

Visualized Bible Study

Part 4-c

God's Plan for Redeeming Man.

This is 3rd of 3 parts 4a/b/c.

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IS IT POSSIBLE for a person to know
whether or not he actually **is a Christian**,
and that God has added him to

THE ASSEMBLY/ FAMILY/ KINGDOM of God?

In other words, **is it possible** for him to know
just **how near** he is to being saved?

The Bible answers, "Yes."

2 Timothy 1:12; 1 John 2:3; 3:14;

A graphic featuring a lightbulb shape in the center. The text "IS IT POSSIBLE" is written in large, bold, black capital letters across the top of the lightbulb. Below it, the text "to Know?" is written in a smaller, black, lowercase font. The background of the graphic is a gradient of colors, including red, orange, and green.

WE CAN LEARN IN WHAT STATE

we **stand in relation to salvation** in precisely the same way that **a cross-country traveller** can determine whether he is in California, Florida or some point in between.

With a **road map** the traveller can determine not only the **proper route** to follow but also the **distance he has already travelled** and **how far he must go to reach his destination.**



AS THE TRAVELLER CONTINUES
on his way from California to Florida,
he expects to receive different answers to
the same question, **"How far is it to Florida?"**



In California someone answers,
“**2,310 miles** to Florida.”



In Utah, the answer is,
“**1,840 miles** to Florida.”

**In Oklahoma, Still a different answer is given
“960 miles to Florida.”**



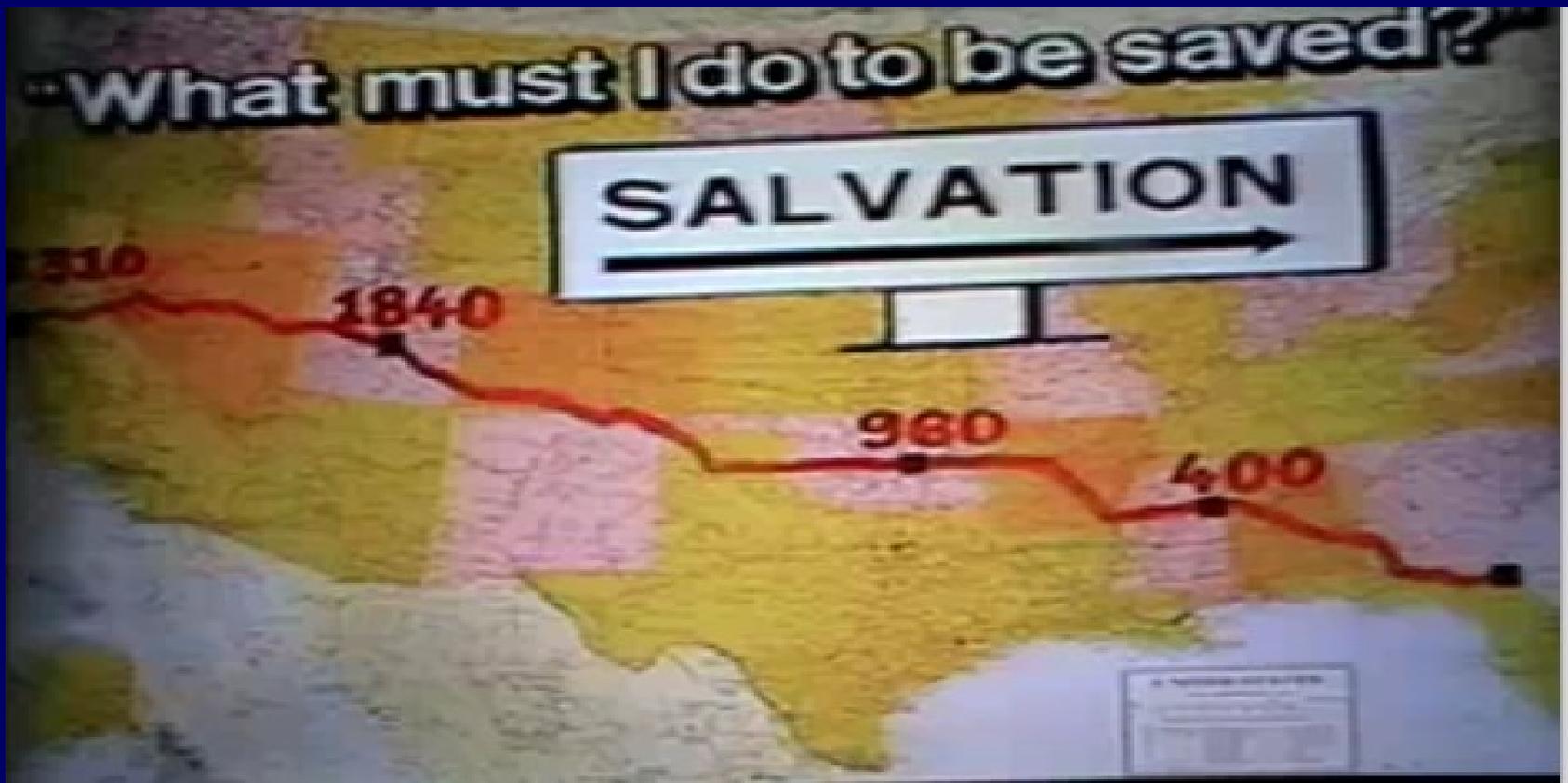
**In Mississippi the traveller is told,
“400 miles to Florida.”**

