

# Who We Are

## Christians

Not some brand of Christians.

Not Christians plus something else.

We've no denominational affiliation, no governing association. We wear only the name of Jesus Christ, glorify Him alone in our name, acknowledge Him alone as our governing head.

*Colossians 3:17 ; Galatians 6:14 ; I Peter 4:14-16*

# What We Believe

## The Bible

Not part of the Bible—all of it.

And the Bible alone.

We've no creed, no catechism. We preach, we teach, we read, we recommend, we seek to know and live just the words God gave—all of them.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 ; 2 John 9 ; Revelation 22:18-19*

# What We Offer

## Spirituality

**Preaching** that convicts, exhorts, instructs and encourages.

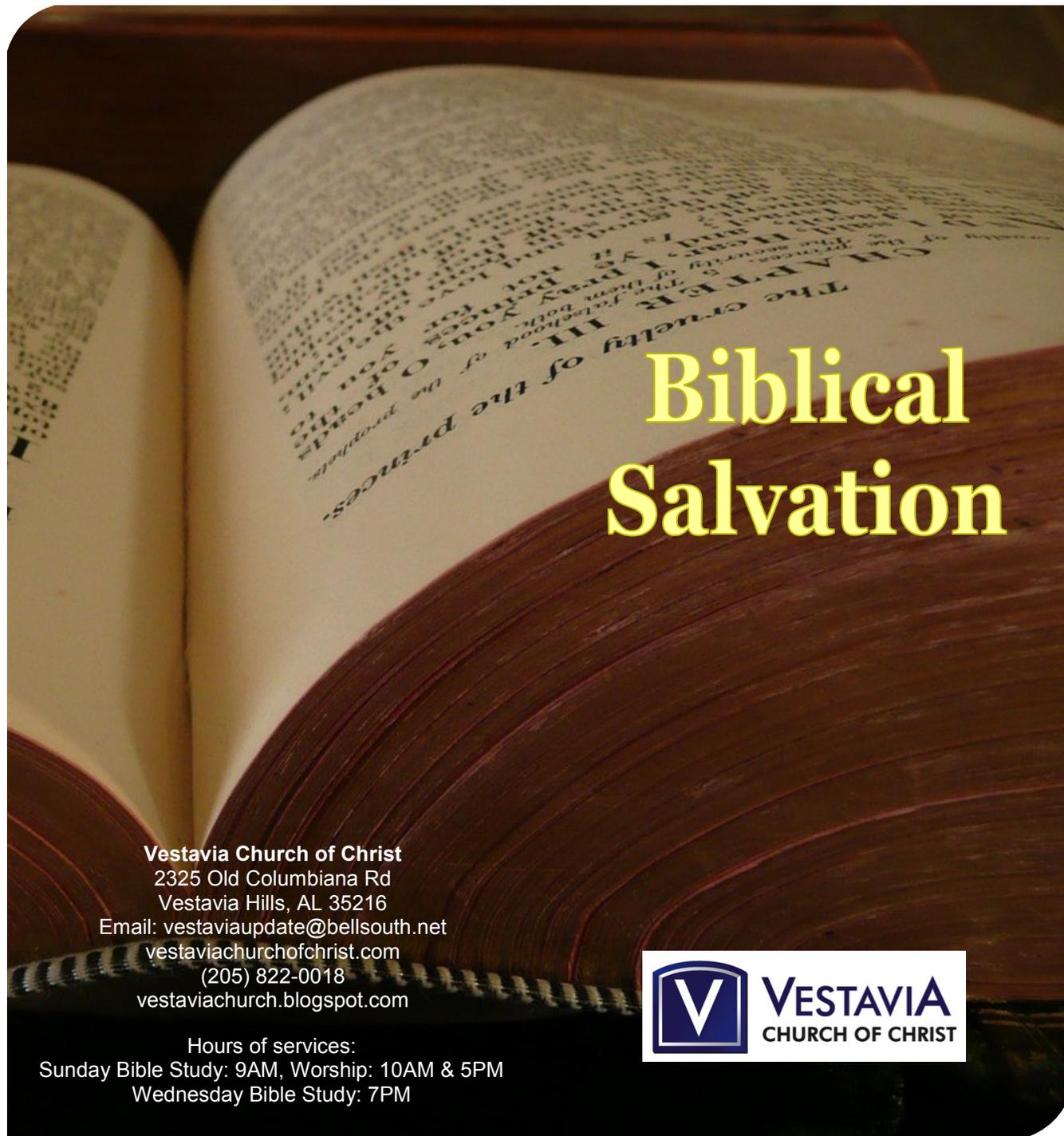
**Bible classes** that are practical, informative and stimulating for all ages.

