

## Salvation God's Way—What Must Man Do?

By: David Sproule

God could have provided salvation to mankind in any way that He chose. As all of us have separated ourselves from the Lord through sin, all of us are dying—dying to drink of the water of life. Thus, when the water of life is offered to our thirsty, drought-stricken souls, who are we to reject it?

God could have provided salvation unconditionally and not required that man do anything to obtain it, but He didn't. God chose to provide salvation from sin, "springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14), **only** to those who obey and do the will of the Father. When God identifies His conditions for our parched souls to obtain access to the never-thirst-again water of life, who are we to decide if His way is fair or even acceptable to us?

If we will approach the Scriptures without prejudice and lay aside what we think Scriptures **will** say or what we think Scriptures **should** say, we can impartially gather all that God says about salvation, examine it and then obey it. If we find something required of the Lord in one verse and then find another thing required of the Lord in another verse, which one does God require? Is it either-or? Or, is it possible that God requires both? The answer to that is so obvious that it seems nonsensical to even discuss it. Yet, man

has made it necessary to address, as he perceives God to allow an either-or rather than a both-and. Consider the fact that all three of the following are linked (in separate verses) with our salvation—faith (Heb. 11:6), hope (Rom. 8:24) and love (1 John 4:7). Is there anyone who would attempt to claim that one of these is required for salvation but not all of them? Not likely!

So, what does God require, in order for sinful man to be saved from his dreadful sins? When one reads through the New Testament and gathers all that God requires of man, here is what one, who is handling aright the word of truth, will find. After a sinful man hears the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16; 10:14, 17), he must believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 3:16), repent of his sinful ways (2 Peter 3:9), confess his faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). These are God's conditions for salvation. Who am I to question them?

When the most important and fundamental subject of Scripture is studied—**salvation**—let's lay aside all man-made doctrines, go to the Bible and find God's way.

# You'd Better Watch Your Mouth—God Is!

By: Selected

Words are just words. Right? How is it that some words can be classified as “acceptable” to speak and other words are “unacceptable” to speak? How can most words in the English language be normal, ordinary words but a select few be pulled out and deemed “vulgar” or “profane”? If God does not specify which words are appropriate and which ones are not, how can I know the difference?

Obviously, with words having different meanings in different languages around the world and in different cultures throughout the centuries, the Bible could not possibly list all profane words for all languages in all cultures for all time. But, God does categorize, in principle, words that He deems unacceptable, and with careful and honest study, “The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable” (Prov. 10:32). You know words that fit the following.

**God condemns “corrupt” words (Eph. 4:29).** These are words that are rotten, “bad, evil, unwholesome, in a moral sense.” You know words like this.

**God condemns “foolish talking” (Eph. 5:4).** These are words that are “foolish, dull, stupid.”

**God condemns “coarse jesting” (Eph. 5:4).** This denotes a “risqué wit” that utters vulgar or off-color jokes.

**God condemns “filthy language” (Col. 3:8).** “Filthiness” is condemned in Ephesians 5:4 as a “behavior that flouts social and moral standards, shamefulness, obscenity.” In Colossians 3:8, the focus is on “speech of a kind that is generally considered in poor taste, obscene speech,

dirty talk” that is considered shameful.

**God condemns words that “allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness” (2 Pet. 2:18).** These are words that paint pictures and lead to thoughts of “unbridled lust, indecency, wantonness” and illicit sexual desires and conduct.

**God condemns “malicious words” (3 John 10).** These are words that are “morally or socially worthless, wicked, evil, bad, base, vicious, degenerate.”

Knowing that God is aware of every syllable that proceeds from my tongue and that I will be judged for every word I speak (Matt. 12:36), my prayer should be, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer” (Psa. 19:14). **God can and will help you!**



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# Upcoming Events

TODAY: Monthly potluck luncheon. We will also have awards for the Youth Summer Series at this time and a 12:45pm afternoon service to follow.

Sun. Sept. 14: Monthly youth devo after evening worship hosted by the Cammock's. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Sat. Sept. 27: Save the date for a Men's Lunch here at the building. Please see Doug Jobes for more detail.

Area events:

\*Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.\*

## Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Krista Lehtinen's nephew, Tomas Guinan, has a wound that is infected again and had his 6th round of Chemo recently.

Rick Bass' cousin, Jimmy, who has heart issues.

Amy Sylva's father Ruben. His health is declining.

Pam Stryker who had eye surgery recently.

## Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

# Service Roster

Week of September 7, 2025

## Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Willie Fossati  
Song Leader..... Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries  
Closing Prayer..... Kirk FitzSimmons

## Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Doug Jobes  
Cup..... James Cammock  
Offering..... Ron White  
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford  
Assist..... Ferman Rosales  
Assist..... Steve Randle

## Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer..... Kevin Sheeran  
Closing Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Steve Randle/  
Clifton Rutherford

## Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy  
Song Leader..... Kirk FitzSimmons  
Devotional..... Bryant Siegel

## Other

Prepare Communion..... Kaspar & Mericle

# Congregational News This Week

## Birthdays

Cooper Siegel..... Sept. 11  
Colt Richards..... Sept. 12

## Volunteers Needed

The Sign up sheet for hosting Youth Devos for 2025 is on the bulletin board in the hallway.  
Please sign up to host our youth.

If you have a birthday in September, you and your family are invited to celebrate at the McCoy home Sat. Sept. 20th from 2-4pm.  
Address is in the member directory.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &  
Winter Youth Retreat  
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and  
Communication  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Minister

Cody McCoy

## Weekly Reading

Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will  
find; knock, and it will be opened to you.  
Matthew 7:7

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of August 31, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....64  
A.M. Worship.....95  
P.M. Worship.....60  
Wednesday Worship.....59

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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**midtown**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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