



What About Death Bed Conversions

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At some point in time, we all have heard of someone claiming a person was saved just moments or hours before they departed from this life by simply confessing Jesus as their

Savior. However, are such examples a pattern that can be safely followed? Let us look at what God has said in His Word.

First and foremost, we must understand that Jesus is the only means of salvation (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, II Timothy 2:10). We must be willing to put our own will to the side and follow the instructions given by Jesus. God has always demanded absolute obedience to His Will! Hebrews 5:9 states, “And being made perfect, he {Jesus} became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey** him.” If it is the case that someone who is standing at death’s chilling door, obeys “from the heart” (in other words, sincerely and honestly) all the commandments given by Jesus, then that person can be saved. We must also remember that God knows the heart and intent of all people. We may be able to fool other people, but we will NEVER fool God!

If the person who is facing death truly has faith that Jesus is the Christ (John 8:24), repents of their sins (Luke 13:3), confesses that Jesus is the Christ (Matthew 10:32-33), and is baptized (by immersion into water) to have their sins washed away (forgiven), then they can obtain the salvation from their past sins and eternal salvation when this life is over. Too often men have minimized Jesus command for baptism as unnecessary for salvation. Jesus still commanded it as a necessary step in order to obtain salvation. We cannot eliminate it, even if it is inconvenient.

In Matthew 20:1-16, Jesus spoke in a parable of a householder who went out at various times to hire people to labor in his vineyard. All who were hired agreed to work for a certain amount; from those who were first hired unto those who entered in the “eleventh hour.” This

parable illustrates that no matter what point we enter into the Lord's church, if we are honest and meet all the requirements to work (obey His commandments), then we can have the reward of heaven. However, we must also remember that this is not a reason to procrastinate obeying God's Commandments until the last minute, for we do not know when our last day will be. Many good, moral people have departed this life unprepared to stand before God in judgment (having never obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ). Why don't you obey His will before it is too late?

If you would like to know more about the commandments of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that will wash away your sins and put you into the church that belongs to Him, or if you would like to enroll in a **FREE** in-home Bible study or in a correspondence course by mail (no cost or obligation to you), please return this coupon to: Back To The Bible, 221 Barnett Street, West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit us online at: www.wjchurchofchrist.org.

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