

**BY WHAT IS A PERSON SAVED?
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“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23.

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

It would be difficult for the truth to be more plainly stated; namely, (1) “all have sinned,” and (2) “the wages of sin is death.” “Death,” as used in the Bible, basically means separation. When used in a physical sense, death denotes the separation of the spirit from the body, James 2:26, When used in a spiritual sense, it denotes the separation of the sinner from God, Isaiah 59:1-2. In the day of Judgment, when the “dead” will be judged “according to their works,” those who are not saved will be “cast into the lake of fire,” which is described as “the second death,” Rev. 20:12-15. Clearly, “the second death” refers to “eternal” separation from God, Matt. 25:46, and in a place described as “the lake of fire,” Rev. 20:15, which is the same place where “the devil” will be “cast,” Rev. 20:10; cf. Matt. 25:41!

In view of these facts, it is exceedingly important that a person be among “the saved.” Fortunately, that is God’s desire, for the Bible says God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth,” I Tim. 2:4. This is why God sent Jesus into the world, John 3:16, and it is why Jesus came into the world, it being “to seek and to save that which was lost,” Luke 19:10; cf. Matt. 18:11. Indeed, Jesus “came into the world to save sinners,” I Tim. 1:15.

The Bible not only informs us who the “Savior” is; it also informs us regarding the things by which a person is saved. Hence, we ask the question, “by what is a person saved?”

ONE IS SAVED BY:

The gospel of Christ, which is described as “the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek,” Rom. 1:16.

The grace of God. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,” Eph. 2:8. 3.

The “life” of Christ. “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life,” Rom. 5:10.

By faith. “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” Rom. 5:1. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household,” Acts 16:30.

By baptism. “There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” I Peter 3:21.

By faith and baptism. “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned,” Mark 16:16.

By works. “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only,” Jas. 2:24.

The name of Christ. “Nor is there salvation in any other, but there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved,” Acts 4:12.

By hope. “For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does a man still hope for what he sees,” Rom. 8:24.

“Through the washing of regeneration.” “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,” Tit. 3:5.

OBSERVATIONS: In the preceding paragraphs we have noted ten things by which a person is “saved.” In no instance do we find a particular item mentioned, and then read of salvation being attributed to that item “only.” Yet in today’s world we hear preachers declare that a person is saved by “faith only,” or that one is saved by “grace alone.” Admittedly, the expression “faith only” does appear in the Bible, but the one time when that expression is used, the inspired writer said, “You see then that man is justified by works, and not by faith only,” Jas. 2:24!

An analogy could be made between the physical and the spiritual. Physically, a person lives by eating, by breathing, by exercise, and by countless other items too numerous to list. But he doesn’t live by any one of these items “only,” to the exclusion of the rest. So it is in the spiritual realm; one is saved by the gospel, the grace of God, the life of Christ, by faith, by baptism, by faith and baptism, by works, the name of Christ, by hope, by “the washing of regeneration,” etc., but no one is saved by any one of these items only. It is time for preachers to start proclaiming “the whole counsel of God,” Acts 20:27, and quit picking and choosing what they prefer to the exclusion of the other items which God has also ordained. Eternity is too long, hell is too horrible, and heaven is too wonderful for any person to take such liberties with that precious word by which we shall all be “judged.”
