

Acts 16:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Analysis

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house—The simplest gospel presentation in Scripture: salvation by faith alone in Christ alone. **Believe on** (πίστευσον ἐπί) means trust resting upon Christ as object, not mere mental assent. **The Lord Jesus Christ** identifies Jesus as sovereign deity (Lord), Messiah (Christ), and savior (Jesus='Yahweh saves'). **Thou shalt be saved** (σωθήσῃ) promises certain salvation—future indicative, not hypothetical possibility. **And thy house** extends the promise to his household, fulfilled immediately (v.34) as his family believed and was baptized. This doesn't teach proxy faith but corporate evangelism.

Historical Context

Paul's immediate answer to the jailer's question (v.30). The simplicity reflects the urgent moment—no lengthy sermon, just the gospel essence. **They spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house** (v.32) indicates fuller explanation followed. The jailer washed their wounds (v.33a), then Paul baptized him and his household (v.33b), demonstrating salvation's immediate fruit: compassion and public Christian identification.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the simplicity of 'believe on the Lord Jesus Christ' challenge complex religious systems?
2. What does 'and thy house' teach about family evangelism versus individual-only gospel presentations?

Interlinear Text

οἱ δὲ εἶπον, Πίστευσον ἐπὶ τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν
G3588 And they said Believe on G3588 the Lord Jesus
G1161 G2036 G4100 G1909 G2962 G2424

Χριστὸν, καὶ σωθήσῃ σὺ καὶ ὁ οἰκός σου
Christ and shalt be saved thou and G3588 house thy
G5547 G2532 G4982 G4771 G2532 G3624 G4675

Additional Cross-References

John 1:12 (Faith): But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 3:36 (Faith): He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Galatians 3:26 (Faith): For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Mark 16:16 (Salvation): He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Isaiah 45:22 (Salvation): Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Acts 18:8 (Faith): And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

Genesis 17:7 (Parallel theme): And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Acts 4:12 (Salvation): Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 15:11 (Salvation): But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Galatians 3:22 (Faith): But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

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