



THE WHO VS WHAT ABOUT SALVATION

The who versus what about salvation. That sounds pretty odd, doesn't it? What does that mean? The who versus the what about salvation? Well, I believe it will be completely clear to you by the time we get to the end of this document what it means and the difference of who versus what when it comes to salvation.

The Who vs What About Salvation

I have been teaching Bible studies for many years now and I have read a lot books. I have talked to a lot of ministers, missionaries, rabbis, monks, priests, etc. and I have never, ever heard this subject matter taught. It is not a new revelation. I believe it is in the Scriptures. It is just something that very few people will mention or talk about for a lot of reasons - political and population control. Control over what they believe about the Bible and their individual salvation. This is extremely important, and it is something we need to study in order to understand the Scriptures.

“Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.”

-Isaiah 62:11

This is a prophecy of Jesus Christ and the cross. Isaiah is talking about salvation cometh to the world. He is telling us that Jesus brings his reward with Him and His work. Jesus' reward is the salvation for all mankind and His work is to die on the cross.

At the same time as Jesus walked the Earth His cousin John the Baptist who baptized Jesus and who was baptizing in the Old Testament was paving the way for Jesus with the Jewish community. John's ministry was to move the Jewish people to understand that their Messiah was coming and then upon Jesus' baptism the one that comes to Baptist you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

After Jesus, we see the apostles preaching. And of course, Peter was one of the main ones. And then later we find Paul. This understanding is so important for salvation. Salvation is only through the work of Jesus Christ. It is what He has done. Not who He was or is. It is His finished work.

“1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

This is the gospel for the Gentiles in this dispensation period of the Age of Grace or Age of the Church. The church age goes all the way back to Jesus. Everyone during this dispensation period whether Gentiles or Jews, if they want to be saved then they can only receive salvation through this gospel.

The apostle Paul is declaring unto us the gospel. We have talked about believing in vain. Believing incorrectly. Or not believing at all. Or believing in yourself and your own righteousness and not trusting in what Jesus did.

Thinking you can work your way to heaven and rejecting the finished work of Jesus Christ is to believe in vain. For I delivered unto you, verse 3, first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. Verse 4, how that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

These are the points to the gospel.

1. Christ died for our sins. Everyone in the world whether the fallen angels to the host body system to those who were Gentiles or Jews. He paid the price in order to dispense the people into the right areas of the afterlife.
2. Christ died for our sins, was buried.
3. He rose again, the Scriptures say. And then it says according to, and I'm just going to abbreviate here, the Scriptures.

So according, period, to the Scriptures. So, this is the gospel. And notice what the gospel is. It's what Jesus did. It's what he did for us in our place. That is the gospel. It's all what he did for us. I believe we'd all be in agreement. I hope we are.

I hope no one will disagree with that statement. The gospel is what Jesus Christ did for us to save us. And you cannot be saved until you trust the gospel of salvation.

Now, with the above stated, let's go back before the time of Paul, who preached the gospel. And we will also see that the apostles were preaching the gospel as well.

But we will also see that Jesus didn't preach the gospel. Now, at least He didn't preach that gospel. Now, someone might say, well, that sounds odd. What do you mean Jesus didn't preach the gospel? Well, think about it. Think about it logically. The gospel is that Christ died. So right here, Jesus Christ died. He was buried, so He went down into the heart of the earth. He rose again the third day, according to the scriptures. How did Jesus Christ preach this before He died, if He hadn't died yet? It's just a logical thing. He couldn't preach this until it happened. Now, He did foreshadow it.

There were times that He told his apostles that this was going to take place. But they did not understand it, and they didn't hear it. They didn't know what He was talking about. So, Jesus knew that this would take place. But when Jesus came, He was preaching something different for the Jews to believe. Now, that might sound far-fetched to some people, but I believe as we look through the scriptures and see it, you will see the difference of the who versus the what of salvation. And you will see the difference because Jesus Christ came to the Jews. So, Jesus was preaching to the Jews a certain thing and the Jews rejected Jesus.

