



What Must I Do to Have God Declare Me “Not Guilty”?

The above question may sound a little odd, based on what we have already learned in our previous studies. In reality, man cannot do anything to save himself. But with God’s help, man can listen to God and learn of God’s love for him. How we listen and obey indicates how thankful we are for what Jesus Christ did for us.

How should I respond to God’s gift of salvation through Jesus Christ?

- a. Try to get my life cleaned up first
- b. Accept Jesus Christ, but also trust in my own good works to get me to Heaven.
- c. Accept salvation through Jesus Christ by faith alone.

What is faith?

Faith is being willing to trust or rest in something. For example, if someone told you that they had put money in your bank account, you could express faith by writing a check although you had never seen the money. Faith is when a child jumps from the ground into someone's arms. You express faith every time you sit down, taking a risk that the chair will hold all of your weight.

God asks of us the same kind of response, though He wants us to trust in Him who we cannot see. He provided Jesus as the only way of salvation. Faith believes God and is content not to try to earn God's favor by any other means. Let's turn to a new passage – **Ephesians 2:8-9**.

***⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.***

Where does this verse teach us that faith comes from?

We must believe and trust Christ to take away our sins. The Bible says that nothing else will make it possible for man to please God. For example, look at the verses we just read. They not only tell us how we can be saved, but they tell how man **cannot** be saved.

What does verse 9 say will not save a man?

(See also Titus 3:5; Romans 3:28)

**What reason does the verse give for why _____
(same answer as above) cannot save us?**

Who then can be saved?

Let's look at **Romans 10:8-13**. The message the disciples preached is listed here:

- ⁸ *But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" –that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,*
- ⁹ *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- ¹⁰ *For with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*
- ¹¹ *For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."*
- ¹² *For there is not distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;*
- ¹³ *For "whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

What does v. 9 teach us is necessary for salvation?

Notice how often the word *for* appears in vv. 10-13. These are five reasons why what v. 9 says is so. **Let's try to figure these out.**

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

1. v. 10 _____

2. v. 11 _____

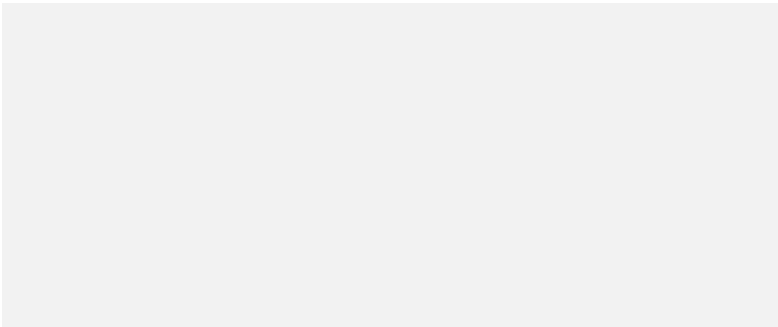
3. v. 12 _____

4. v. 12 _____

5. v. 13 _____

Memory Verse

For whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.
Romans 10:13



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