

The Conditions for Salvation

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Paul said that to Christians there is but one God and one Lord (I Co 8:6). The one God is Yahweh, and the one Lord, Jesus Christ. Therefore when Paul greeted the churches in his epistles, he always addressed the Father as God, and Jesus as the Lord Christ, and never confused the two.

Similarly, when Paul dealt with the important topic of how men obtained salvation, he also clearly distinguished the Lord Jesus from God:

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 (Rom 10:9, NASB)

Paul said that in order to be saved, 2 conditions must be satisfied:

- 1) To confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord,
- 2) To believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead.

Paul emphasized that salvation must come from the *belief in your heart*. What belief then? It is the belief that God raised Jesus from the dead. What does this belief have to do with the confession with your mouth that Jesus is the Lord? There are two important connections.

First, this is to declare that we believe the God who raised Jesus from the dead. The Bible addresses this God as the God

and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ref. Rom 15:6; 2Co 1:3, 11:31; Eph 1:3,17; Col 1:3 , the only true God Yahweh that has sent Jesus Christ Joh 17:3. Therefore we should not only believe what God has done, but also see God as the object and focus of our faith. Apostle Peter emphasized the same thing:

²⁰For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you. ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (1Pe 1:20-21, NASB)

Peter gave the same message that we should put our faith in the God that raised Jesus from the dead, the God and Father of Lord Jesus Christ.

Second, precisely because we believe in God, we also believe and obey Jesus Christ whom He has sent and confess Jesus as our Lord. If someone confesses with his mouth Jesus as Lord, he confesses that God has made Jesus Lord and Christ (ref. Act 2:36), and Jesus has since become the Lord of his life.

Our faith in God must be reflected in the fact that we let God make Christ as the Lord of our lives and lead us to imitate Christ all our lives and obey God's will as Christ did. He who believes God in the heart, must also respect Jesus as Lord in action.

It's clear that confessing Jesus as Lord with the mouth, and believing in the heart that God raised him from the dead, are

interrelated and inseparable matters. We confess Jesus as Lord because we believe in God's confirmation – raising Jesus from the dead thus proving that he is the Lord Christ that God has appointed. Romans 10:9 summarizes the gist of salvation, which we must understand clearly, not only for our own salvation, but it also affects how we preach the gospel and how we lead people to salvation.

The popular gospels nowadays all emphasize that people must believe Jesus to be God so as to be saved. This emphasis is contradictory to what Paul said in Romans 10:9. This is blatant alteration of the Bible turning people away from salvation. Is this an overstatement? Imagine, if the condition of salvation is to believe that Jesus is God, shouldn't Romans 10:9 be interpreted as "if you confess with mouth Jesus as God, and believe in your heart God has raised him (God) from the dead, you will be saved"?

What consequence will such misinterpretation of Romans 10:9 bring? Romans 10:9 is talking about two Gods! Jesus is the God that can die, and the other God resurrected this dead God. Isn't this polytheism? The Bible stresses repeatedly that there is only one God, but we brazenly teach that there are two, even three Gods or the three-in-one God!

Besides, the God in the Bible does not die. If Jesus really died, he could not be the one that Paul referred to as the God "who alone possesses immortality" (ref. 1Ti 6:16). With regard to 1 Timothy 6:16, the Trinitarians will say, it's only the human side of Jesus that died, the God side didn't. In this case, Jesus didn't really die, or at least didn't die fully. This openly contradicts the Bible's teaching that Jesus died

for us (the sinners) (Ref. Rom 5:6,8; 1Co 15:3,) Gal 2:21; 1Th 5:10)

Peter said to the Israelites in Acts 2:36, “God has made him (Jesus) both Lord and Christ”. But according to the Trinitarian teaching, Jesus is God, then this verse is talking about one God making another God both Lord and Christ. Isn’t this using the Bible to openly teach polytheism? The language in the bible is easy to understand and never self-contradictory. But Trinitarianism makes the Bible confusing and chaotic.

We should not confuse the Lord with God, let alone reverse the order of the Lord and God. Because Paul has unambiguously taught that it is the Lord Jesus, the lamb of God, who has been crucified for us (not God crucified), and it is God who has raised Jesus from the dead (ref. Act 3:15; 4:10; 13:30, 34; 17:31; Rom 4:24; 8:11; 10:9; Eph 1:20; Col 2:12; Heb 13:20) ,not Jesus raising himself from the dead by his own power, because he was a mortal man.

³⁶“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified.” (Act 2:36)

³¹because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising him from the dead.” (Act 17:31)

⁴²“And he ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the one who has been appointed by

God as judge of the living and the dead. (Act 10:42)

Paul claimed that Jesus was the man whom God has appointed, and he will be God's representative judging the world in righteousness. The reason why Jesus was made the Lord, was because Yahweh God has raised him from the dead, and through his resurrection proved to the world that he is the Lord Christ that God appointed, that he will be the judge the world. (Act 10:42; 17:31). Therefore the exalted position and status of Jesus did not come from himself, but that God gave him the glory (1Pe 1:21).

For a man to be saved, he must confess with his mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in his heart that God raised him from the dead. I hope the exegesis above can help you to understand correctly the reason behind.

The above illustrations also suffice to show how Trinitarianism has insidiously altered the church's understanding of the biblical teaching of salvation. The conditions of salvation in the Bible is to "confess with the mouth Jesus as Lord", but today's churches flagrantly changed it to "confess with the mouth Jesus as God". In this way, Jesus has changed from man to God. As a result, the churches are preaching two Gods, which changed the biblical stand which emphasizes that "God is one" or "there is but one God".

Trinitarianism's apparent "monotheism" and biblical monotheism are incompatible to one another. Once the church replaces biblical monotheism with Trinitarianism, all facets of Christian faith will be significantly changed.

Whether it is the teaching of salvation, the object of prayers, hymns, worship or gospel preaching, all these will slowly deviate from the biblical teaching. I will cover more about this later by giving examples in turn so that faithful saints can discern the subtle fallacies.
