o understand salvation, not to trivialize, we draw comparisons between secular learning and God's plan of salvation; not what man says, but what God says is necessary to be "saved"!

In school you may choose to study math, science, history or a number of other courses. With God, everyone is enrolled in the course of "Life". No one is exempt from His pass/fail course. Pass the course, go to heaven; fail the course, spend eternity in hell! What will be your final grade in Life 101?

Math provides a "steps-to-salvation" analogy. For every math problem, there is only one correct answer. Order of steps to the answer sometimes

may vary, but all the steps must be completed or the wrong answer results. Like it or not, there are certain steps that man <u>must</u> take to be saved—steps needed for salvation.



Psychology typically offers a wide variety of methods (steps) to solve problems. Some work and some don't. Regrettably, "political correctness" frequently gives a false impression that a problem is solved when, in reality, it isn't. Example; psychologists advise one to "embrace" homosexuality instead of trying to repent of it and turn away from the sin that God calls an abomination! As a result, psychology does not provide a good "steps-to-salvation" analogy.

Today, many Christians blindly follow steps to salvation that man, not God, teaches; steps that lead to hell! Jesus discussed this timeless issue when He said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." (Mat 7:13 & 14)

God wants us to take the correct steps to achieve a passing grade in Life 101. If a passing grade is eternal salvation, what are the correct steps? In

school, even if you've read the book, you can fail a course because you didn't study or didn't study the right things—things required for a passing grade! The same is true with God. All of the answers to Life 101 are found in the Bible, but <u>if we don't</u> <u>study to find the right answers, we will probably</u> fail and be lost forever—eternal damnation.

Again, how do you fail a course in school? No study, half-hearted study, studying the wrong books, studying the wrong material in the right book, studying with the wrong people, listening to teachers or professors who don't know the material in the book, or even relying on your own or someone else's past experiences. The list could go on, all result in failing. The one course you don't want to fail, God's course, what we call Life 101!

If we know the Bible is the only book that has the answers to Life 101 and that we <u>must</u> pass the course to spend eternity in heaven, where do we find the answer to the question, "**What** <u>must</u> I do to be saved?" The answer is very clear and not hidden in some obscure Biblical passage. It's given in the most logical place imaginable, in the Book of Acts (a/k/a Actions of the Apostles) where the Christian church first began!

Many people, even esteemed "Biblical scholars" with impressive degrees from renowned theological universities, don't understand **what is needed to**

pass Life 101. The Bible says these men are *"always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth"* (2 Tim 3:7). God is not



impressed by educational degrees, only the sincerity of the heart. Jesus said in Mark 10:15, "*I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.*" So, let's go back to the basics. Let's rid ourselves of preconceived notions about salvation and come to God with an open, child-like mind.

Second Timothy 2:16 says, "Study to [show] thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to

be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." again, *rightly dividing the word of truth*. The "word of truth" is the Bible, so we must <u>rightly divide</u> or keep Bible scriptures in their proper perspectives. This is where men have miserably failed! **Many** good-intentioned preachers do not rightly divide the Bible and are, therefore, telling people in their churches the wrong steps to salvation. Eventually, the congregations fail Life 101 and are eternally lost. The Bible calls these preachers "false profits" and cautions us to avoid them.

The Bible has several "divisions". Here, we concentrate on our earlier question, "What must I do to be saved?", and where the answer to that question is found. If we rightly divide the Bible, we find that the verbatim words and actions of the Apostles are only found in the Book of Acts. Here, the New Testament church was formed. This is the only book in the Bible where salvations were actually recorded. Most other New Testament books were letters informing the newly formed churches or young Christians how to live for Christ, not instructions on "how to be saved". One doesn't go to the Book of Romans, for example, to find out how to be saved. Members of the church in Rome were already saved. The Book of Romans was written by Paul to Christians in Rome instructing them on how to improve their walk with God.

Let's say you want to buy a brand new Harley-Davidson motorcycle right off the showroom floor. If I told you to go to

the Kawasaki dealership to pick up a new Harley, you wouldn't do it because you know that new Harleys aren't purchased at the Kawasaki dealership. Likewise, to find the answer to the question, "What <u>must</u> I do to be saved?", you go to the Book of Acts, not Romans, Matthew, Timothy or any of the other books of the Bible. The only book where we find out "how to be saved" is the Book of Acts. You don't go to the Kawasaki dealership to buy a new Harley and you don't go

to Romans to find out "how to be saved". Again, you go to Acts.

