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Churches Of God Outreach Ministries
People working together to proclaim the Gospel

"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

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Mini Study

How to 'Get Saved'

"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23)

"Let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, in this name this one stands before you whole...and there is salvation in no other One, for neither is there any other name under Heaven having been given among men by which we must be saved" (KITV Acts 4:10,12)

Above all religions, Christianity offers 'salvation.' (Not that other faiths don't have some concept of a life after death.) It means that those who embrace the Christian faith will, on death, have entrance to Heaven or 'the Kingdom of God.' They will, it is claimed, from that time forward have eternal life. They will never die again. *It is life's purpose.* The earliest proponents of Christianity, the apostles of Jesus, even claimed it as the only way to survive death. How, then, do you 'get saved?'

- that they have a need for salvation is far from the minds of most Westerners. God, indeed, *'...is not in all their thoughts.'* With the demise of 'Sunday School' and the loss of sound religious education, 'God' and 'Jesus' are words heard usually only in the context of surprise: *'Oh my God'*, or used in profanity. In the UK religious education focuses on Islam, Hinduism, etc - with barely a mention of the bed-rock of Western culture, Judaeo-Christianity
- increasingly, our culture is secular. 'Sin' is a joke, and anything goes. From the media, pours a flood of prurience and a culture that promotes 'black' as 'white.' It's little wonder our youth is corrupted with no sense of wrong-doing For the most part, even those who attend church are given the soft sell, preached a weak social religion without a deep consciousness of personal sin
- so why do we need salvation? Contrary to modern theorizing, mankind was *created*, and created with purpose. The Creator was the ever-living God. He is of infinite power, wielding the power that brought into being billions of stars and placed them in an orderly universe
- man was made from the elements of the earth under his feet. But he was made to *'inherit the throne of glory'* (I Samuel 2:8), created to become a part of the divine Family, and was equipped with every resource needed to attain that state
- exercising his free-will, man rejected the divine plan and became subject to death. Every human born since has inherited that condition. We all sin and we all die. By a resurrection to physical life, we will then be assessed by the Supreme Judge. Unless we are 'acquitted' we will die *'the second death'* (Revelation 2:11) - from which there is no resurrection; consumed as refuse in a 'lake of fire'

How to 'Get Saved'

- because of God's intense interest in and love for His creation, however, He has made it possible for us to be reconciled to Him, to be restored. But the gap between Him and us is bridged only through the execution of someone in our stead - someone who has lived like us, someone who never sinned - and someone whose life is more than the sum of every human ever born. Someone who is himself God
- that person is Jesus of Nazareth. He gave up his place at the right hand of the Father, lived like us, battled every sin - yet never sinned, and his blood was shed (he was sacrificed) in our place. Jesus paid our penalty for, '*the wages of sin is death.*' (Romans 6:23) Only by his unique sacrifice may we be saved.
- the apostle Peter's hearers had asked '*...what must we do?*' They were overwhelmed by their need for deliverance from '*...their lawless deeds*' and the realization that the death of Jesus was for their forgiveness. In Bible terms they '*repented.*' That is, they were '*...grieved to the point of personal change*' (II Corinthians 7:9)
- to gain salvation every one of us must have this about turn in our lives. But - turn from *what* to *what*?
- our first parents were given the blueprint for a perfect life. It is the 'law of life,' the main thrust of which is summed up in the 'Ten Commandments.' That is the measure from which all of mankind falls short - and the standard to which we must turn
- 'repentance' is an unending commitment to live by God's standards, to cast aside our 'lawlessness,' to be cleansed from our past sin through the shed blood of the Saviour, Jesus. There's no other way.
- after such commitment the next step is to be *immersed in water*, symbolic of our 'death' to our past, and to *receive the divine gift of the holy Spirit* through the laying-on of hands imparting unending life - *salvation*

(All Scripture references are ASV unless otherwise noted.)

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