

# Salvation

Adapted from NAMB "Personal Commitment Guide"

- Have you come to a place where you know for certain you have eternal life and will go to heaven when you die?
- Suppose you were standing before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my Heaven? What would you say?"

## **GOD'S PURPOSE – to give us Eternal Life**

God loves us and has a purpose for our lives. The best known Bible verse in the world tell us this purpose: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*<sup>17</sup> *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."*<sup>18</sup> *He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:16-18*

- God gives eternal life as a gift. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 6:23
- God wants us to have a full and abundant life. *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* John 10:10
- God wants us to spend eternity in heaven with Him. *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:1-*

## **OUR NEED – We choose to do things OUR way not God's way**

*"There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."* Proverbs 14:1

- We all sin by nature and by choice. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (the glorious standard of God). Rom. 3:23
- We cannot be good enough to save ourselves. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9
- We deserve death and eternal punishment separated from God. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 6:23

## **GOD HAS PROVIDED A WAY**

God is holy and perfect, meaning that He must punish sin. Yet, He loves and provides forgiveness for our sin. Jesus said, *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, No man comes to the Father, but through Me."* John 14:6

- Jesus is God and He became man.<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God...<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-2, 14

- Jesus died for us on the cross.  
*"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 1 Peter 3:18  
 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*
- Jesus was arose from the dead and is alive today.  
*"... knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Romans 6:9-10*
- God through His Holy Spirit call us all to Himself.  
*"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:44*

## OUR RESPONSE

- The only way Jesus can transform our lives is for us to believe in Him and receive Him into our lives. *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name..." John 1:12*
- We must Repent of our sin. *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..." Acts 3:19*
  - ❖ Repentance is not just feeling sorry for our sin. *"... but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. Acts 26:20*
  - ❖ We must place our faith in Jesus alone. *"For by grace are you saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves, it is God's gift." Eph. 2:8*
  - ❖ Faith is not just believing facts about Jesus. *"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!" James 2:19*
  - ❖ Faith is trusting in Jesus. *"For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." Romans 10:11*
- We must surrender to Jesus as the Lord, boss, master and ruler of our lives. *"...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9-10*
  - ❖ Surrendering to Jesus as Lord is not just saying you give your life to Jesus, it is a surrender that gives Him control of your life. *"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." Matthew 7:21*

## MY COMMITMENT

- Does what we have been discussing make sense to you?
- Is there any reason you would not be willing to receive God's gift of eternal life right now?
- Are you willing to turn from your sin & place your faith in Jesus & give him control of your life?  
 Pray something like this: *"Dear Lord, Jesus, I have sinned. I don't deserve your forgiveness but I believe You died for my sins and rose again. I surrender my life to you and want to live for You. Thank You for your forgiveness and for coming into my life. In Jesus Name, Amen.*

# Baptism

Have you been Baptized by immersion since you trusted Jesus?

Baptism is a first step of obedience for a new believer in Jesus. Although baptism does not save, it is important to the maturity of a new follower of Jesus.

## WHAT BAPTISM DOES:

- It Follows the EXAMPLE of Jesus: *“Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?” But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to baptize him. Matthew 3:13-15 (NLT)*
- It is a Beginning of our OBEDIENCE to Jesus teachings! He said: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Matthew 28:19-20*
- It is a Picture of what Jesus has DONE FOR US: It is picture of Jesus entrance into this world, His death, burial and resurrection. *“Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Romans 6:3-4 (NLT)*
- It is an entrance into being part of the local CHURCH FAMILY: *“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day about 3,000 in all.” Acts 2:41 (NLT)*

## OUR RESPONSE:

- Ask a local Bible believing church to baptize you.
- Be Baptized as a step of obedience to Jesus.
- Invite others to see your baptism, it is a powerful testimony of what Jesus has done for you.

## MY COMMITMENT:

- The Scriptures call new Christians “babes in Christ” (1 Cor. 3:1)
- The Church is to the new believer what a family is to a baby.
- Attend church weekly by getting into a Sunday School class as well as a time to worship with the church family. This will allow you to be taught the Word of God. In a Sunday School class you will be able to ask questions and form relationships that will help you grow.