After you buy a new Harley, you can go many places to have it serviced and maintained including, probably, the Kawasaki dealership. Likewise, after you are saved according to the only method found in the Book of Acts, you can go many places to find instruction on how to "stay" saved; the remaining books of the New Testament (Romans to Jude) were written specifically for this purpose.

Back to the question, "What must I do to be saved?" This same question was asked by the men in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian church. In Acts 2:37 men asked, "...*what shall we do*?" This question was directed to Peter (whom Jesus gave the keys to the kingdom) <u>and</u> the other 11 Apostles... and their answer was **the steps outlined in God's course, Life 101...**

...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. (Acts 2:38-39)

To fully understand these steps, we'll break it down.

(1) Repent, or turn away from sin with a sorrowful heart and never look back.

(2) Be baptized (fully immersed in water) in the name of Jesus Christ (not in the titles "Father, Son and Holy Ghost") for the remission (forgiveness) of all sins ever committed.

(3) You will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (this is being born of the Spirit or being born again). You know you've received the gift of the Holy Ghost when and only when you speak in other tongues...other languages. **If you haven't** spoken in other tongues, you don't have the Holy Ghost—you are not born again as Jesus commanded in John 3:3-5. You must speak in other tongues to have the Holy Ghost. No exceptions, despite what man may teach!

Acts 2:39 tells us this promise from God—the promise of the Holy Ghost—is for everyone. This includes everyone from the Day of Pentecost to and including today. In other words this promise of receiving the Holy Ghost is for us despite what we may have heard from others or may have misinterpreted from our Bible reading. The Holy Ghost is clearly, again, for everyone!

Back to God's course, what we call Life 101, and the cold hard facts—if someone tells you that you don't need to be baptized to go to heaven, they must



have studied the wrong book. If they tell you to simply "...confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom 10:9),

they are <u>not</u> rightly dividing the word of truth. If they tell you that you are saved by "grace" so you don't need to do anything, they simply don't understand the Word of God. Remember, we must study to show [ourselves] approved. Approved for what? Approved to pass God's course of Life 101. Approved to enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

The <u>only</u> purpose of this tract is to make sure you <u>fully</u> understand what it takes to be saved. No ifs, ands or buts, you, "*must be born of the water and of the Spirit*" (John 3:5). If you don't believe this, you'll fail God's course, again, what we call Life 101. If your church doesn't teach this,

it teaches half-truths or worse, false doctrines! **The** <u>only</u> baptisms in the New Testament church recorded in the Bible are



found in the Book of Acts. Every baptism was "in the name of Jesus Christ" or in the "name of the Lord" (never, never, never quoting "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost"). Every baptism was by full immersion, never, never, never by sprinkling. Every time the gift of the Holy Ghost was received, it was confirmed by speaking in other tongues.

It is unwise to think that you automatically have the Holy Ghost simply because you prayed the "Sinner's Prayer" or because you really felt "something special" when you decided to serve the Lord. These are great "first steps", but won't help you pass Life 101. Most Christians today are taught that the Holy Ghost instantly comes into their lives when they believe, when they are baptized, or when they pray the "Sinner's Prayer"—FALSE! Paul underscored the (1) separation of the Holy Ghost from other

experiences and the (2) importance of receiving the Holy Ghost in Acts 19:1-7 when he asked "believers"—people who believed in Jesus—if they had received the Holy Ghost since they believed. This proves that there is more to receiving the Holy



Ghost than simply believing. In fact, these "believers" were re-baptized, correctly, "in the name of Jesus", because their form of baptism was not sufficient and <u>then</u> they received the Holy Ghost.

These men passed Life 101. Will you?

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. (Acts 2:38-39)

For More Information, Contact...

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If you found this tract to be helpful, please let us know. Just as the religious leaders of Jesus' day rejected Him, the majority of today's most prominent religious leaders still reject Him. How? When they reject Him in baptism ("in the name of Jesus") and/or when they reject Him in the Spirit (deny the necessity of receiving the Holy Ghost evidenced by speaking in other tongues). For your own salvation, learn the difference between "truth" and false doctrines. Then do what you must do!

Life 101

What will be <u>Your</u> Final Grade?



Don't make the same mistake I made. Please don't be stubborn! LEARN WHAT GOD EXPECTS ---HERE --- NOW---