

# Salvation with emphasis on The Equitable Judgment of God

## I. Man needs God's salvation

A. God created man for His glory (Isa 43:7; Rev 4:11; Rom 1:21; 8:30; 2Thes 1:10-12)

B. God has revealed Himself to man

1. Through creation (Psalm 19:1-4; Rom 1:20-21)
2. Through His law
  - a. In the conscience of man (Rom 2:14-15)
  - b. In the Old Testament law of Moses (Gal 3:19-24)
  - c. In the New Testament law of Christ (Gal 6:2; James 2:8)
3. Through the person of Christ (John 1:17-18; 14:9; Col 1:15; Heb 1:1-3)
4. **God does not give equal knowledge of Himself to all people** (Matt 11:20-22; 25:14-30; Luke 12:35-48; Rom 1:19-21; 2:6-16; 3:1-2 with 9:1-4). **God withholds more knowledge from those who are unfaithful with what they've been given** (Matt 13:11-13; 25:28-29; Luke 16:30-31; Rom 1:21-24, 28; 2Thes 2:8-12) **and gives more knowledge to those who are faithful with what they've been given** (Matt 13:11-15; 25:28-29; John 7:17; James 1:22; Acts 10:4 with 11:14).

C. Man has sinned and come short of God's glory (Isa 53:6; 64:6; Job 15:14-16; Luke 18:9-14; Rom 1:20-21; 2:15; 3:10-23; Gal 3:22). Natural man, outside of Christ is described as follows: shaped in iniquity, conceived in sin, he's altogether vanity at his best state, dead in trespasses and sins, children of disobedience, children of wrath, having no hope, without God, sinners, enemies of God, ungodly, servants of sin, evil, children of the wicked one (Psalm 51:5; 39:5; Eph 2:1-12; 2Cor 5:14; Rom 5:6-10; 6:17; Matt 7:11; 13:38). Some descriptions of sin:

1. Transgression of God's law is sin (1John 3:4)
2. Unbelief in God's word is sin (Heb 3:12; 4:2)
3. Unholy desire and anger is sin (Matt 5:22-30)
4. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Rom 14:23)
5. To knowingly offend a weaker brother is sin (1Cor 8:12)
6. To show respect of persons is sin (James 2:9)
7. To know to do good and do it not is sin (James 4:17)
8. All unrighteousness is sin (1John 5:17)
9. Not believing in Jesus is sin (John 16:9)

D. God, being holy, hates sin and condemns it (Hab 1:12-13; Heb 1:9; Gen 2:17; Num 32:23; Ezek 18:20; Rom 6:23; 8:3)

1. Eternal death is the penalty that God's holiness requires for unsaved sinners (Gen 3:19; Ezek 18:4,20; Rom 6:23; Rev 20:14,15; 21:8).

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- a. The wrath of God abides on unsaved sinners (Psalm 7:11; John 3:18,36)
  - b. At death, the souls of unsaved sinners go immediately to hell to remain in torment until the final judgment at the great white throne (Luke 16:10-26; Rev 20:11-15)
  - c. At the final judgment, God will punish unsaved sinners with everlasting destruction, contempt, and damnation (1Cor 11:32; 1Pet 4:18; Rom 11:22; Heb 10:28; 2Pet 2:6; Dan 12:1-4; John 5:28-29; Matt 13:24-42; 18:8; 25:41-46; Mark 3:29; 2Thes 1:7-9; Rev 14:9-11; 20:11-15; 21:8)
  - d. **God will judge people with justice and equity** (Gen 18:25; Isa 59:14-15; Psalm 98:9; Eze 18:18-29). **God is no respecter of persons** (Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11; Eph 6:9; Col 3:25; 1Peter 1:17). **He recompenses both good and evil** (Luke 14:14; Heb 10:30; 2Tim 4:8). **God's judgment considers the amount of knowledge people have** (Num 15:24-31; Deut 1:39; Isa 5:1-7; Matt 11:20-22; 25:14-30; Luke 12:10, 35-48; Rom 1:19-32; 3:20 with 4:15, 5:13, and 7:9; Heb 6:4-8; 10:26-31; 12:15-17) **or could have had** (2Pet 3:5-7; Heb 5:12-6:6), **the sinful works they have done** (Matt 23:14; Jn 19:11; Rev 2:23; 20:11-15), **and their motives** (Ex 21:13-14; Deut 19:4-13; Jer 17:10; Rom 2:16; 14:14; Heb 4:12 with Jn 12:48).
2. **God considers the knowledge of sinners in His extension of mercy to them** (Num 15:24-31; Deut 1:39; Matt 11:20-22; 25:14-30; Luke 12:10, 35-48; 23:34; Acts 17:30; 1Tim 1:12-13; Heb 6:4-8; 10:26-31; 12:15-17). **God does not overlook ignorance today as He did before the coming of Christ; today God commands all men everywhere to repent and believe the gospel** (Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 14:15-16; 17:22-23, 30).

