

Salvation in Romans

By Mark Mayberry

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INTRODUCTION

Despite its complexity and depth, the book of Romans addresses basic themes: man's need and God's provision. Accordingly, let us focus upon the question, "What must I do to be saved?"

The New Testament provides a clear answer, which we will broadly consider, while giving special emphasis to relevant passages from Paul's epistle to the Romans.

"What must I do to be saved?" First of all, what is salvation? Why is it important? Why should I be concerned with this question?

Occurrences and Meaning

The Greek word *sōtēria*, which communicates the idea of "deliverance" or "salvation," occurs 5x in this epistle (Rom. 1:16; 10:1, 10; 11:11; 13:11).

*Romans 1:16 (NASB95) — 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for ***salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

*Romans 10:1 (NASB95) — 1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their ***salvation**.*

*Romans 10:10 (NASB95) — 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in ***salvation**.*

*Romans 11:11 (NASB95) — 11 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression ***salvation** has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.*

*Romans 13:11 (NASB95) — 11 Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now ***salvation** is nearer to us than when we believed.*

In like manner, the Greek word *sōzō*, meaning "to save," occurs 8 times (Rom. 5:9, 10; 8:24; 9:27; 10:9, 13; 11:14, 26).

*Romans 5:9 (NASB95) — 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall ***be *saved** from the wrath of God through Him.*

*Romans 5:10 (NASB95) — 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall ***be *saved** by His life.*

*Romans 8:24 (NASB95) — 24 For in hope we have ***been *saved**, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?*

*Romans 9:27 (NASB95) — 27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “Though the number of the sons of Israel be like the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will ***be *saved**;*

*Romans 10:9 (NASB95) — 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will ***be *saved**;*

*Romans 10:13 (NASB95) — 13 for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will ***be *saved**.”*

*Romans 11:14 (NASB95) — 14 if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and ***save** some of them.*

*Romans 11:26 (NASB95) — 26 and so all Israel will ***be *saved**; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”*

Summary and Application

Man’s hope of salvation is found through the person of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:16; 5:9, 10).

*Romans 1:16 (NASB95) — 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for ***salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

*Romans 5:9 (NASB95) — 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall ***be *saved** from the wrath of God through Him.*

*Romans 5:10 (NASB95) — 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall ***be *saved** by His life.*

Salvation is a blessing to be shared (Rom. 10:1; 11:11, 14).

*Romans 10:1 (NASB95) — 1 Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their ***salvation**.*

*Romans 11:11 (NASB95) — 11 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression ***salvation** has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.*

*Romans 11:14 (NASB95) — 14 if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and ***save** some of them.*

It is a point-in-time experience, involving specific acts of obedience, and also an ongoing process, bringing present blessings and future hope (Rom. 10:9, 10, 13; 8:24; 13:11).

*Romans 10:9 (NASB95) — 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will ***be *saved**;*

*Romans 10:10 (NASB95) — 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in ***salvation**.*

*Romans 10:13 (NASB95) — 13 for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will ***be *saved**.”*

*Romans 8:24 (NASB95) — 24 For in hope we have ***been *saved**, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?*

*Romans 13:11 (NASB95) — 11 Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now ***salvation** is nearer to us than when we believed.*

While salvation is extended to all, not everyone takes advantage of the opportunity; we must comply with God’s pattern if we are to share in His promises (Rom. 9:27; 11:26).

*Romans 9:27 (NASB95) — 27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “Though the number of the sons of Israel be like the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will ***be *saved**;*

*Romans 11:26 (NASB95) — 26 and so all Israel will ***be *saved**; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”*

What must I do to be saved? From a New Testament standpoint, five essential steps are involved: We must hear, believe, repent, confess and be baptized. Finally, we are raised to walk in newness of life. Let us look first at the Book of Romans, and then give broader consideration to the Gospels, the book of Acts, and the Epistles.

HEARING AND BELIEVING

Hearing

Occurrences and Meaning

The Greek verb *akouō*, which means “to hear” or “to listen,” occurs 5x in this epistle (Rom. 10:14, 18; 11:8; 15:21).

*Romans 10:14 (NASB95) — 14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not ***heard**? And how will they ***hear** without a preacher?*

*Romans 10:18 (NASB95) — 18 But I say, surely they have never ***heard**, have they? Indeed they have; “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.”*

*Romans 11:8 (NASB95) — 8 just as it is written, “God gave them a spirit of stupor, Eyes to see not and ears to ***hear** not, Down to this very day.”*

*Romans 15:21 (NASB95) — 21 but as it is written, “They who had no news of Him shall see, And they who have not ***heard** shall understand.”*

In like manner, the related Greek word *akoē*, which refers to “hearing” or “the sense of hearing,” occurs 2x in this epistle (Rom. 10:16, 17).

