**Now a new emotion swept over the jailer. His fears of losing his job and perhaps his life gave way to deep conviction of sin. He was now afraid to meet God in his sins. He cried, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (**[**Acts 16:29-30**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+16.29-30&t=NKJV)**)**

**What must I do to be Saved?**

My favorite: Now a new emotion swept over the jailer. His fears of losing his job and perhaps his life gave way to deep conviction of sin. He was now afraid to meet God in his sins. He cried, **“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”** ([Acts 16:29-30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+16.29-30&t=NKJV))

This question must precede every genuine case of conversion. A man must know he is *lost* before he can be *saved*. It is premature to tell a man how to be saved until first he can say from his heart, “I truly deserve to go to hell.

The only people in the NT who were ever told to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ were convicted sinners. Now that the jailer was thoroughly broken up over his sins, he was told: **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”** ([Acts 16:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+16.31&t=NKJV))

There is no suggestion here that his family would be saved automatically if *he* trusted Christ. The meaning is that if he believed **on the Lord Jesus Christ**, he would **be saved**, and his **household** would **be saved** in the same way.

*“Believe ... and you will be saved, and let your household do the same.”*

Many people today seem to have difficulty knowing what it means to believe. However, when a sinner realizes he is lost, helpless, hopeless, hell-bound, and when he is told to believe on Christ as Lord and Savior, he knows exactly what it means. It is the only thing left that he *can* do!

**Aside:**

*Salvation by grace*, carried to *the unsaved*, is the presentation of this simple gospel message. The unsaved are to be told “*that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures*” ([1 Corinthians 2:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.1-2&t=NKJV); [15:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.3&t=NKJV)). Christ has paid the penalty for sin. The work of redemption has been accomplished on man’s behalf, and God is satisfied. Provision has been made for unredeemed man to be saved by receiving that which Christ has done on his behalf. And he does this by simply *believing on the Lord Jesus Christ* ([Acts 16:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+16.31&t=NKJV)).

*Redeemed* (*saved*) *man*, on the other hand, is to hear an entirely different message. He is to be taught *the reason* for his salvation. He is to be told that Christ *has gone away “to receive for Himself a kingdom*”; he is to be told that *during the time of his Lord’s absence* he is to be busy with the talents and pounds that the Lord delivered to and left in charge of His servants (Christians); he is to be told that a *day of reckoning* is coming; he is to be told that the *Lord will return to judge His servants* on the basis of their faithfulness in carrying out His business during His time of absence; and he is to be told that the *outcome of this judgment* will determine every Christians’ position in the coming kingdom ([Matthew 25:14-30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.14-30&t=NKJV); [Luke 19:11-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+19.11-27&t=NKJV)).

And it is within this overall message to the saved that one finds the *salvation of the soul* taught in Scripture, not within the message of salvation by grace, proclaimed to the unsaved.

(See [Arlen Chitwood's Eternal Salvation, What Must I Do to Be Saved?](http://lampbroadcast.org/plets/ppdf5/Sal7.pdf) and in this site [Soul-winning!](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-three.php#%20Soul-winning!))