The traveller is not disturbed
over receiving **different answers**
to his **same question**,
“How far is it to Florida?”

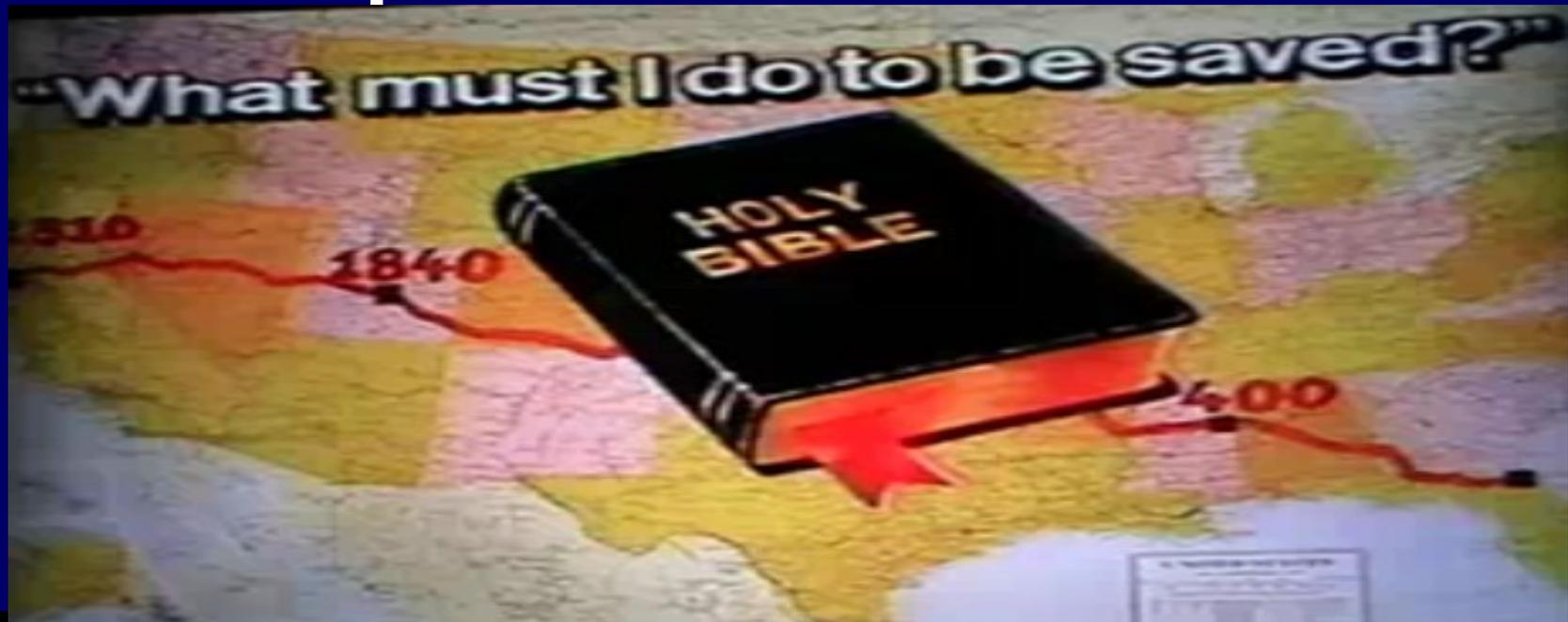
The **different answers**
show that **at each point**
he has moved
closer to his destination.