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God's equitable Judgment Scripture references

1. **God does not give equal knowledge of Himself to all people** (Matt 11:20-22; 25:14-30; Luke 12:35-48; Rom 1:19-21; 2:6-16; 3:1-2 with 9:1-4).

Matt 11:20 Then he began to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: 21 Woe to you, Chorazin! woe to you, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say to you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, which are exalted to heaven, shall be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which

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have been done in you, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.  
24 But I say to you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.

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Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has showed it to them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and God-head; so that they are without excuse:

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Rom 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:  
8 But to them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that does evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that works good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For there is no respect of persons with God. 12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; 13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. 14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law to themselves: 15 Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) 16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

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Rom 3:1-2 What advantage then has the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?  
2 Much every way: chiefly, because that to them were committed the oracles of God.  
**with**

Rom 9:1-4 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertain the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

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Matt 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered to them his goods.

15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

2. **God withholds more knowledge from those who are *unfaithful with what they've been given*** (Matt 13:11-13; 25:28-29; Luke 16:30-31; Rom 1:21-24, 28; 2Thes 2:8-12)

Matt 13:11 He answered and said to them, Because it is given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever has, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever has not, from him shall be taken away even that he has. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

Matt 25:28-29 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it to him which has ten talents. 29 For to every one that has shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that has not shall be taken away even that which he has.

Luke 16:30 And he said, No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.

31 But he said to him, If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

2Thes 1:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not

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the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

3. **God gives more knowledge to those who are faithful with what they've been given** (Matt 13:11-15; 25:28-29; John 7:17; James 1:22; Acts 10:4 with 11:14).

Matt 13:11 He answered and said to them, Because it is given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever has, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever has not, from him shall be taken away even that he has. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

Matt 25:28-29 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it to him which has ten talents. 29 For to every one that has shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that has not shall be taken away even that which he has.

John 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. 17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Acts 10:1-4 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, 2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave many alms to the people, and prayed to God always. 3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying to him, Cornelius. 4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said to him, Your prayers and your alms are come up for a memorial before God.

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Acts 11:13 And he showed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said to him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; 14 Who shall tell you words, whereby you and all your house shall be saved.

4. **God will judge people with justice and equity** (Gen 18:25; Isa 59:14-15; Psalm 98:9; Ezek 18:18-29).

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Gen 18:25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Isa 59:14 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter.

15 So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.

Psalms 98:8 Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together 9 Before the LORD; for he comes to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Eze 18:18 As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, spoiled his brother by violence, and did that which is not good among his people, lo, even he shall die in his iniquity.

19 Yet say you, Why? does not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son has done that which is lawful and right, and has kept all my statutes, and has done them, he shall surely live.

20 The soul that sins, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

21 ¶ But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he has committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

22 All his transgressions that he has committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he has done he shall live.

23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? says the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

24 But when the righteous turn away from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All his righteousness that he has done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he has trespassed, and in his sin that he has sinned, in them shall he die.

25 Yet you say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal?

26 When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and dies in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

27 Again, when the wicked man turns away from his wickedness that he has committed, and does that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

28 Because he considers, and turns away from all his transgressions that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

29 Yet says the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal?

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5. **God is no respecter of persons** (Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11; Eph 6:9; Col 3:25; 1Peter 1:17)

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that fears him, and works righteousness, is accepted with him.

Rom 2:9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that does evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that works good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For there is no respect of persons with God. 12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

Eph 6:7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man does, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. 9 And, you masters, do the same things to them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Col 3:23 And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not to men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord you shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that does wrong shall receive for the wrong which he has done: and there is no respect of persons.

