

# THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

## **SAVE YOUR SOULS**

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES  
PART FIFTEEN OF SIXTY FOUR*

On Pentecost Peter exhorted his fellow Jews, "Save yourselves from this untoward generation" (Acts 2:40). Realizing the need for salvation, honest souls want to know the way. James tells us, "Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). Our soul's salvation is tied to our acceptance of the gospel - the word of God. Many hearing Peter having gladly "received his word were baptized" (Acts 2:41). Regardless of your sincerity or your morality, you cannot "save your soul" unless you receive the word of God.

Many questions may arise in our minds that God does not choose to answer (Deut. 29:29), but the question, "What must I do to be saved?" is clearly answered and no one need be left in doubt. Christ tells us, and gives us example upon example in the book of Acts. To save our souls we must believe in Jesus as Lord (John 8:24); repent of our sins (Acts 17:30); confess our faith in Jesus (Romans 10:10); and be baptized for remission of our sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21).

If God's word is so clear on His plan for our forgiveness, why are so many people going to be lost? Jesus said plainly, "Few are they that find it" (Matthew 7:14), "The many" will be lost because they will not receive the word. Actually, they are lost because they are sinners (Romans 3:23; 6:23), but as receiving the word is the way to "save your souls" the person who refuses to receive the word can never be forgiven.

When someone argues that he is morally good, that does not change God's word that "he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). When a person says, "I don't see any harm in such things even though the Bible condemns them", he is rejecting God's command to repent. A person saying, "One religion is as good as another", is not confessing Christ as Lord. If someone refuses to submit to baptism because he can't "see any sense in it", he is simply refusing the word of Jesus by which he will be judged (John 12:42).

You cannot be saved in your own way (John 14:6). You must "receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

(B. G. Echols)

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