And then God said, okay, now take this to the Gentiles. Now, Paul also went to the Jews. Some people, and these people are crazy, they don't read their Bible, but there are some people who say Peter only went to Jews and Paul only went to Gentiles. That is incorrect. I cannot stress how wrong that is because Peter, in Acts chapter 10, went to a man named Cornelius who was a Gentile. So, Peter went to Jews and Gentiles.

Now, Paul, just about everywhere he went in the book of Acts, it says he went to the synagogue first. So, he went to the Jew first. As a matter of fact, there is a Bible verse where Paul says to the Jew first and also to the Greek, so also to the Gentile.

But in their ministry, Peter's ministry was to Jews. Paul's ministry was to Gentiles. Paul said in Romans 11-13 that God used him as the apostle to the Gentiles.

So, Peter went to Jew and Gentile. But their ministry that God set them up for was the ministry to the Jews, the ministry to the circumcision, Peter. The ministry to the uncircumcision, Paul. So, what we're going to see here is the difference between the who and the what of salvation.

“And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?”

- John 1:19

The Bible says, and this is the record of John, John the Baptist. When the Jews were priests, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? So, the Jews are coming and they're asking, the first question they're asking of John is, Who? Who are you? Who are you?

“And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.”

- John 1:20

So, these Jews were looking for the Christ. And when John showed up and started preaching, they came out and said, Well, who are you? And they said, “Are you him? Are you the one?” For those that don't know, Israel was promised a seed in Genesis 3:15. In the garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve sinned, God promised a seed through them that would come and redeem mankind. And that seed is what's known as the Christ or the Messiah. And the Jews have looked for that Messiah and sadly, the Jews rejected their Messiah. It's a shame that they did that because Jesus Christ is their Messiah. But they were looking for their Messiah.

“And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.”

- John 1:21

“Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?”

- John 1:22

In verse 23, a very famous verse, John responded, "I am the voice." He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness."

"He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias."

_ John 1:23

Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Isaiah.

"24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? 26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; 27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing."

- John 1:24-28

So, he said, There's one coming after me, and that one is the he of whom you should look. This is very important.

They knew that at this time period, very shortly, the Messiah would come. The Christ. The he that they were looking for. And they asked John, Are you the one? He said, I am not, but there is one coming. Well, who came? Jesus Christ.

"29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water."

-John 1:29-31

So, John said, "This is he of whom I said." And then he continues, Whose latchet I am not, where am I? Which I said is preferred before me, for he was before me. And I knew him not. Now verse 31 says, The reason why John was baptizing in water. And I knew him not, John says, but that he should be made manifest to Israel. Therefore, am I come baptizing in water.

So, the very reason that John the Baptist baptized with water, the only reason, was to make Jesus manifest to Israel.

It was so as he was baptizing in water, Jesus would appear, and John would say, This is him. And Jesus baptized himself in water, allowed himself to be baptized by John in water, to identify with the people. And say, look, I'm one of you.

But Jesus didn't sin. He wasn't baptized to get sins removed. Jesus had no sin. He was baptized, and that baptism was for one reason, to show Israel that this is He. This is the Messiah. This is the Christ.

So, we see in the beginning of John's ministry, the focus or the emphasis is on the who. And who is the emphasis on? The Lord Jesus Christ. All right.

So that was John's preaching. Why did he preach what he preached? He preached what he preached to point people to Jesus. And he preached about Him and look to Him. I believe it's down here a little bit farther. He said, I must decrease, and he must increase, speaking about Jesus Christ.

So now let's look at the preaching of Jesus.

“But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

- Matthew 15:24

What did Jesus preach when he came? Well, he might have mentioned that he was going to die and rise again, but the main emphasis of the preaching of Jesus when he came was who he was. Israel had to accept the Messiah, so they had to know who he was, and they had to trust in who he was. That is different than here today. Here, for us to be saved today, we have to trust in what he did for us in his death, burial, and resurrection. So, there is a difference. Do you see the difference? Here, it's trusting in who he was. Here, it is trusting in what he did for you.