1Pet 1:17 And if you call on the Father, who without respect of persons judges according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

6. **He recompenses both good and evil** (Luke 14:14; Heb 10:30; 2Tim 4:8).

Luke 14:13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. 14 "And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

Heb 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose you, shall he be thought worthy, who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that has said, Vengeance belongs unto me, I will recompense, says the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

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7. **God's judgment considers the amount of knowledge people have** (Num 15:24-31; Isa 5:1-7; Matt 11:20-22; 25:14-30; Luke 12:10, 35-48; Rom 1:19-32; 3:20 with 4:15, 5:13, and 7:9; Heb 6:4-8; 10:26-31; 12:15-17)

Num 15:24 Then it shall be, if ought be committed by ignorance without the knowledge of the congregation, that all the congregation shall offer one young bullock for a burnt offering, for a sweet savour unto the LORD, with his meat offering, and his drink offering, according to the manner, and one kid of the goats for a sin offering.

25 And the priest shall make an atonement for all the congregation of the children of Israel, and it shall be forgiven them; for it is ignorance: and they shall bring their offering, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD, and their sin offering before the LORD, for their ignorance:

26 And it shall be forgiven all the congregation of the children of Israel, and the stranger that sojourns among them; seeing all the people were in ignorance.

27 And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering.

28 And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sins ignorantly, when he sins by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him.

29 You shall have one law for him that sins through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourns among them.

30 But the soul that does ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproaches the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

31 Because he has despised the word of the LORD, and has broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Isa 5:1 ¶ Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill.

2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes.

3 "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard.

4 What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes?

5 And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

6 I will lay it waste; It shall not be pruned or dug, But there shall come up briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds That they rain no rain on it."

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7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.

Matt 11:20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: 21 Woe to you, Chorazin! woe to you, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say to you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, which are exalted to heaven, shall be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in you, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say to you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.

Luke 12:47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For to whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has showed it to them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and God-head; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him that knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is sin.

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Rom 4:15 Because the law works wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

Rom 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Rom 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Heb 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted

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of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again to repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Heb 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, do you suppose, shall he be thought worthy, who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has done despite to the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that has said, Vengeance belongs to me, I will recompense, says the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

## **8. ...or knowledge they could have had** (2Pet 3:5-7; Heb 5:12-6:6)

2Pet 3: 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved to fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Heb 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

1 ¶ Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

3 And this we will do if God permits.

4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,

5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

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**9...the sinful works they have done** (Matt 23:14; Jn 19:11; Rev 2:23; 20:11-15)

Matt 23:14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore you shall receive the greater damnation.

Jn 19:11 Jesus answered, You could have no power at all against me, except it were given you from above: therefore he that delivered me to you has the greater sin.

Rev 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against you, because you suffer that woman Jezebel, which calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searches the reins and hearts: and I will give to every one of you according to your works.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**10. ..and their motives** (Ex 21:13-14; Deut 19:4-13; Jer 17:10; Rom 2:16; 14:14; Heb 4:12 with Jn 12:48).

Ex 21:12 ¶ "He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.

13 "However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee.

14 "But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die.

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Deut 19:4 "And this is the case of the manslayer who flees there, that he may live: Whoever kills his neighbor unintentionally, not having hated him in time past—

5 "as when a man goes to the woods with his neighbor to cut timber, and his hand swings a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies—he shall flee to one of these cities and live;

6 "lest the avenger of blood, while his anger is hot, pursue the manslayer and overtake him, because the way is long, and kill him, though he was not deserving of death, since he had not hated the victim in time past.

7 "Therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall separate three cities for yourself.'

8 "Now if the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as He swore to your fathers, and gives you the land which He promised to give to your fathers,

9 "and if you keep all these commandments and do them, which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and to walk always in His ways, then you shall add three more cities for yourself besides these three,

10 "lest innocent blood be shed in the midst of your land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and thus guilt of bloodshed be upon you.

11 "But if anyone hates his neighbor, lies in wait for him, rises against him and strikes him mortally, so that he dies, and he flees to one of these cities,

12 "then the elders of his city shall send and bring him from there, and deliver him over to the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die.

13 "Your eye shall not pity him, but you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with you.

