

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 22:1-16**.
- B. The reading was taken from Paul's account of his own conversion as given in Ac. 9.
- C. With 22:16 as our main text, I want to talk about some important first principles.
'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'
- D. I see four main thrusts in this verse. There is:
 - 1. Something to be done.
 - 2. Something to do.
 - 3. Someone to trust.
 - 4. Something to think about.

I. ARISE (SOMETHING TO BE DONE).

- A. Before we can enjoy salvation we must do something. God is not going to hand out eternal salvation like political candidates hand out flyers.
- B. Saul of Tarsus now realizes that JC is the Son of God and that God is displeased with how Saul has persecuted the church. Convinced of his error, and of the divinity of Jesus, Saul must act on that belief.
- C. Salvation is achieved by grace, and accessed by faith. Both the rich young ruler and the Philippian jailer realized they needed to do something to be saved:
 - 1. The rich young ruler asked the very question (Mk. 10:17)!
And as He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and began asking Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
 - 2. The Philippian jailer greatly desired to be saved (Ac. 16:30).
and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
These questions are the same: "what must I do?"
- D. I believe this to be the greatest question in the world. More people should be asking it.
- E. So in the context of 22:16 we see that before Saul was baptized he needed to arise, that is, do something to make way for being baptized. This can be summarized as follows:
 - 1. Having the proper faith in God and JC.
 - 2. Repenting of all past sins with the view of doing right in the future.
 - 3. Confessing w/the mouth that JC is the Son of God.
- F. Finally, as OT example of Naaman teaches that even though he had faith in Elijah to cleanse him, he was not cleansed of his leprosy until he did something.

II. BE BAPTIZED (SOMETHING TO DO).

- A. Baptism into water for the remission of sins is absolutely essential to salvation. There is no salvation without it.
- B. Jesus said that all who would enter the kingdom would be born of water and Spirit (Jn. 3:5).
Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."
- C. Baptism (immersion into water of a penitent believer) is essential because:
 - 1. JC commanded it (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15).
(Mt 28:18-20) And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
(Mk 16:15-16) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."
 - 2. The apostles commanded it (Ac. 2:38; 3:19; 10:46-48).
(Ac 2:38) Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

(Ac 3:19) “Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;”

(Ac 10:46-48) For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 47 “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?” 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

- D. Peter tells us that the act of baptism “now saves us” by the resurrection of JC (1Pet. 3:21).

And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

- E. Baptism is not valid w/o the preceding faith, repentance, and confession. But baptism is the act that puts one into X (Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12).

(Gal 3:26-27) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

(Rom 6:3-4) Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

(Col 2:12) having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

III. CALLING ON HIS NAME (SOMEONE TO TRUST).

- A. This is not necessarily confession as we know it. Calling on the name of Jesus is to call upon His authority. It goes back to Mt. 28:18 where Jesus said He has all authority.

- B. The authority to baptize someone into Christ for the remission of sins comes from X Himself.

- C. The power of baptism is not:

1. In the water (nothing spiritual, holy, or “magical” about the water).
2. In the act of obedience (else salvation would be by works and not by grace).
3. In the one doing the baptizing (conditions are on the baptizee not the baptizer).

- D. The power of baptism to forgive sins comes from X (Rom. 6:3-7).

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

IV. “AND WHY DO YOU DELAY?” (SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT).

- A. What could possibly be more important than obeying JC?

- B. What could be more valuable than doing what Jesus said?

- C. When Saul of Tarsus was convicted of his sin, he immediately acted upon that belief.

- D. When the Philippian jailer was convicted of his sin, he acted immediately on his belief.

- E. If you are convicted of your sin why do you delay?

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Acts 22:16 teaches four things about our salvation:

1. Something needs to be done.
2. There is something for everyone to do.
3. Someone can be trusted for the forgiveness of sins.
4. We have something to think about.

- B. At the conclusion of each sermon we offer the invitation for those who are outside of X. If you know what to do to be saved--why do you tarry?

- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.