*“...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV)*

## Church Membership

Why is the church important? Matt. 16:18 tells us Jesus built the church! Paul tells us that *“Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for it...”* Eph. 5:25. The church is made up of God’s people. To love Jesus is to love the church!

When a person says they would like to be a part of our church, several questions need to be asked.

- Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? If no, then speak to them about salvation. Church membership does not save. If they say Yes, ask the next question.
- Are you and active member in a local church? If yes, Where?

**GOD’S PURPOSE:** Every believer should be part of a Bible believing church fellowship. God did not intend for us to be disconnected from His body, the church. Paul said *“In the same way, we who are many are one body in Christ...”* Rom. 12:5.

- As a part of the body we can worship with other Believers (Heb. 10:25; Eph. 5:19-20)
- As a part of the body we can share our faith (Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:18-20)
- As a part of the church we can grow in our faith (2 Peter 3:18).
- As a part of the church we can use our gifts and abilities to minister to one another (1 Cor. 12:12-26)
- As a part of the church we can fellowship and encourage one another (Heb. 10:24-25)

### OUR NEED:

- We need to identify publically with a local church family, (Acts 2:41-44)
- We need strength for daily living that can come through the fellowship of the church family (Heb. 3:13)
- We need to use our gifts and talents in service through the local church (Rom. 12:4-8).

### GOD’S PROVISION:

- God established the church as the body of Christ (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18)
- God provided church membership the invitation of the local church (Rev. 22:17)
- God encourages every believer to be part of a local body (Heb. 10:25)
- Jesus set the example of faithful attendance to public worship (Luke 4:16)

### OUR RESPONSE:

- You may become a member of a local church by professing faith in Christ and being baptized (Acts 2:41, 47).
- You may join a local church by presenting yourself to them for membership.
- Joining the church opens doors of increased fellowship and service.
- You may join a local church by statement of faith from a church where you have been scripturally baptized and have like faith and practices.

## Baptism Supplement

**Jesus Was Baptized:** *Matthew 3:13-17 (NKJV)* <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. <sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

**It is a Beginning of our Obedience to Jesus' Teaching:** *Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)*

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Then let each one be baptized after this change has taken place, and the act of baptism be performed "in the name of Jesus Christ" (en tōi onomati Iēsou Christou). In accordance with the command of Jesus in [Matthew 28:19](#) (eis to onoma). No distinction is to be insisted on between eis to onoma and en tōi onomati with baptizō since eis and en are really the same word in origin. In [Acts 10:48](#) en tōi onomati Iēsou Christou occurs, but eis to onoma in [Acts 8:16](#); [Acts 19:5](#). The use of onoma means in the name or with the authority of one as eis onoma prophētou ([Matthew 10:41](#)) as a prophet, in the name of a prophet. In the Acts the full name of the Trinity does not occur in baptism as in [Matthew 28:19](#), but this does not show that it was not used. The name of Jesus Christ is the distinctive one in Christian baptism and really involves the Father and the Spirit. See note on <sup>s</sup>[Matthew 28:19](#) for discussion of this point. "Luke does not give the form of words used in baptism by the Apostles, but merely states the fact that they baptized those who acknowledged Jesus as Messiah or as Lord" (Page). *Word Pictures in the New Testament*.

Acts 2:38 has been used by some to support baptismal regeneration. Baptism does not save us, repentance and receiving Jesus saves us (John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24; etc...) There is multiple use of the phrase "FOR" the remission...in greek – that WE as Baptist hold and that Church of Christ hold.

Baptism does PREVENT "secret disciples" AND it cut down on false conversions... by calling people to a public declaration of faith... IN THAT DAY it was serious to be baptized...it could lead to excommunication from a family... Jewish society, etc...

**It is a Picture of What Jesus has done for us:** *Romans 6:3-4 (NKJV)* <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

MY COMMITMENT:

**Babes in Christ** - [1 Corinthians 3:1](#) (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

[1 Peter 2:2](#) as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,