Rom 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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John 12:48 He that rejects me, and receives not my words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Rom 14:14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteems any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

11. **God considers the knowledge of sinners in His extension of mercy to them** (Num 15:24-31; Matt 11:20-22; 25:14-30; Luke 12:10, 35-48; 23:34; Acts 17:30; 1Tim 1:12-13; Heb 6:4-8; 10:26-31; 12:15-17).

Numbers 15:24-31 ---mercy due to ignorance

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Matt 11:20-22 – will be more tolerable on judgment day for Tyre and Sidon

Talents—well done to both with five and two. Would have been well done to one talent--  
cursed

Luke 12:35-48; few strips because he didn't know his lord's will

Luke 23:34a Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.  
**with**

Matt 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw  
the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this  
was the Son of God.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men  
every where to repent:

1Tim 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me, for that he counted  
me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a  
persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

**12. God does not overlook ignorance today as He did before the coming of  
Christ; today God commands all men everywhere to repent and believe  
the gospel** (Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 14:15-16; 17:22-23, 30).

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men  
every where to repent:

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## II. God saves sinners

A. God purposed to save sinners before the world began

1. Jesus, God's precious, chosen, elect One, was foreordained to be a lamb  
slain before the world began (1Pet 1:18-2:6; Rev 13:8)
2. God chose the elect in Christ before the world began (Eph 1:4; 2Tim 1:9;  
Matt 25:34)

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3. Election is in accordance with God's foreknowledge of the elect/believers (Rom 8:29-33; 1Pet 1:2)
- B. God so loved the world, He gave His only-begotten son, Jesus (John 3:16; Gal 4:4; 1Tim 1:15)
- C. Jesus came to the world to save sinners by living a sinless life, dying for the sins of the world, and rising again from the dead (1Tim 1:15; Matt 18:11; Heb 4:15; Isa 53:4-6, 10-12; 1John 2:2; Heb 2:9; 2Pet 2:1; 1Tim 4:10; Rom 5:8; 2Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13; 1Pet 2:24; 1Cor 15:3-4; Rom 4:25)
- D. God calls (1Pet 5:10), reproves (John 16:8), invites (Rev 22:17), draws (John 6:44; 12:32-33), leads (Rom 2:4), guides (Acts 8:31), reasons with (Isa 1:18), preaches to (Rom 10:13-15; 1Cor 1:21), exhorts (Acts 2:40), testifies (1John 4:14), teaches (Col 1:28), persuades (Acts 28:23; 2Cor 5:11), convinces (Titus 1:9), and warns (Ezek 3:18-19; 33:7-8; Col 1:28) sinners. God thus gives repentance and faith through His goodness, His word, His Spirit and His children, revealing who Jesus is, opening the sinner's heart to Christ (2Tim 2:25; Rev 2:21; Heb 12:2; Acts 14:27; 16:14; Matt 16:16-17; Acts 16:14).

## III. God does not save all sinners

- A. Few sinners find eternal life--most will be punished with everlasting destruction (Matt 7:13-14; 22:13-14; Dan 7:10 with Rev 20:15; 2Thes 1:8-9 )
- B. Sinners are eternally condemned because they sin and will not receive God's forgiveness. They love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil, do not receive the love of the truth, do not glorify or thank God, change the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, change the truth of God into a lie, worship and serve the creature more than the Creator, do not like to retain God in their knowledge, commit vile and shameful acts worthy of death, and turn away from the Lord and His truth (John 3:19; 2Thes 2:10; Rom 1:18-32; Heb12:25; 2Tim 4:4).
- C. God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek 18:30-32; Matt 22:37; 2Pet 3:9; 1Tim 2:1-6; Isa 5:3-4; Matt 23:37) but is righteous in His judgment of sinners who sin and will not receive His salvation (John 16:9; Rom 1:18-2:8; 3:3-18; 1Pet 4:17-18; 2Thes 1:4-9; 2:9-12; Heb 2:1-4; 3:7-13; 10:25-31)

## III. Man cannot save himself

- A. God is the only Savior (1Chron 16:23; Psalm 3:8; Jude 1:25; Isa 45:21; Hos 13:4; Titus 2:13)

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B. Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation (Matt 26:39-42; Mark 16:16; John 3:16, 18, 36; 10:1; 14:6; Eph 1:7; Gal 2:21; Acts 4:12; 1Jn 5:10-12; 1Tim 2:5).

