?

Perhaps you just need to be sharpened?

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- Beach, B. TBC-a.m. 3/10/96
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