He answered and said, I am not sent but into the lost sheep of the house of Israel. So when Jesus Christ came, Jesus says, I came to the Jews. He said, I am not sent but to the lost.

So, Jesus Christ, a Jew, came to preach to Jews. That is very important because the Gentile thing comes later on. But Jesus came to the Jews. That is why we need to look at John 4.

“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.”

- John 4:22

Jesus offered salvation or eternal life, but it was through who He was. Before He died, He preached to them who He was. You must believe that I am He. And we will look at those verses. So, do you see the difference? Is it becoming clear? Before Jesus died and even this brief period after, all the emphasis was trusting or believing that Jesus was the Christ.

But today, where we live now, the emphasis is believing in what the Christ did for us. To just believe in Jesus, that He is the Christ, is not enough to be saved. If you believe that Jesus Christ is the Christ, the anointed one of Israel, He is the Messiah, well, good for you. You're still going to die and go to hell. You must trust in what that Messiah did on the cross for your sins. Do you see the difference? Back in the 1960s, there were what they called the Jesus freaks.

Long-haired hippies that went around and said, Oh man, Jesus is great, dude. And they smoked marijuana, and they lived like the devil, and they followed the teachings of Jesus, and they started communes, and they had free love, and they lived like just a bunch of dope heads. And yet they were all, Yeah man, we're following Jesus, man.

And you know what they were doing? They were telling people, Jesus is the Messiah, man. Jesus is Christ, dude. Yeah man, follow Jesus, man.

Were they saved? Of course not. Why? Because they were not trusting in the gospel. They were not trusting in what Jesus had done to save them.

So, they wanted to be followers of Jesus, but they didn't want to accept what Jesus did to save them. So, they were trying to work their way to heaven through the teachings of Jesus Christ. They were trusting in their works, and they were not trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ when He died for their sins.

I hope you see the difference. There is a difference. There is a big difference.

And even to this day, there are people who claim to be followers of Jesus, and yet they have denied the gospel, do not trust the gospel, and they're hoping to get to heaven through following Jesus when they are rejecting following our Apostle, the Apostle Paul, who teaches us to trust in not just who Jesus is, but what Jesus did for us. So, there is a great, vast difference between the who and the what of salvation. And you know, you need to know who Jesus is. He is God.

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

- 1 Timothy 3.16

This verse plainly says that God is manifested in the flesh. God. Jesus Christ. God manifests in the flesh. So, Jesus is God. But just believing that Jesus is the Messiah or Jesus is God is not what saves you. The Bible says even the devils believe in tremble. The devils know Jesus Christ is God. As a matter of fact, when Jesus was in the flesh, He'd go, and a demon-possessed man would come and fall at His feet and say, cast us not out, we know who you are. So, you see, the devils believed in the who. They knew who Jesus was. He was the Messiah. Were they saved? No. So it is not enough to believe the who. You must believe in the what. Jesus Christ has done for you. I hope that is understandable.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. 25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.”

- John 4:23-26

Verse 25. The woman, this is the woman at the well, saith unto Him, I know that Messiah, or Messiah, cometh, which is called Christ. Alright, Messiah, the Christ. She says, I know He's coming. She says, when He has come, He will tell us all things. Verse 26. Look at this. Jesus

saying to her, I that speak unto thee, am He. So, Jesus came preaching what? He was preaching who? He was preaching, I am He. So, the gospel, if you will, that Jesus was presenting when He was literally on the earth was, I am the Christ. I am the Messiah. I am He. I am God manifested in the flesh. He said, I am that I am. So, Jesus was preaching who He was, and believing in who He was. Now as we see the church age go along, we find out, yes, most people know who Jesus was.

But the salvation for today is too trusting in who, not only who He was, but what He did for us. Because without what He did, it makes no difference that He was the Messiah. If Jesus was the Messiah, and came and lived 33 years, and then said, see y'all, and took off and left, we couldn't be safe today. He had to do something while He was here, something that was prophesied in the Old Testament. For example, Isaiah 53. It pleased God to bruise Him.

