

# DYERTHOUGHTS

== COMMON SENSE ==  
APOLOGETICS

Questions and Answers  
about Salvation

### Q: What is the Bible?

A: It is a collection of 66 books. The first 39 make up the Old Testament and the last 27 are the New Testament. This entire collection is inspired by God (2nd Timothy 3:16-17) and useful for the man of God. It did not come from men but men spoke by God's inspiration (2nd Peter 1:20-21).

### Q: To Whom Does God Speak?

A: To everyone (Acts 17:26-27). God desires for ALL men to be saved (1st Timothy 2:4, 2nd Peter 3:9).

### Q: Why are Men to Answer to God for Their Conduct?

A: Because He is the creator (Gen 2:7) and thus has a right over His creation. Not only has He created us but he also has redeemed us (bought us back). Therefore, he owns us two-fold.

### Q: What is The Problem?

A: Sin. It is what separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). We were originally created in His image (Genesis 1:26), but have fallen short of his glory (Romans 3:23). Our sins have brought guilt upon us that must be dealt with. God cannot simply ignore our guilt or He would be an unjust judge.

### Q: Is There a Solution?

A: Yes!!! This is the whole theme of the Bible. The Old Testament lays out redemptive history. That is, God working out His plan to bring about the Messiah who would take the penalty of our sins so that we could have our debt paid and be rejoined to God. The New Testament tells us about the coming of this Messiah and how God expects us to respond to Him.

### Q: Who is Jesus?

A: He is the promised Messiah. At the first sin God made a promise to send a boy baby who would crush Satan (Genesis 3:15). God built upon this promise a grand scheme of redemption filled with shadows and prophecies. Jesus fulfilled these prophecies and became the substance of the shadows (Colossians 2:16-17). These shadows were things like the Tabernacle, the Feast Days and the Sacrifices. Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice who takes away our sins once and for all (Hebrews 10:1-5)!!!

### Q: What Did Jesus Do?

A: Not only did he fulfill the prophecies and become the substance of the shadows but he paid the penalty. Our sins brought a guilt to us that we owed God and this debt was death (Romans 6:23). There was no way that we could pay this debt. Therefore Jesus was accounted the sins of the world so that we could be accounted his righteousness (2nd Corinthians 5:21).

### Q: What is Justification?

A: It is a declaration of God that we are righteous (back in right-standing). Even though in ourselves we are still imperfect God has declared (justified) us righteous and therefore we no longer have any condemnation (Romans 8:1). It is not that God views us as if we have never sinned, rather God views us as if our debt has already been paid because it has through Jesus.

### Q: Why Then Aren't All Men Saved?

A: Because justification is conditional upon man accepting it. Someone can prepare a gift for you but you can reject this gift. So with God men can reject this gracious gift. God requires that we obey the Gospel by believing that Jesus is the Messiah (John 3:16), repenting of our sinful way of life and being baptized into the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38). Not all men are willing to accept Jesus as the Messiah and still others accept this mentally but are not willing to follow Jesus as Lord and therefore are on the same level as demons (James 2:19).

Q: What Becomes of Sinners Who are Justified?

A: They are forgiven of their sins and declared back in right-standing with God. They are added to the Church (Acts 2:47) of Christ and called to become conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). They walk by faith not sight (2nd Corinthians 5:7) lest they slip back into their old way of life and have their sins re-attributed to them (2nd Peter 2:20-22).

Q: What Must One Do To Be Justified?

A: It is by faith apart from works (Romans 3:28). Therefore, you cannot work your way into a right-standing with God. You must accept the free gift of grace. The examples we see in the New Testament show us that men had to accept Jesus as Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36), repent of their sinful life (Acts 2:38) and be baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38, 22:16). Please see the pamphlets “Baptism” and “24 questions and answers about baptism” for more information on how Baptism is the time and place of justification.

## Q: What Are We Looking For In a Church?

1. The most important thing to look for in a Church is whether they are teaching the truth. If a church has all the greatest programs, the best nursery and amazing worship but does not have the truth then you will not grow in your faith. Faith comes from hearing the Word (Romans 10:17)

a. This also means a Church accepts the Bible as the Inspired Word of God and believes it is the final authority for Faith and Practice.

2. We look for a church that is organized in its leadership the way the New Testament teachers. That is, it needs Elders (not the preacher) to shepherd the flock (Acts 20:17-36) who meet the qualifications (1st Timothy 3, Titus 1). If it does not have Elders they need to have an active plan on training up men to become Elders. If a church decides that the preacher is going to be 'The Pastor' this is a warning sign that they are not following God's plan for Church Leadership.

3. We look for a church that meets every Lord's Day to worship and take communion (Acts 20:7).

4. We look for a church whose attitude is one of Grace. All law and no love leads to legalism.

5. Remember, there is no such thing as a perfect church. Every church has their problems. If a church believes the Bible is the final authority and they have a desire to follow God with all their heart then you have a great foundation to build on. I suggest praying to God earnestly that He will lead you to a church that preaches the truth and is moving forward in grace.