

If I Believe, Will My Household be Saved?
An Alternative View on Acts 16:31
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William D Pratney

Acts 16:30-31

A jailor falls down before Paul and Silas, and says, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?
And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Instead of reading it as, "If you (singular) believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, not only will you but also your entire house be saved." as it is so commonly read among Reformed Theological believers, what if instead, it was read as follows:

"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (thee and thy house), and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." For the exhortation to believe is not limited to the jailor alone, but room is given in the phrasing to include his house in the exhortation to believe as a condition.

This is more easily seen by taking the NKJV, "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." and rearranging the txt order:

"You and your household, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." When put like that, it almost sounds the *other* way around: i.e. if you and your household believes, you (singular) will be saved. Obviously, this is not the case. The case then, is as I'm endeavoring to show, which is:

"You and your household, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you [all] will be saved."

For, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Verse 33 tells us that both the jailor and his household were baptized, and verse 34 tells us that the jailor rejoiced, "believing with all his household."

The theology that one man can believe in Christ and thereby his household can be saved on the basis of his belief alone does not line-up with the general tenor of scripture. i.e. an individual cannot produce saving faith (i.e. "believe") for another individual's salvation. (See Ezekiel 18)

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