

Those Challenging Salvation Passages-2
ONLY BELIEVE???

Acts 16:31

Most every group, church, sect, and denomination in Christendom has some sort of standard response to ones seeking salvation. But how different the versions are!

We are examining the challenging salvation passages to prepare ourselves to dialogue with seekers.

REMEMBER: TWO SIMPLE and BASIC RULES FOR HANDLING THE SCRIPTURES RIGHTLY:

1—Be sure you know the context of both subject and time for any Scripture you are going to apply!

2—On any given subject, The Bible can never mean LESS than what is stated in a verse, but it can always mean MORE when comparing it to other verses on the subject!

OK, so let's tackle another of these challenging passages. Next—Only Believe or By Faith Alone!

Just where did that come from?

- *Jerome—(347-420) commenting on Rom.10:3-4*
- *Martin Luther—(1483-1546) in margin of his Bible on Rom.3:28*

1— The SCRIPTURES that are “Said” to Teach It

- *Mark 5:36*
- *Acts 16:31*
- *Mark 16:16*

2—The Place of BELIEVING in Being Saved

- *The first necessity...*
- *A comprehensive trust...*
- *Never divorced from obedience...*

(Note John 3:36)

The modern concept of "faith only," believed by so many today, would have been foreign to Luther. After quoting Paul in [Titus 3:4-5](#), Luther says, "How beautifully the apostle in these strong words extols the grace of God bestowed in baptism!.. Baptism perfectly and instantaneously cleanses and saves" (*The Sermons of Martin Luther*, VI: 142-165. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI). Luther also stated in his *Large Catechism of 1530*, "that it is most solemnly and strictly commanded that we must be baptized or we cannot be saved, lest any one regard it as a trifling matter."

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