IN THE SAME WAY
as a person travels toward salvation,
different answers will be given
to the same question,
"What must I do to be saved?"



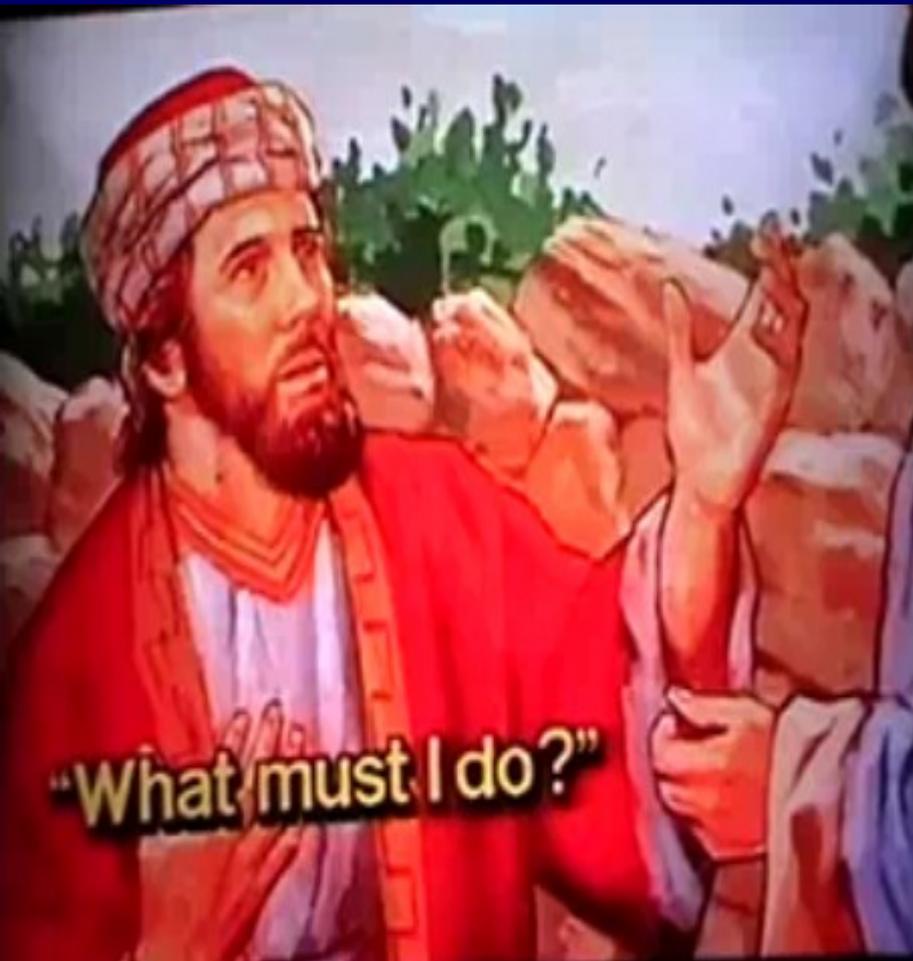
**The answer to this question
always depends
on just how near
the questioner is to salvation.**



