

THE PLAN OF SALVATION STATED, EXEMPLIFIED, & IMPLIED

INTRODUCTION

A. Acts 16:30

The most important question anyone can ever ask is, “*What must I do to be saved?*” and we intend to see that question answered.

B. John 14:15; Philippians 3:17; 1st Corinthians 15:27

A series of lessons on how to understand and apply Scripture culminated last week with the fact that God’s will for man is communicated through direct statements, approved examples, and necessary implications. We can apply the same hermeneutic to the question of salvation.

I. LEARNING

A. Stated

1. Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus says we must hear Him and do as He said to be wise.

2. Romans 10:14, 17

Hearing what is preached is the prerequisite of believing, which is the prerequisite of calling on the Lord’s name.

B. Exemplified

1. Acts 4:1-4

Hearing apostles teach and preach the resurrection of Jesus resulted in many people believing.

2. Acts 18:8

Some Corinthians were baptized when they believed because they had heard.

C. Implied

1. 1st Corinthians 1:18-21

That there is a “message” resulting in salvation necessarily implies the message must be received.

2. **1st Peter 1:22**

Truth must be obeyed to purify the soul, implying teaching and learning that truth.

II. FAITH

A. Stated

1. **1st Peter 1:3-9**

Faith, which is believing in that which cannot be seen, results in salvation.

2. **Acts 10:43**

Remission of sins depends on belief in Jesus.

B. Exemplified

1. **Acts 15:7-9**

Peter reminded brethren that gentiles had their hearts purified by faith.

2. **Ephesians 2:8**

The Ephesians were saved by grace through faith.

C. Implied

1. **James 2:24**

If a man is not justified by faith only, then he is justified by faith and works.

III. CONFESSION

A. Stated

1. **Matthew 10:32-33**

Jesus preached that one will either confess Him or deny Him, and that Jesus will do the same in the hereafter.

2. **Romans 10:8-13**

Paul wrote that confessing the resurrection of Christ, that is calling on His name, results in salvation.

B. Exemplified

1. **Acts 8:37 (NKJV, KJV, ASV, NASB)**

Most translations support the narrative that the royal treasurer of Ethiopia confessed Jesus before his baptism.

2. **1st Timothy 6:12**

According to Paul, Timothy had confessed the good confession.

C. Implied

1. **Acts 22:6-10_a**

That Saul/Paul referred to Jesus as “*Lord*” implies a confession of faith.

IV. REPENTANCE

A. Stated

1. **Luke 13:5**

Jesus preached that repentance is the alternative to death.

2. **Acts 17:30**

Paul preached that ignorance is no excuse and repentance is a universal imperative.

B. Exemplified

1. **Acts 16:31-33**

When the jailer washed the wounds of his inmates, he was repenting.

2. **Acts 19:18-19**

When the Ephesians burnt their spell books, they were repenting.

C. Implied

1. **1st Peter 4:3**

A change in lifestyle implies repentance.

2. **Colossians 3:8-10**

Putting off the old and putting on the new implies repentance.

V. BAPTISM

A. Stated

1. **1st Peter 3:21**

The apostle Peter asserted plainly that baptism saves!

2. **Galatians 3:27**

The apostle Paul explained that baptism is how a person puts on Christ.

B. Exemplified

1. **Acts 2:40-41**

A glad reception to gospel preaching resulted in baptisms.

2. **Acts 8:12**

People got baptized when they heard Christ and His kingdom preached.

C. Implied

1. **1st Corinthians 1:12-13**

a. This passage teaches that for a person to be “*of Paul*,” two things would have had to have been true:

i. Paul must have been crucified for that person.

ii. That person would have to be baptized in the name of Paul.

b. Likewise then, this passage also implies that for a person to be “*of Christ*,” two things would have had to have been true:

i. Christ must have been crucified for that person.

ii. That person would have to be baptized in the name of Christ.

c. The unavoidable conclusion then, is that one must be baptized in the name of Christ to be “*of Christ*” – a Christian.

2. **Acts 8:38_b-39_a**

Going down into water and coming up out of water implies two things about baptism:

- a. Water is necessary.
- b. Submersion is necessary.

VI. STEADFASTNESS

A. Stated

1. **1st Corinthians 15:58**

Brethren are commanded to be stalwart workers for the Lord.

2. **Revelation 2:10**

Faithfulness is required for the remainder of our lives.

B. Exemplified

1. **Acts 2:41-42**

After baptism, the first disciples *“continued steadfastly.”*

2. **Acts 9:18_b-20**

When Saul was baptized, he associated with fellow Christians and he shared the gospel with others.

C. Implied

1. **1st Corinthians 15:1-2**

Salvation depends on ongoing faithfulness, implied by such words as *“if”* and *“unless.”*

2. **Colossians 1:21-23**

Continuance is a necessity or else we risk our reconciliation with God.