

Answering Tough Questions about Salvation

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I. Introduction.

II. Why MacArthur wrote *Answering Tough Questions about Salvation*. The charismatic church and the psychological salvation movement have created an illusion of salvation in the culture. (Matthew 7:21-23)

III. Why the issue of “easy believism” is such an issue.

- A. This kind of gospel is being preached.
- B. We are quickly producing a gospel without contents.
- C. Read Charles Finney on this.
- D. If we are not careful, we will appeal to people’s emotions instead of a clear presentation of the truth.

IV. What a person needs to believe to be saved.

- A. We need to know that Jesus is God in human flesh that came to die on the cross and rise again for our sins.
- B. One must believe in Jesus, which is more than intellectual.
- C. Components of saving faith.
 - 1. It forsakes all human means of salvation. (Acts 9, Philipians 3, Matthew 16)
 - 2. It involves turning from sin.
 - 3. It is a commitment.
- D. The nature of conversion involves change.

V. If salvation is by faith alone, why is there so much emphasis on discipleship?

- A. Only God can save a person. No human work saves a person.
- B. However, if God had never jerked a person out of his sin, he would never be saved.

VII. Repentance, faith, belief and discipleship.

A. Repentance, faith and belief are a package resulting in discipleship.

B. Whatever the Lord does is complete. At the heart of every Christian is a person who loves God. (John 4)

VIII. What discipleship is: It is the process of learning what Jesus wants a person to know.

IX. How man can make an exchange if salvation is by grace. Jesus said to exchange all of you for all of your soul. (Matthew 16:29, Philippians 3:3)

X. Whether one can be saved without knowledge of Christ's Lordship. No, but children can be saved without realizing the full implications of Christ's Lordship.

XI. How we can be sure of our salvation. If true salvation has occurred, a believer will continue in the Word of God. (John 8:31-32)

Application questions:

1. Why is belief about Jesus not enough for salvation?

2. What is "easy believism," and why is it a problem?

3. What relationship does discipleship have with salvation? Explain.