**This can be determined only by consulting
God's spiritual map, the Bible.**

I Psalms 119:105;

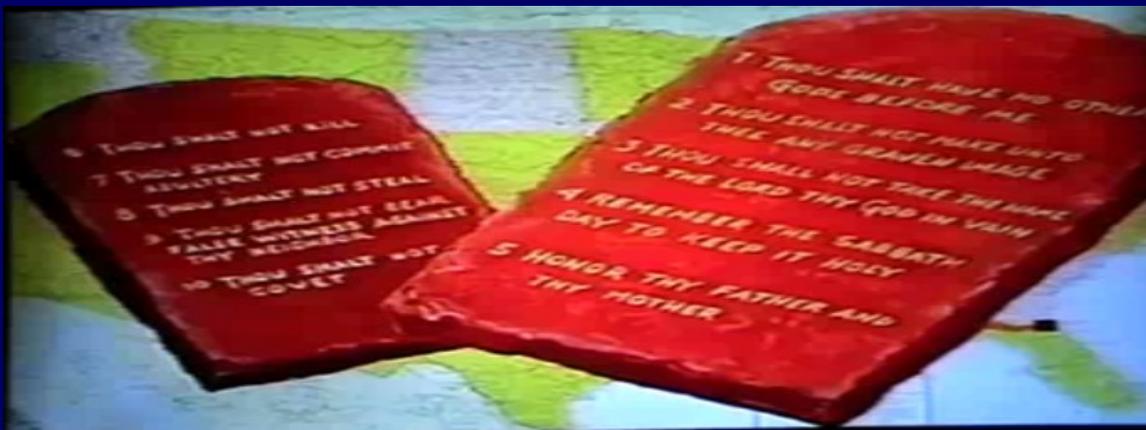
JESUS POINTED the rich young ruler to the Scriptures in answer to his question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”



Since the **Old Testament Law** was then **in effect**, Jesus' answer to this young ruler was to keep the **commandments of the Law of Moses.**

Jesus' answer was appropriate because the **Old Testament Law of Moses** was **God's only spiritual map** until the **Saviour died on the cross.**

Luke 18:18-27;



AT THE END OF JESUS LIFE ON EARTH
when **He hung on the cross**
between two thieves,
the Old Testament was STILL in effect.



When one of the thieves
Showed an interest in salvation,
Jesus answered him,
“Today you shall be with me in paradise.”
(Luke 23:43;)

This answer is different
from the answer Christ
has given for us today.

Because the thief lived and died
under the Law of Moses
before New Testament Law
came into effect. Heb 9:14-17;

This is why **Jesus' answer** to the penitent thief **did not include New Testament baptism.**

After all, how could anyone have been **buried in baptism with Christ** before **Christ, Himself, had been buried in the tomb?**

Colossians 2:12-14;

**The thief LIVED and DIED
under the Law of Moses**

**Before Christ gave the great commission
Matt 28:18-20 Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47;**

**“that repentance and forgiveness of sins
should be preached in His name to all
the nations beginning at Jerusalem.”**

God by His Grace (unmerited favour) has supplied the means of our salvation through the **Death Burial and Resurrection of Jesus.**

But we who recognize we are sinners in need of salvation, need to respond to this message of grace in the way that Christ has decreed.

To enable us to be saved by God's Grace

We need to be

“born again of water and Spirit.” John 3:3-5;

by being having our sins

“washed away by the blood of the lamb.”

Revelation 1:5;

SINCE JESUS HAS DIED for our sins,
the man in the "lost state,"
as represented in the chart, must **look**
in the **New Testament** for his answer to the
question, "What must I do to be saved?"