**An atmosphere** for building better character and nurturing better homes.

**Worship** that is spirited, reverent, God-centered.

**A spiritual family** committed to God, to each other, to evangelism, to a heavenly hope.

*2 Timothy 4:2 ; I Peter 4:11 ; Romans 12:9-13*



# Biblical Salvation

### Vestavia Church of Christ

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### Hours of services:

Sunday Bible Study: 9AM, Worship: 10AM & 5PM

Wednesday Bible Study: 7PM



# Biblical Salvation

By Doy Moyer

“What must I do to be saved?” This is the question the Philippian jailer asked of the apostle Paul after an earthquake had released his prisoners (Acts 16:30). He knew to ask Paul and Silas because he had heard them singing and praying to God. This is, perhaps, the most important question one can ask. Here we want to briefly outline the biblical response to this question.

## Recognition of Sin

The question is based upon the knowledge that one has of a need for salvation. This need for salvation results from the fact that all have sinned and fall short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23). Sin causes spiritual death and separation from God. Before one can receive God’s forgiveness, there must be a recognition of being dead in sins (Ephesians 2:1).

## The Response of Faith

“Believe in the Lord Jesus,” Paul told the jailer (Acts 16:31). Biblical faith is trust. It is taking God at His word, and faith comes through hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). Once we hear what God’s word says, we must choose to believe and act upon it. Through faith, we have access to the grace of God through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1-2).

## Repentance of Sin

If we recognize that we are sinners and respond to God through faith, then we must turn from sin and strive to live according to His word. God commands all people to repent (Acts 17:30-31). He does not want us to continue living a life that is opposed to His will. If we refuse to repent, then we are not responding properly by faith, for if we take God at His word, we will want to remove ourselves from a sinful life.

## Confession of Jesus as Lord

Paul wrote, “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9). Confession of Jesus as Lord results in salvation because we are declaring that Jesus is our owner and ruler, which implies that we are willing to do whatever He says. If we call Him “Lord,” then we must do His will (Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21-23). If we are not willing to confess Him as Lord, then we are not responding in faith.

## Baptism into Christ

Some on the day of Pentecost asked Peter the same question as the jailer after they heard the truth about Jesus (Acts 2). Peter responded, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (vs. 38). Baptism is immersion in water “for the forgiveness of sins.” If we want to complete our response of faith, we will be immersed in water to have our sins washed away (Acts 22:16). Some argue that this is not necessary because it is a “work,” and since we are saved by grace, we don’t have to do it. However, this objection is based on a misunderstanding of the nature of grace, faith, and works. We cannot earn our salvation. There is nothing meritorious in this. However, baptism is commanded by God, and if we are going to take Him at His word, then we are going to do it for the reasons that He states. When we are baptized, we are not relying on ourselves for salvation; we are relying upon the working of God (Colossians 2:11-13). One who responds in faith will be baptized to be united with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5).

## A New Life

Baptism is the beginning of a new life in Christ (Romans 6:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Christians have Christ living in them (Galatians 2:20). They are striving to live a life consistently with the teachings of Scripture. This is walking by faith. We must constantly seek to grow and live as God tells us. “Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27). God promises that He will help (Hebrews 2:18; 4:15-16). We will always have access to His throne. We can confess our sins to Him as Christians and He will forgive (1 John 1:7-9). Yet we must never turn our backs on Him. We must not cast away the confidence that we have as His children (Hebrew 10:35), otherwise we will drift away from Him (Hebrews 2:1-4).

## It’s Worth It

The life of a Christians is worthwhile. Since Jesus was raised from the dead, we may know that our toil for Him is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). As Christians, we have the hope of heaven, the help of God, the forgiveness of sins, and the fellowship of godly people. God does not want anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9). It’s worth it; but we must be willing to respond to His offer of salvation from sin by faith. Have you?

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9