

Acts 22:16

Acts 22:16 – “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

Paul was told to do something (be baptized) to get his sins washed away, even though at least three days earlier he had believed in Jesus ...

Acts 9:3-6 “And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”

Paul at this point believed in Jesus. He asked who it was speaking from heaven, and Jesus replied “I am Jesus.” Paul then responded “what wilt thou have me to do?” Obviously Paul believed Jesus was who he said he was.

Most denominations would say Paul was saved at this point because he believed in Jesus, but was he?

Evidently “faith alone” is not enough because Paul was a believer at this point, but he was still in his sins at least three days later – Acts 22:16 – “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

So Paul was a believer in Christ but still needed to do something to get his sins washed away. Most churches say belief is enough and therefore Paul was saved on the road to Damascus, but Acts 22:16 conclusively proves otherwise.

Not only that, but Acts 22:16 proves a person has to be baptized to be saved. Baptism is when the blood of Christ washes away our sins. A person is not saved until they are baptized:

- Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be [condemned].”
- John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
- Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
- Gal 3:26-27 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
- I Pet 3:21 “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

Acts 22:16 actually shows being baptized is the way a person calls upon (asks) God to wash away his sins. Rom 10:13 reads “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” So “Calling On The Name Of The Lord” is clearly necessary to salvation. But how does one call on the name of the Lord? We better know what it means if it is necessary to salvation.

Before we answer that question let’s prove from this text that salvation does not come at the point of faith as most denominational preachers teach. Let’s continue reading verse 14 “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” Do you see how this verse makes it clear that one can’t call on the name of the

Lord until after they have believed? It says “[How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?](#)” Since verse 13 makes this calling on God necessary to salvation, and since verse 14 says we have to believe first before we call, then that proves one is not saved sometime until after they believe, when they call on God. See what I mean?

And we call on God to save us by doing what God said to do to be saved. To prove this let’s turn back to and read Acts 22:16 “[And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.](#)” Do you see how Paul was told to call on the name of the Lord by being baptized? If God says - if you do A, I will give you B, then the way to ask God to give you B is by doing A. You see if God has told us what to do to be saved (and He has - Mark 16:16 reads “[He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ...](#)”), then if we were to ask God face-to-face to save us, His response would be “I’ve already told you what to do to be saved; do what I told you, and I will save you.” Make sense? And so if we want to ask God to save us from our sins, we ask Him to do that by doing what He said to do to be saved - believe and be baptized.

We can also prove this from Acts 2. Acts 2:21 has our same phrase “[And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.](#)” And then notice verse 38 of the same chapter “[Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.](#)” See, Peter told them they needed to call on the name of the Lord to be saved from their sins in verse 21, and then told them exactly how to do that in verse 38 “[... Repent, and be baptized ... for the remission of sins ...](#)” Either Peter is saying there is two different ways to be saved or “[repent and be baptized](#)” is how one calls on God for salvation.

So the song “Trust And Obey” is right, it takes both belief and obedience to be please God:

- Heb 5:9 [being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.](#)
- Matt 7:21 [Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven](#)
- I Peter 1:22 [Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth](#)
- Mark 16:16 [He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ...](#)
- II Thessalonians 1:8 [In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.](#)
- Rev 22:14 [Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city..](#)
- II Cor 5:10 [For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.](#)