

**There Is More To It Than That!**  
**Isaiah 53:4-6**

Illustration sometimes becomes so powerful it supplants what it illustrates

Illustration for salvation many times cited by use of a man's five fingers.

Hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized, we affirm, is God's plan.

But that's not some sort of creed.

It's an illustration -- a representative of what happens when an honest person -- a sinner -- seeking salvation from his sins, reads the Bible and sees what God affirms as the necessary steps to salvation.

But let it be carefully observed:

**Sin Is More Than A Mere Mismanagement Of One's Life:**

Sin is a willful choice, made by a rational human being, but one that is in direct contradiction to what God defines as truth and goodness.

We sin when deliberately choose own way in preference to God's way

*Jeremiah 10:23* I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. Correct me, O Lord, but in justice; not in your anger, lest you bring me to nothing.

*Isaiah 55:8-9* For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Sin is a disdain for God and His law.

All sin is against God.

*Psalms 51:4* Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

*2Corinthians 5:21* For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*Isaiah 53:4-6* Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Sin is not just mis-managing one's life, but a serious reproach against God.

**Faith Is More Than Admission That Jesus Christ Is The Son Of God:**

Faith that doesn't act on known knowledge is no faith at all Faith is active.

*James 2:22* You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

In order to please God one must not only believe who He is, but

*Hebrews 11:6* And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

It is not enough to merely love God, either.

*1John 2:4* Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

Love for God is perfected in our obedience.

Faith that works is faith that saves.

**Repentance Is More Than Just One's Decision To Turn And Serve God:**

Salvation is not a 1-stroke process; repentance is not a one-time decision.

*Matthew 3:8* Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

That's a continual process, a willful decision to do better day by day.

Repentance activates one's faithfulness.

There is no repentance without turning, no turning without repentance.

One implies the other.

One who has repented will begin immediately to turn himself around

*Acts 2:38* And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*Acts 3:19* Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,

**Confession Is More Than Admission Jesus Was A Historical Character:**

Confession is an audible admission of what is in one's heart.

*Romans 10:8-10* But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

I cannot know for sure what you believe no matter how I may suspect it until you tell me.

Confession, to the Christian, is a kind of pledge of allegiance.

The Ethiopian, in *Acts 8:37*

Not a mantra or creedal admission, but a real statement of acquiesce and resolve to God as Sovereign.

Confession states publicly who we serve.

### **Baptism Is More Than Just Getting Saved:**

No good Bible student would deny that baptism saves

**Acts 22:16** *And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.*

being "born again" is just that -- being born.

**John 3:3,5** *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ... Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

After birth must be willing decision to develop toward spiritual maturity.

**Colossians 3:1-2** *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

The course which naturally follows baptism (being "risen with Christ").

That maturation process is one that must be diligently pursued: it's putting on the "new man" and putting off the "old man"

**Colossians 3:9-14** *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

### **Judgment Is More Than A Slapping Of The Hand:**

Judgment is serious business.

It is an appointment every man will keep and should be a horrible thought to those not prepared for it

**Romans 11:22** *Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.*

**Matthew 25:31-46** records the judgment scene.

Everyone will be there **vs 32**

There will be a separation of the good and evil **vs 33**

Some will be sent into everlasting punishment **vs 41**

Rejoice in knowledge there will be glorious reward for the faithful **vs 34**

**Hebrews 9:27** *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

Can we dare ignore the fact of impending judgment?

And it could be sooner than you think.

### **Yes, let us allow the Bible to speak for what constitutes salvation.**

Let us be careful not to make the illustration of salvation, salvation itself.

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