*Romans 10:16 (NASB95) — 16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our ***report**?”*

*Romans 10:17 (NASB95) — 17 So faith comes from ***hearing**, and ***hearing** by the word of Christ.*

Summary and Application

God chose to save lost mankind through the agency of preaching (Rom. 10:14, 17, 18).

*Romans 10:14 (NASB95) — 14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not ***heard**? And how will they ***hear** without a preacher?*

*Romans 10:17 (NASB95) — 17 So faith comes from ***hearing**, and ***hearing** by the word of Christ.*

*Romans 10:18 (NASB95) — 18 But I say, surely they have never ***heard**, have they? Indeed they have; “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.”*

The message of salvation is universal, for Jew and Gentile alike (Rom. 15:21).

*Romans 15:21 (NASB95) — 21 but as it is written, “They who had no news of Him shall see, And they who have not ***heard** shall understand.”*

However, not all heed heaven’s call (Rom. 10:16; 11:8).

*Romans 10:16 (NASB95) — 16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our ***report?**”*

*Romans 11:8 (NASB95) — 8 just as it is written, “God gave them a spirit of stupor, Eyes to see not and ears to ***hear** not, Down to this very day.”*

The Word of God

The Word of God was communicated through Sacred Scripture, i.e., the writings of Moses and the Old Testament prophets (Rom. 1:2; 4:3; 9:6, 9, 17, 28; 10:11; 11:2; 15:4; 16:26).

Romans 1:2 (NASB95) — 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

Romans 4:3 (NASB95) — 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Romans 9:6 (NASB95) — 6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;

Romans 9:9 (NASB95) — 9 For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Romans 9:17 (NASB95) — 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.”

Romans 9:28 (NASB95) — 28 for the Lord will execute His word on the earth, thoroughly and quickly.”

Romans 10:11 (NASB95) — 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.”

Romans 11:2 (NASB95) — 2 God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

Romans 15:4 (NASB95) — 4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 16:26 (NASB95) — 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;

In the gospel age, the Word of God is communicated through the teachings of Christ and the inspired apostles and prophets of the New Testament (Rom. 10:8, 17, 18).

Romans 10:8 (NASB95) — 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

Romans 10:17 (NASB95) — 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Romans 10:18 (NASB95) — 18 But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.”

Believing

Occurrences and Meaning

The Greek word *pistis*, translated “faith” or “faithfulness,” occurs 40x in 35 verses in this epistle (Rom. 1:5, 8, 12, 17; 3:3, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31; 4:5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20; 5:1, 2; 9:30, 32; 10:6, 8, 17; 11:20; 12:3, 6; 14:1, 22, 23; 16:26).

*Romans 1:5 (NASB95) — 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of ***faith** among all the Gentiles for His name’s sake,*

*Romans 1:8 (NASB95) — 8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your ***faith** is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.*

*Romans 1:12 (NASB95) — 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other’s ***faith**, both yours and mine.*

*Romans 1:17 (NASB95) — 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from ***faith** to ***faith**; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by ***faith**.”*

*Romans 3:3 (NASB95) — 3 What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the ***faithfulness** of God, will it?*

*Romans 3:22 (NASB95) — 22 even the righteousness of God through ***faith** in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;*

*Romans 3:25 (NASB95) — 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through ***faith**. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;*

*Romans 3:26 (NASB95) — 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has ***faith** in Jesus.*

*Romans 3:27 (NASB95) — 27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of ***faith**.*

*Romans 3:28 (NASB95) — 28 For we maintain that a man is justified by ***faith** apart from works of the Law.*

*Romans 3:30 (NASB95) — 30 since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by ***faith** and the uncircumcised through ***faith** is one.*

*Romans 3:31 (NASB95) — 31 Do we then nullify the Law through ***faith**? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.*

*Romans 4:5 (NASB95) — 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his ***faith** is credited as righteousness,*

*Romans 4:9 (NASB95) — 9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “***Faith** was credited to Abraham as righteousness.”*

*Romans 4:11 (NASB95) — 11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the ***faith** which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,*

*Romans 4:12 (NASB95) — 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the ***faith** of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.*

*Romans 4:13 (NASB95) — 13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of ***faith**.*

*Romans 4:14 (NASB95) — 14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, ***faith** is made void and the promise is nullified;*

*Romans 4:16 (NASB95) — 16 For this reason it is by ***faith**, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the ***faith** of Abraham, who is the father of us all,*