C. Man is incapable of saving himself

1. Salvation is by Christ's death--eliminating all glorying of man except in the cross (Gal 6:14; Rom 4:2; 1Cor 1:23-29; 4:7)

2. Spiritual birth is not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:13)

3. Man cannot be saved by works

a. Salvation is God's free gift received by faith--not by works lest any man should boast (Rom 3:26-28; 5:18; 6:23; Eph 2:8-9)

b. Salvation is by God's grace--not of God's indebtedness to man's works (Rom 4:2-5)

c. Salvation is by God's mercy--not by works of righteousness (Titus 3:5)

Good works are the result, not the means, of salvation (Eph 2:8-10; Titus 3:5-8; 1Cor 15:58)

## IV. God uses means to save sinners

A. God's goodness leads sinners to repentance (Rom 2:4)

B. God's word produces faith in sinners (Rom 10:13-17; 2Tim 3:15)

C. God's people, laboring and striving according to His working, can pray for (Col 1:29; Luke 23:34; Rom 10:1; 1Tim 2:1-6), guide (Acts 8:31), preach to (Rom 10:13-15; 1Cor 1:21), exhort (Acts 2:40), testify (1John 4:14), teach (Col 1:28), persuade (Acts 28:23; 2Cor 5:11), convince (Titus 1:9), warn (Ezek 3:18-19; 33:7-8; Col 1:28), open the eyes of (Acts 26:18), turn (Acts 26:18), beget (1Cor 4:15), and save (Eze 3:18; Rom 11:14; 1Cor 9:22; Jude 1:23) sinners.

## V. Man must do something to be saved (Acts 16:31)

A. Man must receive Jesus by repentance and faith (John 1:12; Acts 20:21)

1. Man must hear the gospel to believe it (Rom 10:17; Acts 15:7; Gal 3:2; Eph 1:13)

2. Man must repent (Luke 13:3; 18:9-14; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:21; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20; 1Thes 1:9)

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3. Man must believe in Jesus, believing that He died for their sins according to the scripture, that he was buried, and that He rose from the dead according to the scripture (**Faith:** Acts 15:9; Rom 3:22, 25, 28; 3:30; 4:5, 9, 11, 13, 16; 5:1, 2; 9:30 10:6; 11:20; Gal 2:16; 3:2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14; 22, 24, 26; Eph 2:8; Phil 3:9; 2Tim 3:15; 1Pet 1:9; **Believe:** Luke 8:12; John 1:7, 12; 3:15, 16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:35, 40, 47; 4:39, 41; 7:31, 38, 39; 8:24, 30; 10:42; 11:25, 26, 45; 12:37, 46; 20:31; Acts 8:37; 9:42; 10:43; 11:17; 13:39; 14:1; 16:31; 18:8; Rom 1:16; 3:22, 26; 4:3, 5, 11, 24; 10:9, 10; 1Cor 15:1-4; Gal 2:16; 3:6, 22; Eph 1:13; 2Thes 1:10; 2:12; 1Tim 1:16; Heb 10:39; 1Pet 2:6; 1John 5:1, 5, 10, 13; 20:31).

God hasn't communicated the message for receiving salvation in piece-meal fashion throughout scripture to be added together to formulate all the requirements. Instead, He has repeated the simple requirement over and over. For instance, Paul did not omit critical conditions for salvation when preaching to the Philippian jailer (Acts 16). Nor does the Apostle John do so in his writings when he emphasizes that through belief in Jesus a person receives eternal life. The condition for salvation is sometimes worded differently throughout scripture to give a fuller understanding of what it means to believe—for example, receive, repent, trust, call (Receive Christ: Jn 1:12; Obey the gospel: Rom 10:16; 2Thes 1:8; 1Pet 4:17; Trust Christ: Eph 1:12; Rom 15:12; Psalm 32:10). These words are not synonymous but are also not exclusive of each other. It would not be necessary or helpful to say that to be saved a person must receive + repent + believe + trust + submit + turn + come to + drink of + eat of + humble one's self + call + obey the gospel. These words are different ways of describing the same heart attitude which is most often referred to as *believing*. As hearing is the necessary means to believing (one cannot believe without hearing so hearing therefore necessarily precedes saving faith), so confession and baptism are actions which follow saving faith.

