

Shayla: What is involved in getting “saved”?

Meforshim:

Trust Christ. Getting saved from one’s sins involves believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.¹ Take His yoke upon you, the burden of service that is part and parcel of acknowledging His sovereignty in your life.² Seek to satisfy all your longings through Him. Make knowing Him and imitating Him the supreme desire of your life.³

Once you have determined to do these things, you are saved. You don’t have to utter some sort of mantra, a ritualized prayer, go forward in a church service or even be near a church! Salvation is a matter of the heart, not the body.

Get baptized. You should immediately follow your decision with baptism.⁴ It is not a determining factor in your salvation, but it is an indication that you have in fact decided to obey the Christ’s commands. Further, it is a way to publicly confess what has happened in your heart.

Think of it like the marriage ceremony of the Christian. The inward determination to love must precede the outward ceremony. Without that inward determination, the outward ceremony is a dead and useless thing. But the inward determination without the outward ceremony is a cowardly thing and one could rightly question the inward experience.

Witness to others. This goes hand in hand with the next requirement which is that we publicly confess our discipleship to the Master publicly. We need to witness to others as to what Christ as done for us.

- Matthew 10:32-33 HCSB "Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before My Father in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father in heaven.
- Romans 10:9-13 HCSB if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 Now the Scripture says, No one who believes on Him will be put to shame, 12 for there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, since the same Lord of all is rich to all who call on Him. 13 For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Live the life. Confessing Christ with our mouths is insufficient. We need to back our verbal testimony with changed lives marked by good works. We worship our God in large part by serving our fellow man.

- Hebrews 13:15-16 HCSB Therefore, through Him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess His name. 16 Don't neglect to do good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.
- Matthew 5:14-16 HCSB "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹ John 6:29; Acts 16:31

² Matthew 11:28-30

³ John 6:35-36

⁴ Acts 16:31-33