

THE Plan of Salvation

When the audience that had congregated around Peter and the other eleven apostles to hear the first Gospel sermon, Peter was quite blunt: “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this same Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). Their implied faith in the message preached by Peter led them to a state of near panic: “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37). And Peter said, “It is obvious that you believe so you are already saved by faith alone, but if you want to, you can be baptized as an outward sign of your already-received salvation” (...can’t find that scripture).

No, Peter was very specific: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

The mental gymnastics and semantic gyrations necessary to support the first statement boggles the mind, especially considering the simplicity of the second. How can anyone who is honest with the text not see the Divine chronology? The Jews at Pentecost *heard the word preached* (Romans 10:14-17), *believed on the Lord Jesus* (John 8:24), were told to *repent* (Luke 13:3, 5) and were *baptized* for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38, 47).

This “formula” for salvation is repeated for the remainder of Acts in examples and throughout the epistles in doctrine. It’s consistency and constancy are self-evident without the slightest variation. When someone was seeking salvation, this is the message they were taught, with the only variation being in the condition of the audience. If one had heard, there was no need to tell them to hear. If one believed, moving forward to repentance was the ticket. And, if one had the change of heart necessary to proceed unto salvation, baptism was the entry way into Christ, salvation and the church, which is Christ’s body of the saved.

Today, there are as many “plans of salvation” as there are denominations (and many of these religious organizations don’t even agree among themselves!). How much more simple it would be if one just went to the Bible and followed the pattern found in THE Plan of Salvation!