

CONCLUSION

What this all comes down to when we speak of the things that are required for our salvation is: Must we obey the commands of our Lord in order to be saved? All of the things we have considered so far are those things that our Lord commanded be done in order to be saved, or to bring remission [forgiveness] of sins. An honest investigation of these things will bring us to the realization that when we do these things, we have not said — and surely **cannot** say — that we have done anything to **earn** our salvation, or that we have "worked" for it. The **most** we could say is, "*We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.*" (**Luke 17:10**)

Salvation **is** a matter of man doing something in response to what God has given, though. Mere mental assent that God is, or that Jesus existed, or even that Jesus is the Christ, is not enough. We cannot even live our lives with the thought that we are doing everything for Him **if we never obeyed His commands**. Jesus Himself said, "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*" (**Matt. 7:21**) Friend, it does not matter what I say and [do not be offended] it doesn't matter what **you** think, either. What matters is whether or not we have obeyed the will of the Father. I plead with you to do just that, for if you do not, you may expect certain punishment (**2 Thess. 1:8**).

It is now that you should make a self-examination. As we stated in the **Introduction**, it required of us to know whether or not we are even in Christ (**2 Cor. 13:5**). So ask yourself:

- Do I accept the Word of God as my authority for all I say and do?
- Is the New Testament — the words of Jesus Christ — the source of my authority?
- Am I willing to accept the teaching of God's Word, even when it conflicts with my current practice and/or teaching?
- Do I recognize that if I am outside of Christ, I am lost in my sins?
- Have I been saved from my past sins, in the way individuals were in the New Testament?
Date I was saved: _____ Date I was baptized: _____
- Do I acknowledge I cannot remove my sins of my own abilities?
- Have I recognized that God established the plan of salvation and revealed that plan through the written Word, the Bible?
- Have I heard the Word of God — particularly, the gospel?
- Have I been convicted of my sins and believed that same gospel message?
- Have I repented of my sins, resolving to change my heart and life?
- Have I confessed my belief, and do I daily confess it?
- Have I been baptized [immersed in water] for the remission of my sins?
- Am I now living faithfully in service to Jesus Christ as His disciple?

If you can truthfully say "yes" to all of the above questions, then you may rest assured you are saved. But, let me caution you: If the date you were saved and the date you were baptized are different, then you most likely were not baptized for the right reason and you are not a child of God. Though you may have believed that Jesus is the Christ, we have already shown that mere belief is not enough. Take a look again at the conversions in the New Testament. That is how individuals were saved then, and it has not changed.