Since this man
Begins his spiritual journey
as an **“unbeliever,”**

The **answer for him** at this point
will be **the same as that given**
to the unbelieving Philippian jailer,
“Believe on the Lord Jesus.”

Acts 16:31; John 8:24;

An unbeliever must first be told to BELIEVE.

THE MAN COMES INTO THIS "STATE" when he believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

IMPORTANT
QUESTION

AT WHAT POINT ARE SINS
FORGIVEN?



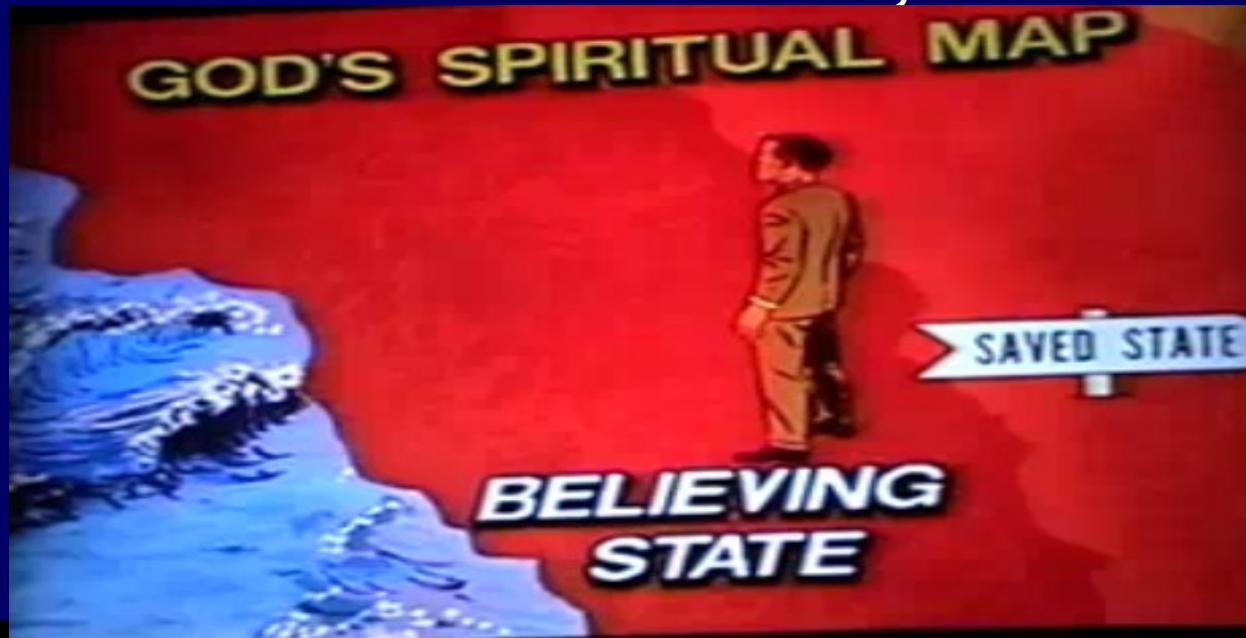
believe
hear

TIME LINE

OLD MAN
(LOST IN SIN)

