

No Short-Cuts To Salvation – Part 1

By Rico Brown

Television racketeers, and other notorious evangelists, relying on sensationalism and the fears of listeners, have sought to make God's salvation easier and more popular by a "cut rate" religion and by catering to various and sundry schemes and plans. Many confusing doctrines have kept many honest and sincere seekers of the truth from accepting "the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3). Thus it becomes more difficult to call people back to the primitive ground of inspired teaching, as it was first delivered on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

The teaching of Christ does not have to be confusing to anyone. If we will just go back to the Scriptures and find what people did some 2000 years ago, we should be able to see just what they did; and also find just what we should do to receive the salvation "which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10). First, they were not saved by just one thing, but a number of different factors were involved in their salvation. So let's look at the different things that were involved in their being saved by Jesus Christ.

When those people asked, "What shall we do?" both they and Peter knew that salvation is from God. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of them that believe" (1 Timothy 4:10). Those on that day of Pentecost (Acts 2) could not have been saved without God, and they knew that. The prophet of old declared, "Behold, God is my salvation: I will trust, and will not be afraid" (Isaiah 12:2). None can leave out God and still be saved, for: "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

There can be no question that all those who were saved on the day of Pentecost were saved by Jesus Christ. This was the reason He left heaven and came to earth, "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). As we further read of Jesus, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:8-9). This mission of His was so clear that Paul wrote, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15). But the fact that Jesus saved sinners does not minimize God's part. Rather, both of them were involved in saving sinners.

God clearly reveals His grace in those who were saved at Pentecost. It was through His grace that the terms of salvation were preached by Peter and the other apostles. As Paul wrote, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12). The grace of God brings salvation by teaching His terms of pardon. It is by the grace of God that man is saved. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). All of those saved on the day of Pentecost were saved by grace, through faith.