He had to do the what of salvation. For us. And now we must trust, not only in Him, but what He did for us. The gospel. I can't make it much plainer. Let's look at some more verses.

Did we read verse 26? We did. I that speak unto thee am He. Jesus says, I am He.

“And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.”

- Exodus 6:3

Now this is something else, and I'll just throw this in extra, but it needs to be mentioned. Many people don't realize what the name Jesus means. The word Jesus is a compound word, and it should be divided. The word Jesus, this is Jehovah. Je. And sus means save. So, the word Jesus literally means Jehovah saves. When Jesus came, He said, I came not in my own name, I came in the name of my Father. What is the name of His Father? God the Father is Jehovah.

Look at Exodus 6, 3. And God the Father is saying, And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty. But by my name Jehovah was I not known unto them. So, there are many people that talk about this today.

This is something that's very popular, especially those that use the name Yeshua. I use the name Jesus, because that's what the name is in the Bible. But they say that over time in the Old Testament, the Jews forgot the name of God, and didn't use the name of God. And for that reason, when Jesus came, He came saying, I am Jehovah saves. He was the name of God. If you want to believe that, and say the name of God is Yeshua, help yourself.

I just believe the King James Bible. My God, Jesus Christ, His name is Jesus. There is Jehovah. Jehovah Jireh. Jehovah, I've got a list over there of all the different names of Jehovah Rishi, Jehovah Rafa, Jehovah Shalom. Well Jehovah is the name in the Old Testament of the Lord.

And who is the Lord? Well, the Lord in the Old Testament is the same Lord in the New Testament. So Jehovah is Jesus. You see, He's Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. One God, but three parts. So that's a different study for a different time.

“I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.”

- John 5:43

All throughout the readings of the Gospels, we find Jesus putting that emphasis on I am He, I am He, I am He. Jesus' emphasis was, I am the Christ, I am the Messiah. And His emphasis was on who He was. He couldn't put the emphasis on what He was to do in the future, because He hadn't done it yet. He did mention a couple of times, I will be delivered unto the Pharisees, and I will be offered up, and they will kill me, and all this stuff. But that was in the future. But right then, before He died, He was saying, I am who I say I am, and you must believe that I am He. And the Pharisees would not believe that. They could not believe that Jesus Christ was God manifest in the flesh, and their promised seed, their Messiah, their Christ. I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. So, they rejected Him and crucified Him. So, John 5:43. I am come in my Father's name, and you receive me not.

If another shall come in his own name, him you will receive. So Jesus Christ said He came in His Father's name, so He came in the name of Jehovah. The great I am that I am.

“24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. 25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.”

- John 10:24-25

Jesus Christ is speaking. And Jesus says, Jesus answered them, I told you, and you believe not. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness of me. Now this was an answer to verse 24. Look at what the question was. 24 says, Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Are you the Christ? And Jesus answered in verse 25. I told you. Jesus said to him, I told you who I am. I am he. He said, I said that to you.

So, who was Jesus? He was the one. He's the one that came. In his Father's name, he's the Christ. The emphasis in Jesus' name is on who he is and what his name is. For his name points that he was the Son of God. He was the Son of the Father. He was God manifested in the flesh.

“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”

- John 8:24

Look at what he's saying to those lost people. If you believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. So, the gospel preached by Jesus, for salvation, is believing who Jesus is. And as we'll see shortly, the gospel for salvation for us today is trusting in what Jesus Christ did for us. It is so simple if you just read the scriptures. And a lot of people miss this.

That is why they, like the Jesus freaks, oh, we love to follow Jesus, man. But they are not saved. They might have gotten enlightenment on who Jesus was, that he was God, and he was the Messiah. Sadly, a lot of those Jesus freaks never knew Jesus was God. They just thought he was some religious teacher like Gandhi or Buddha. And they were like, yeah, man, I like what he says. We read it, man. And they reject that fact that Jesus is God. So they never really came to the understanding of who he really was.

There are many scriptures in the New Testament that speak to the difference between the Who and What About Salvation. We have given you a great start. If you need more scriptures to provide you a thorough please begin your research,