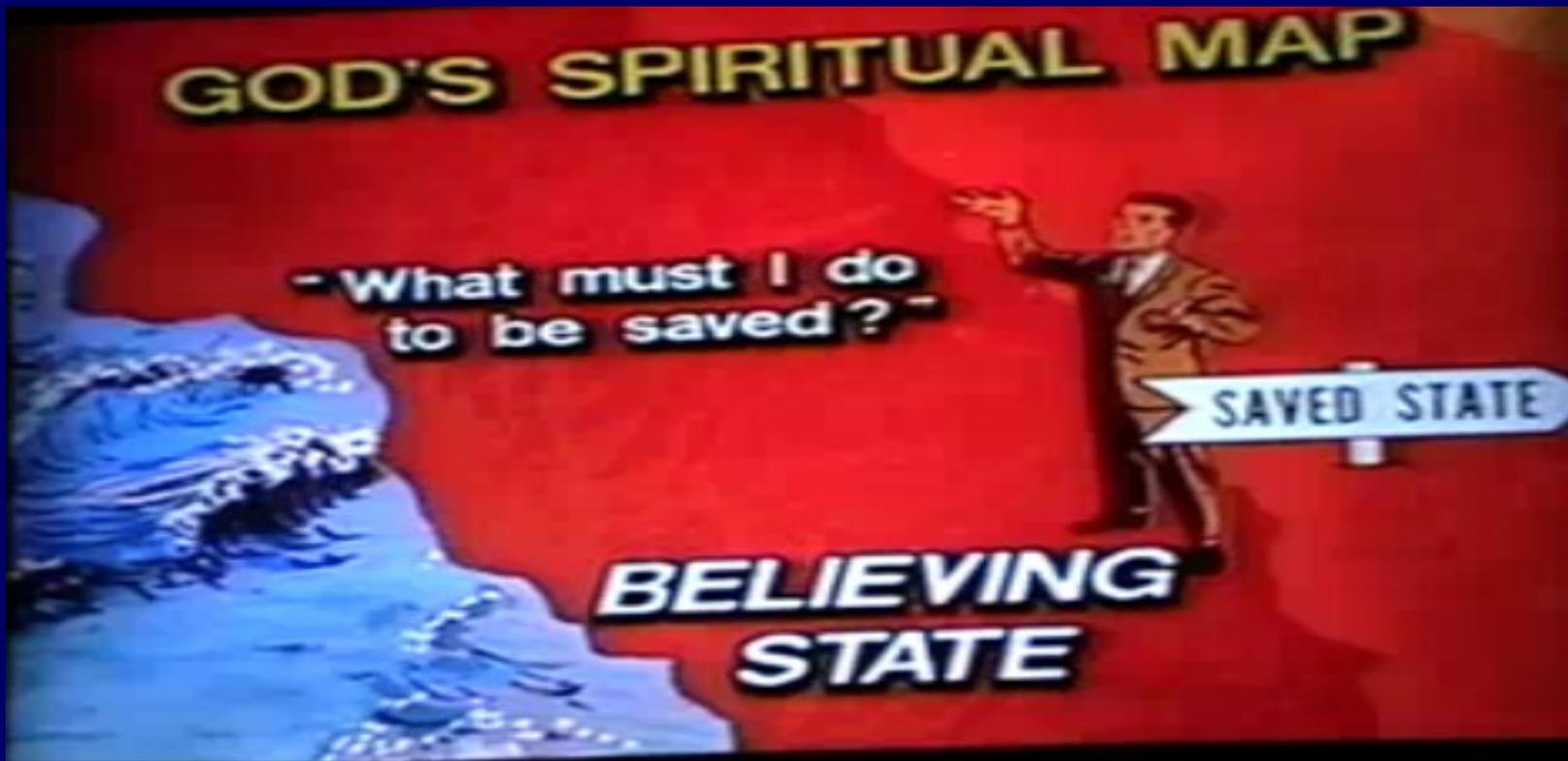
Belief can come only through
hearing or reading
the Sword of the Spirit - Word of God.

Romans 10:17;



Unfortunately, **many people live and die**
in the “believing state”
mistakenly feeling that they are saved.

When they consult their spiritual road map more carefully, they see that their faith must move them over several milestones before reaching the "saved state" which leads to eternal life.