*Romans 4:19 (NASB95) — 19 Without becoming weak in ***faith** he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb;*

*Romans 4:20 (NASB95) — 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in ***faith**, giving glory to God,*

*Romans 5:1 (NASB95) — 1 Therefore, having been justified by ***faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*Romans 5:2 (NASB95) — 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by ***faith** into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

*Romans 9:30 (NASB95) — 30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by ***faith**;*

*Romans 9:32 (NASB95) — 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by ***faith**, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,*

*Romans 10:6 (NASB95) — 6 But the righteousness based on ***faith** speaks as follows: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down),*

*Romans 10:8 (NASB95) — 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of ***faith** which we are preaching,*

*Romans 10:17 (NASB95) — 17 So ***faith** comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

*Romans 11:20 (NASB95) — 20 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your ***faith**. Do not be conceited, but fear;*

*Romans 12:3 (NASB95) — 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of ***faith**.*

*Romans 12:6 (NASB95) — 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his ***faith**;*

*Romans 14:1 (NASB95) — 1 Now accept the one who is weak in ***faith**, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.*

*Romans 14:22 (NASB95) — 22 The ***faith** which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.*

*Romans 14:23 (NASB95) — 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from ***faith**; and whatever is not from ***faith** is sin.*

*Romans 16:26 (NASB95) — 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of ***faith**;*

Summary and Application

Saving faith is rooted in divine revelation, and our proper response to the same (Rom. 1:17; 10:6, 8, 17).

*Romans 1:17 (NASB95) — 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from ***faith** to ***faith**; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by ***faith**.”*

*Romans 10:6 (NASB95) — 6 But the righteousness based on ***faith** speaks as follows: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down),*

*Romans 10:8 (NASB95) — 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of ***faith** which we are preaching,*

*Romans 10:17 (NASB95) — 17 So ***faith** comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

Salvation does not come through the Law, or meritorious works, but through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:27, 28; 4:5).

*Romans 3:27 (NASB95) — 27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of ***faith**.*

*Romans 3:28 (NASB95) — 28 For we maintain that a man is justified by ***faith** apart from works of the Law.*

*Romans 4:5 (NASB95) — 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his ***faith** is credited as righteousness,*

Saving faith results in obedience (Rom. 1:5; 16:26).

*Romans 1:5 (NASB95) — 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of ***faith** among all the Gentiles for His name’s sake,*

*Romans 16:26 (NASB95) — 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of ***faith**;*

REPENTING AND CONFESSING

Repenting

Occurrences and Meaning

The Greek word *metanoia*, meaning “change of mind,” “a turning about,” or “repentance,” occurs once in this epistle (Rom. 2:4).

*Romans 2:4 (NASB95) — 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to ***repentance**?*

The Greek word *ametanoētos*, meaning “impenitent” or “unrepentant,” also occurs once (Rom. 2:5).

*Romans 2:5 (NASB95) — 5 But because of your stubbornness and ***unrepentant** heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,*

Summary and Application

Genuine repentance is required by the gospel.

Consider the preaching of John the Baptist (Matt. 3:8, 11; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3, 8; Acts 13:24; 19:4).

Matthew 3:8 (NASB95) — 8 “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;

Matthew 3:11 (NASB95) — 11 “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Mark 1:4 (NASB95) — 4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:3 (NASB95) — 3 And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins;

Luke 3:8 (NASB95) — 8 “Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father,’ for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

Acts 13:24 (NASB95) — 24 after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

Acts 19:4 (NASB95) — 4 Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

Consider the preaching of the Lord Jesus (Luke 5:32; 24:47; cf. 13:1-5).

Luke 5:32 (NASB95) — 32 “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 24:47 (NASB95) — 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Luke 13:1-5 (NASB95) — 1 Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? 3 “I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 “Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? 5 “I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Consider the preaching of the inspired apostles (Acts 5:31; 20:21; cf. 2:38).

Acts 5:31 (NASB95) — 31 “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 20:21 (NASB95) — 21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:38 (NASB95) — 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.

Consider the preaching of faithful evangelists (2 Tim. 2:25).

2 Timothy 2:25 (NASB95) — 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

True repentance is preceded by godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:9, 10).

2 Corinthians 7:9 (NASB95) — 9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NASB95) — 10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

True repentance results in dramatic life changes (Luke 15:7; Acts 11:18; 26:20; Heb. 6:1).

Luke 15:7 (NASB95) — 7 “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Acts 11:18 (NASB95) — 18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

Acts 26:20 (NASB95) — 20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

Hebrews 6:1 (NASB95) — 1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Genuine repentance may be hindered by sinful attitudes and actions (Heb. 6:6; 12:17).