Faith and belief are equated in scripture. To believe is to have faith (Matt 17:20; Mk 11:22; Jn 20:27; Acts 14:22; Rom 4:5, 11; 9:30-10:4; 2Cor 4:13; Heb 11:6). To not believe is to lack faith (Matt 17:20; Jn 20:27; Rom 9:30-10:4). Faith, by definition, is not works; rather faith makes saving grace operative. In scripture, grace and faith are together placed in contradistinction with works (Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Rom 4:1-6, 16; 9:32; 11:6). Faith is the only acceptable response to God's grace. Repentant faith is the acknowledgment that Jesus alone saves and that man *cannot* save himself (Luke 18:9-14; Rom 4:1-5; 9:30-10:4; Eph 2:8-9). Saving faith is *trusting* in Jesus for salvation (Jn 3:16; Acts 8:37; Rom 4:4-5; 10:9-10; Eph 1:12-13). God does not force faith upon sinners (Gen 4:6,7; Joshua 24:15; 1Kings 18:21; Eze 18:20-32; Matt 23:37; Luke 7:30; 12:48; Acts 7:51; 17:30; Rev 22:17). God urges sinners to believe and is angry with them and condemns them for their lack of faith (Mk 11:22; 16:16; Jn 3:16, 18,

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36; Jn 4:4-29; 16:9; Rom 1:18-2:8; 3:3-18; 9:30-33; 1Pet 4:17-18; 2Thes 1:4-9; 2:9-12; Heb 2:1-4; 3:7-13; 10:22-31). Faith is not the *ground* or *basis* of salvation; the grace of God exhibited in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ is. God ordained that the eternal benefits of Christ's gracious work be received by faith (2Thes 2:13). In accordance with this divine plan, God *gave* spiritual blessings to the believing elect in Christ *before the world began* (Eph 1:1-4; 2Tim 1:9). They *receive* these benefits and are saved *in time after* hearing and believing the gospel (Jn 5:24; Eph 1:13; 2:11-13; Col 1:21; Gal 3:26-28; Eph 1:13).

Through faith/believing, Christians are raised with Christ (Col 2:12), their hearts are purified (Acts 15:9), they have access into His grace (Rom 4:16; 5:2; Eph 2:8), they have His imputed righteousness (Rom 4:4,5,11,24; 10:10; Phil 3:9), they have life through His name (John 20:31), they have eternal life (John 3:15, 16. 36; 5:24; 6:47), Christ indwells their hearts (Eph 3:17), they have received the remission of sins (Acts 10:43), they received the Holy Spirit (John 7:39), they have been saved (Acts 16:31; Rom 10:9-10; Eph 2:8), they have been justified (Acts 13:39; Rom 3:28; 5:1; Gal 2:16), they have become His children (Jn 1:12; Gal 3:26), and have been sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption (Eph 1:13; 4:30). Believers also receive the assuring inner witness of the Holy Spirit (1Jn 5:10-13; Rom 8:9, 15-16; Gal 3:2; 26; 4:6; 1Cor 12:3,7; Jn 7:37; Acts 10:44-48 with Acts 11:1-14). When sinners believe in Jesus Christ, they receive all these spiritual blessings and more.<sup>1</sup>

4. Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord will of necessity follow saving faith (Luke 12:8-9; Rom 10:9-11; 1Cor 12:3)
5. Water baptism is not essential to salvation (Acts 10:43-48 with 11:17-9; 1Cor 1:17) but typifies salvation (Acts 22:16) and is commanded of all believers (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 8:37) and should soon follow after one's conversion (Acts 2:38; 8:36; 9:18; 10:47; 16:30-33; 19:5).

Salvation has always been appropriated by faith. The required response to receive salvation is the same for those under the New Covenant as it was for those before and during the Mosaic Law. Abraham (before the law) and David (during the law) are presented as examples of being justified by faith (Rom 4:1-7; 9:32; Heb 4:2). Salvation is of faith, that it might be by grace (Rom 4:16; 11:6; Gen. 6:8; Ex 33:13). Salvation has never been by works (Rom 4:1-6; 9:32; Gal 2:16; 3:21) or by ritual (Rom 2:28-29; Gal 6:15). Water baptism was not essential for salvation before or during Christ's earthly ministry either (Mark 2:5; Luke 7:48; 18:9-14, 42; 23:39-43); nor did Jesus, the Savior, ever baptized anyone with water (John 4:2). Water baptism was not essential for salvation

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after Christ's ascension. Many conversions are recorded in the book of Acts with no mention of water baptism (4:4; 5:14; 11:21; 13:12; 13:48; 14:1; 16:1; 17:1-4; 17:10-12; 17:34; 19:17, 18). Very plainly, Cornelius received the Holy Spirit by faith *before* water baptism (Acts 10:43-48; 15:17-9; Gal 3:14).

