

# Accept Jesus Christ As Our Personal Saviour?

I guess we do have to “Accept Jesus Christ As Our Personal Saviour” to be saved, if we mean by that what we read in Acts 8:37 - “**If thou believest with all thine heart.**” John 3:16 and many other passages teach such. But is that all we have to do to be saved - accept Jesus Christ as our personal savior, that is, are we saved by faith only?

If we are saved by faith only, where does that leave repentance (Luke 13:3, II Pet 3:9)? That would mean the gay church is saved in their homo-sin just because they believe in Christ?

Notice II Thessalonians 1:8 - **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.** So we have to know God (that is, believe with all our heart, that is, accept Jesus Christ as our personal savior), and in addition to that, we have to “**obey ... the gospel.**” Most churches never even mention the phrase “obeying the gospel” much less teach doing it is necessary to salvation like God’s word says.

Another passage that teaches we are not saved at the moment we believe is Rom 10:13-14: **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?** That makes calling on the name of the Lord necessary to salvation, and also shows us calling on the name occurs after one believes. Belief must come first, and then our calling upon God.

But what does “calling the name of the Lord” mean? It simply means doing what God said to do to ask Him to forgive us. For example Acts 22:16: **And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.** Do you see how “calling on the name of the Lord” is equated with being baptized by that verse? That’s because baptism is what Paul had left to do to ask God to save him from his sins. One can also see the same thing by coupling Acts 2:21 with 2:38.

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Another passage that teaches salvation from sin does not come at the point of faith is Rom 10:9-10: **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** Confession with the mouth then is necessary to salvation, and you can’t confess Christ honestly if you don’t already believe in him first.

We note that Saul believed in Jesus in Acts 9:4-6, but his sins weren’t washed away until at least three days later in Acts 22:16. So clearly salvation does not come “at the point of faith.” Of course we are saved by the death of Christ, but when were Saul’s sins washed away by the blood of Christ, when he believed or when he was baptized?

And any passage that teaches water baptism is essential to salvation would necessarily imply we are not saved at the point of faith before water baptism:

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- Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ...
- John 3:5 Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God
- Acts 2:38 Repent, and be baptized ... for the remission of sins ...
- Acts 22:16 arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins
- Galatians 3:26-27 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- Col 2:11-13 putting off . sins ... buried . in baptism ... forgiven . all trespasses
- I Peter 3:21 baptism doth also now save us

Likewise any passage that teaches obedience is essential to salvation would prove we are not saved by faith only:

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- Hebrews 5:9 And being made perfect, he (Jesus) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.
- Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven
- I Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth
- Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.
- II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.