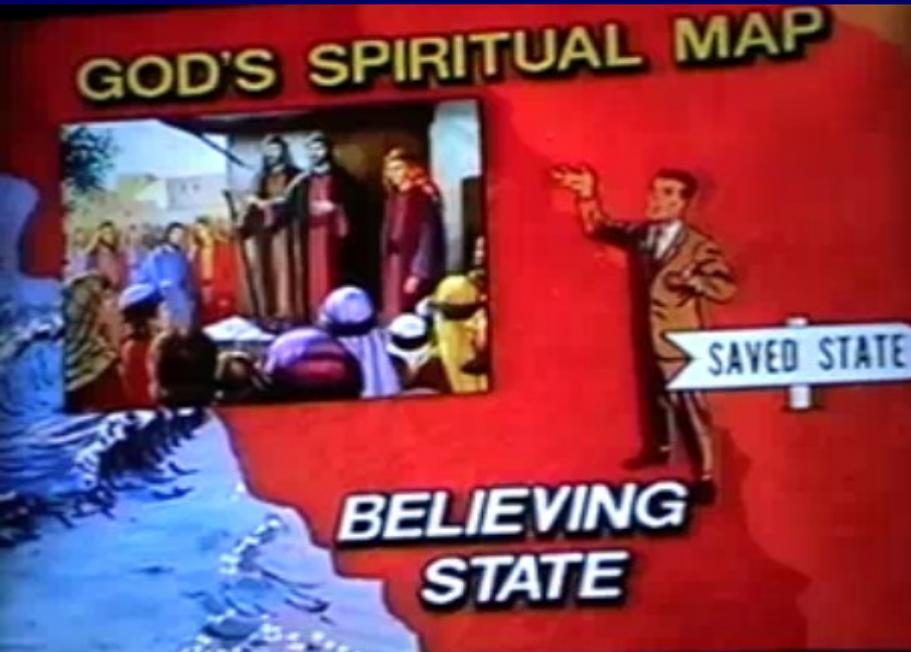


The man in the “believing state”
still must ask,
“What must I do to be saved?”

Since the believer is nearer salvation
than when he was an unbeliever,
his answer will be different.

This is illustrated by the events
on the Day of Pentecost when believers
were told what to do to be saved.

ON THIS DAY which we have already studied, several thousand Jews believed Peter's message as he preached a sermon proving Jesus to be the Son of God.



After they obviously believed Peter's message they still asked, "What shall we do?" Peter's answer was, "Repent and be baptized."

**This answer is appropriate
only for those who have come
all the way into the believing state.**

Acts 2:36-38;

**Jesus said in Luke 24:47;
“With my authority, take this
MESSAGE OF REPENTANCE
to all the nations,
beginning in Jerusalem:
'There is forgiveness of sins
for all who turn to me.**

THE BELIEVER WHO REPENTS moves into what might be called “**the turning state.**” Before he can be baptized, **the believer must repent**, that is, **turn from sin** and determine to **turn back** to **yield his entire life to God.**



Repentance takes place
in the mind of the sinner,
while forgiveness of sins
takes place in the mind of God.