Water baptism is a separate response which follows faith (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:37) and is therefore not normally the occasion of initial saving faith. Faith is a response of the mind and heart that does not require physical effort, water, or a human baptizer. The fact that baptism is a separate response from believing is obvious by the time difference between initial faith and water baptism as recorded in Acts (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13; 8:38; 9:18; 10:48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5) and in most personal experiences. It is also evident by the fact that people exhibited faith before the New Covenant began, when baptism was not required. There is no case recorded in scripture in which people are standing in baptismal waters being baptized by someone the exact moment they hear and initially believe the gospel. Normally, a person who is an alienated unbelieving enemy of God has no desire to go into the baptismal waters. In proper baptism, those who go into the baptismal waters have a desire to obey the Lord because they are believers already, whose hearts have already been purified (Acts 15:9), and whose consciences have already been purged of dead works to serve the living God (Heb 4:19). Water baptism is thus described as the answer of a *good* conscience toward God (1Pet 3:21).

6. Those who believe in Jesus receive eternal life (John 3:15-18, 36; 5:24; 6:40, 47; 1John 5:11-20)
7. Those who do not believe in Jesus receive eternal condemnation (Mark 16:16; John 3:18-20, 36; 8:24; 15:22; 1Cor 16:22; 2Thes 1:4-9; 2:9-12; 1Pet 4:17-18; Heb 2:1-4; 3:7-13; 10:25-31; Rev 20:11-15)

Believing on Jesus Christ is to believe that he died for your sins and that He rose from the dead (1Cor 15:3-5). Believing on Jesus Christ is trusting in Him with all your heart (Eph 1:12; Rom 10:9,10; Acts 8:37; Luke 24:25; Rom 6:17; Rom 15:12; 2Cor 3:4; Psalm 32:10). It is to rely on Him alone to save you from your sins. True belief in Christ involves repentance--a change of mind about sin and Christ (Luke 13:3; 18:9-14; Acts 17:30). This type belief requires an humbling of one's self, approaching God as a child who utterly depends on his father's provision (Matt 18:3-4; 23:12).

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<sup>1</sup>**Blessings received by faith (by believing).** The overwhelming number of verses presented below highlight the important and pivotal role of faith in the operation of God's grace.

## Faith

1. God purifies our hearts by faith (Acts 15:9)
2. God has manifested his righteousness which is by faith (Rom 3:21-22, 4:13; 9:30; 10:6)
3. God has set forth Christ to be a propitiation through faith (Rom 3:25)
4. A man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law (Rom 3:28)
5. God justifies the circumcision and the uncircumcision by faith (Rom 3:30)
6. To him who works not, his faith is counted for righteousness (Rom 4:5, 11)
7. It is of faith that it might be by grace, the promise is sure to all the seed of Abraham (Rom 4:16)
8. Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1; Gal 2:16)
9. We have access by faith into God's grace (Rom 5:2)
10. We stand by faith (Rom 11:20)
11. By the hearing of faith, we received the Spirit (Gal 3:2)
12. Those of faith are the children of Abraham (Gal 3:7)
13. God justifies the heathen through faith (Gal 3:8)
14. They who are of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham (Gal 3:9)
15. The just shall live by faith (Gal 3:11)
16. We Gentiles received the promise of the Spirit through faith, the blessing of Abraham (Gal 3:14)
17. The promise by faith of Jesus Christ is given to us who believe (Gal 3:22)
18. After faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster (Gal 3:25)
19. We are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Gal 3:26)
20. By grace we are saved, through faith (Eph 2:8)
21. Christ dwells in our hearts by faith (Eph 3:17)
22. We have the righteousness which is of God by faith (Phil 3:9)
23. The holy scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus (2Tim 3:15)
24. We are risen with Christ through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised him (Col 2:12)
25. The end of our faith is the salvation of our souls (1Pet 1:9)