Hebrews 6:6 (NASB95) — 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

Hebrews 12:17 (NASB95) — 17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

God lovingly provides us with an opportunity for repentance, but will judge us based upon our response (Rom. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

Romans 2:4 (NASB95) — 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

2 Peter 3:9 (NASB95) — 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

*Romans 2:4-11 (NASB95) — 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to *repentance? 5 But because of your stubbornness and *unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who will render to each person according to his deeds: 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.*

2 Peter 3:9-13 (NASB95) — 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for

and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Confessing

Occurrences and Meaning

The Greek word *homologeō*, meaning “to speak the same” or “to agree,” occurs 2x in this epistle (Rom. 10:9, 10).

*Romans 10:9 (NASB95) — 9 that if you ***confess** with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;*

*Romans 10:10 (NASB95) — 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he ***confesses**, resulting in salvation.*

Summary and Application

We must confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God (1 John 4:15).

*1 John 4:15 (NASB95) — 15 Whoever ***confesses** that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*

We must also confess other truths, namely,

That we are strangers (Heb. 11:13),

*Hebrews 11:13 (NASB95) — 13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having ***confessed** that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.*

That we are sinners (1 John 1:9),

*1 John 1:9 (NASB95) — 9 If we ***confess** our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

That Jesus Christ came in the flesh (1 John 4:2, 3; 2 John 7),

*1 John 4:2 (NASB95) — 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that ***confesses** that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;*

*1 John 4:3 (NASB95) — 3 and every spirit that does not ***confess** Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.*

2 John 7 (NASB95) — 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not ***acknowledge** Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

And that we accept Biblical truth on a variety of other subjects (Acts 23:8).

Acts 23:8 (NASB95) — 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees ***acknowledge** them all.

Our confession must be an open and public affirmation of faith (Matt. 10:32; Luke 12:8; 1 Tim. 6:12).

Matthew 10:32 (NASB95) — 32 “Therefore everyone who ***confesses** Me before men, I will also ***confess** him before My Father who is in heaven.

Luke 12:8 (NASB95) — 8 “And I say to you, everyone who ***confesses** Me before men, the Son of Man will ***confess** him also before the angels of God;

1 Timothy 6:12 (NASB95) — 12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and ***you made** the good ***confession** in the presence of many witnesses.

True confession requires courage and consistency (John 9:22; 12:42; Acts 24:14; Titus 1:16).

John 9:22 (NASB95) — 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone ***confessed** Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.

John 12:42 (NASB95) — 42 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not ***confessing** Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;

Acts 24:14 (NASB95) — 14 “But this I ***admit** to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;

Titus 1:16 (NASB95) — 16 They ***profess** to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

Consider the wonderful consequences of confession and obedience (Rom. 10:9, 10; Rev. 3:5).

Romans 10:9 (NASB95) — 9 that if you ***confess** with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Romans 10:10 (NASB95) — 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he ***confesses**, resulting in salvation.

*Revelation 3:5 (NASB95) — 5 ‘He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will ***confess** his name before My Father and before His angels.*

Tremble before the terrible consequences of denial and disobedience (1 John 2:23; Matt. 7:23).

*1 John 2:23 (NASB95) — 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who ***confesses** the Son has the Father also.*

*Matthew 7:23 (NASB95) — 23 “And then I will ***declare** to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’*

BEING BAPTIZED

Occurrences and Meaning

The Greek verb *baptizō*, meaning “to immerse, dip, or plunge,” occurs 2x in this epistle (Rom. 6:3).

*Romans 6:3 (NASB95) — 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been ***baptized** into Christ Jesus have been ***baptized** into His death?*

The Greek noun *baptisma*, meaning “an immersion, a dipping, or a plunging,” occurs once (Rom. 6:4).

*Romans 6:4 (NASB95) — 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through ***baptism** into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

Summary and Application

The concepts associated with baptism, involving deliverance (from danger, death, and disease), occur repeatedly through the Scriptures.

Noah’s deliverance from the corrupt Antediluvian world was accomplished by the waters of the flood (Gen. 6:5-8, 13-22; 7:1-24; Heb. 11:7; 1 Pet. 3:20-22; 2 Pet. 2:4-9).

Genesis 6:5-8 (NASB95) — 5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 The Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Genesis 6:13-22 (NASB95) — **13 Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. 14 “Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch. 15 “This is how you shall make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 “You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 “Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. 18 “But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. 19 “And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. 20 “Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. 21 “As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather it to yourself; and it shall be for food for you and for them.” 22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.**

Genesis 7:1-24 (NASB95) — **1 Then the Lord said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time. 2 “You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female; 3 also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth. 4 “For after seven more days, I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will blot out from the face of the land every living thing that I have made.” 5 Noah did according to all that the Lord had commanded him. 6 Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came upon the earth. 7 Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him entered the ark because of the water of the flood. 8 Of clean animals and animals that are not clean and birds and everything that creeps on the ground, 9 there went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. 10 It came about after the seven days, that the water of the flood came upon the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. 12 The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights. 13 On the very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark, 14 they and every beast after its kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, all sorts of birds. 15 So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which was the breath of life. 16 Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; and the Lord closed it behind him. 17 Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. 18 The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the**

earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. 19 The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. 20 The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered. **21 All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; 22 of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.** 23 Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and **only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark.** 24 The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Hebrews 11:7 (NASB95) — **7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.**

1 Peter 3:20-22 (NASB95) — **20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.** 21 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, **22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.**

2 Peter 2:4-9 (NASB95) — **4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly ... 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,**

Israel's deliverance from the servitude of Egypt was accomplished by the waters of the Red Sea (Exod. 14:13-31; 15:1-19; Psa. 136:13-15; 1 Cor. 10:1-5).

Exodus 14:13-31 (NASB95) — **13 But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. 14 "The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent." 15 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. 16 "As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land. 17 "As for Me, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18 "Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots**

and his horsemen.” 19 The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. 20 So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night. 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. 22 The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 23 Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots and his horsemen went in after them into the midst of the sea. 24 At the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion. 25 He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians.” 26 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen.” 27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it; then the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even Pharaoh’s entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained. 29 But the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 30 Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

Exodus 15:1-19 (NASB95) — 1 Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and said, “I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. 2 “The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father’s God, and I will extol Him. 3 “The Lord is a warrior; The Lord is His name. 4 “Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea. 5 “The deeps cover them; They went down into the depths like a stone. 6 “Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power, Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. 7 “And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You; You send forth Your burning anger, and it consumes them as chaff. 8 “At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up, The flowing waters stood up like a heap; The deeps were congealed in the heart of the sea. 9 “The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be gratified against them; I will draw out my sword, my hand will destroy them.’ 10 “You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; They sank like lead in the mighty waters. 11 “Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders? 12 “You stretched out Your right hand, The earth swallowed them. 13 “In Your lovingkindness You have led the

people whom You have redeemed; In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation. 14 "The peoples have heard, they tremble; Anguish has gripped the inhabitants of Philistia. 15 "Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed; The leaders of Moab, trembling grips them; All the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. 16 "Terror and dread fall upon them; By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as stone; Until Your people pass over, O Lord, Until the people pass over whom You have purchased. 17 "You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, The place, O Lord, which You have made for Your dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established. 18 "The Lord shall reign forever and ever." 19 For the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea on them, but the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea.

Psalm 136:13-15 (NASB95) — 13 To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder, For His lovingkindness is everlasting, 14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His lovingkindness is everlasting; 15 But He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 (NASB95) — 1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

Naaman's deliverance from the curse of leprosy was accomplished by dipping in the waters of the Jordan (2 Kings 5:1-14).

*2 Kings 5:1-14 (NASB95) — 1 Now **Naaman**, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man **was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper.** 2 Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy." 4 Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel." 5 Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes. 6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy." 7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me." 8 It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent word to the king, saying, "Why have you torn*

*your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.” 9 So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha. **10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean.”** 11 But Naaman was furious and went away and said, “Behold, I thought, ‘He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.’ 12 “Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. 13 Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, “My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” **14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean.***

Baptism is a symbolic representation of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, delivering us from a state of alienation, and bringing us into fellowship with the Lord (Rom. 6:1-7; Gal. 3:26-27).

Romans 6:1-7 (NASB95) — 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 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, so 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 also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

Galatians 3:26-27 (NASB95) — 26 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.

CONCLUSION

Salvation is extended to those who die to the old man of sin, are buried with Christ in baptism, and raised to walk in newness of life.

Do you recognize that penitent believers are commanded to be baptized (Acts 2:37-42; 10:48; 22:16)? Will you enjoy the blessings that are associated with obedience (Acts 2:43-47; Col. 2:9-13)?

Acts 2:37-42 (NASB95) — 37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” 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. 39 “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 10:48 (NASB95) — 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.

Acts 22:16 (NASB95) — 16 ‘Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’

Acts 2:43-47 (NASB95) — 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Colossians 2:9-13 (NASB95) — 9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; 11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 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. 13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,