## Believe

26. By believing the word, we are saved (Luke 8:12)
27. John the Baptist bore witness of the light that all men might believe (John 1:7)
28. To them who believe on his name, God gave the power to become the sons of God (John 1:12)
29. They who believe on Jesus receive the Holy Spirit (John 7:39)
30. By believing that Jesus is the Christ, we will not die in our sins (John 8:24)
31. Jesus acknowledged His Father hearing Him, so those standing by may believe that God sent Him (John 11:42)
32. Jesus prayed that believers would be one, that the world may believe God sent Him (John 17:21)
33. The record of Jesus' death is true, that we might believe (John 19:35)
34. Scriptures were written that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:31)
35. Scriptures were written that believing we might have life through His name (John 20:31)
36. If we believe with all our hearts, we may be baptized (Acts 8:37)
37. By him, all who believe are justified from all things (Acts 13:39)
38. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved (Acts 16:31)
39. John the Baptist preached that they should believe on Jesus Christ (Acts 19:4)
40. The righteousness of God is unto and upon all them who believe (Rom 3:22)
41. Abraham is the father of all them who believe (Rom 4:11)
42. God imputes righteousness to us, if we believe on Him who raised up Jesus (Rom 4:24)
43. If we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and will be saved (Rom 10:9-10)

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44. The promise of faith of Jesus Christ is given to us who believe (Gal 3:22)
45. Christ will be admired by us who believe when He comes to be glorified in His saints (2Thes 1:10)
46. We believe on Him to life everlasting (1Tim 1:16)
47. We believe to the saving of the soul (Heb 10:39)
48. Scriptures were written to those who believe that we may know that we have eternal life (1John 5:13)
49. Whoever believes in the Son of God, we will not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:15)
50. Whoever believes in the Son of God, we will not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16)
51. He who believes on the Son of God, we are not condemned (John 3:18)
52. He who believes on the Son has everlasting life (John 3:36; 6:47)
53. He who hears and believes on Him who sent Jesus, has everlasting life, and will not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life (John 5:24)
54. He that believes on Jesus, we will never thirst (John 6:35)
55. Everyone who believes on Jesus, he will raise up at the last day (John 6:40)
56. He who believes on Jesus, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water (John 7:38)
57. He who believes in Jesus, though he were dead, yet shall he live (John 11:25)
58. Whoever lives and believes in Jesus, will never die (John 11:26)
59. Whoever believes on Jesus, should not abide in darkness (John 12:46)
60. He who believes on Jesus, greater works than Jesus' he will do (John 14:12)
61. Whoever believes in Jesus, will receive remission of sins (Acts 10:43)
62. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes (Rom 1:16)
63. God is just and the justifier of him who believes in Jesus (Rom 3:26)
64. To him who believes on Him, his faith is counted for righteousness (Rom 4:5)
65. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (Rom 10:4)
66. With the heart, we believe unto righteousness (Rom 10:10)
67. He who believes on Jesus will not be confounded (1Pet 2:6)
68. Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God (1John 5:1)
69. He who overcomes the world is he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God (1John 5:5)
70. He who believes on the Son of God, has the witness in himself (1John 5:10)
71. Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness (Rom 4:3; Gal 3:6)
72. Scriptures were written that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:31)
73. Scriptures were written that believing we might have life through His name (John 20:31)
74. Many of the Samaritans of the city believed on Him for the saying of the woman (John 4:39)
75. Many more believed because of His own word (John 4:41)
76. And many of the people believed on Him (John 7:31)
77. As He spoke these words, many believed on Him (John 8:30)
78. And many believed on Him there (John 10:42)
79. Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him (John 11:45)
80. By reason of Lazarus, many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus (John 12:11)
81. Among the chief rulers, many believed on Him (John 12:42)
82. In Joppa many believed in the Lord (Acts 9:42)
83. God gave the gift of the Spirit to those who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 11:17)
84. A great multitude of the Jews and Greeks believed (Acts 14:1)
85. Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house (Acts 18:8)
86. Apollos helped them much who had believed through grace (Acts 18:27)
87. After we believed, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Eph 1:13)
88. God has from the beginning chosen us to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth (2Thes 2:13)

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