**IMPORTANT
QUESTION**

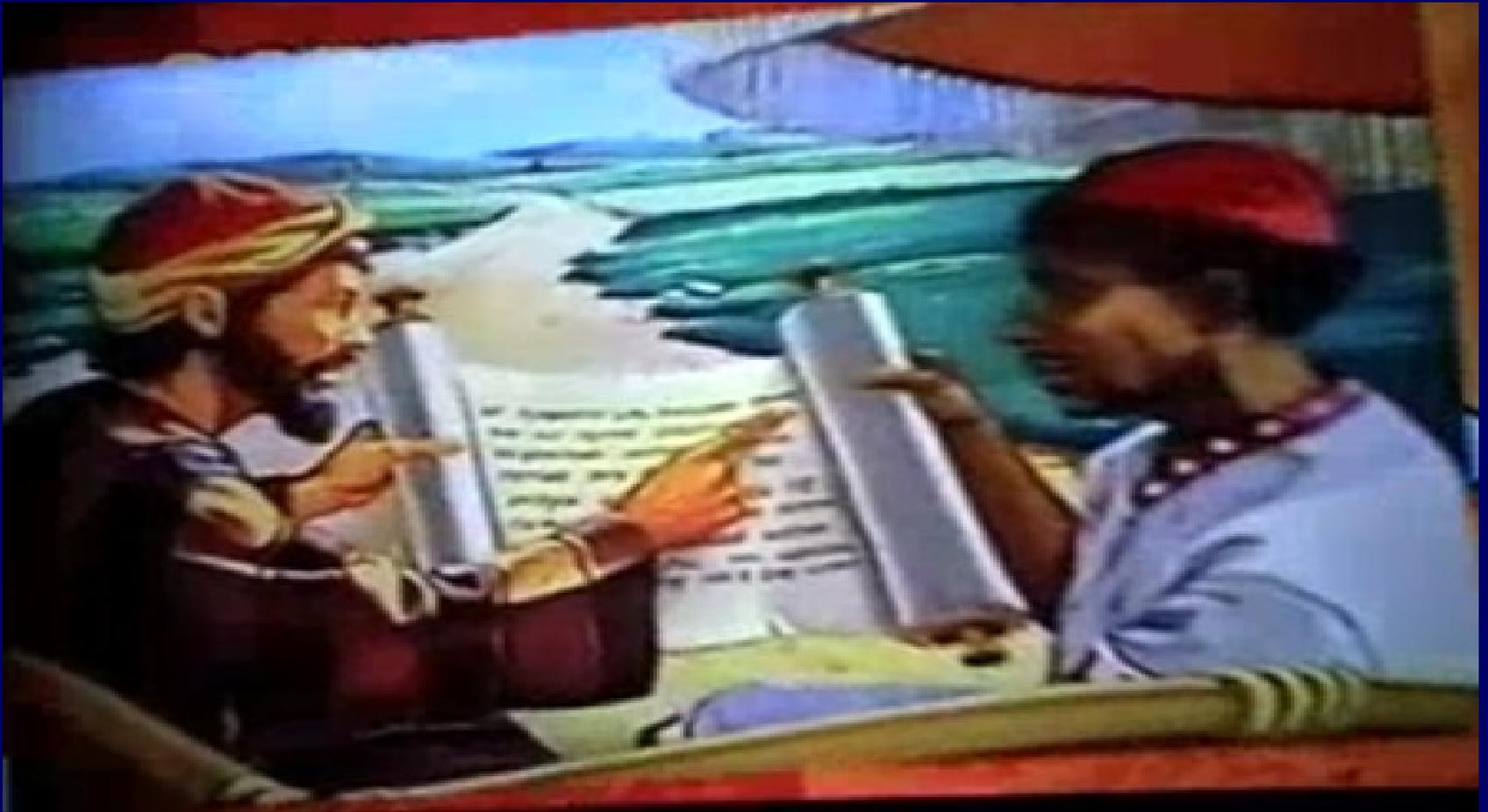
**AT WHAT POINT ARE SINS
FORGIVEN?**



**OLD MAN
(LOST IN SIN)**

Therefore, while **REPENTANCE**
moves one nearer to salvation,
the penitent believer
must still ask,
“What must I do to be saved?”

THE ETHIOPIAN TREASURER
for example, had **believed**
Philip's message about Jesus.



Since he showed **his willingness to repent and yield himself to the Lord,** the **question he asked** was appropriate.

“So they proceeded on their way till they came to some water; and the eunuch exclaimed, **"See, here is water; what is there to prevent my being baptized?"**”

And **Philip** answered,

"If you believe with all your heart, you may."

The **Ethiopian treasurer** replied,

"I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Acts 8:26-39;

This is yet another answer to the same basic question, **"What must I do to be saved?"**

Notice that each **Bible answer** takes into account **the spiritual progress** of the person **as he moves toward salvation.**

**WHEN THE TREASURER
CONFESSED his FAITH IN JESUS,
he moved into what may be called
the “telling state.”**



At this stage of spiritual progress,
the believer is eager for others to know
of his faith in Jesus as God's Son.

**IMPORTANT
QUESTION**

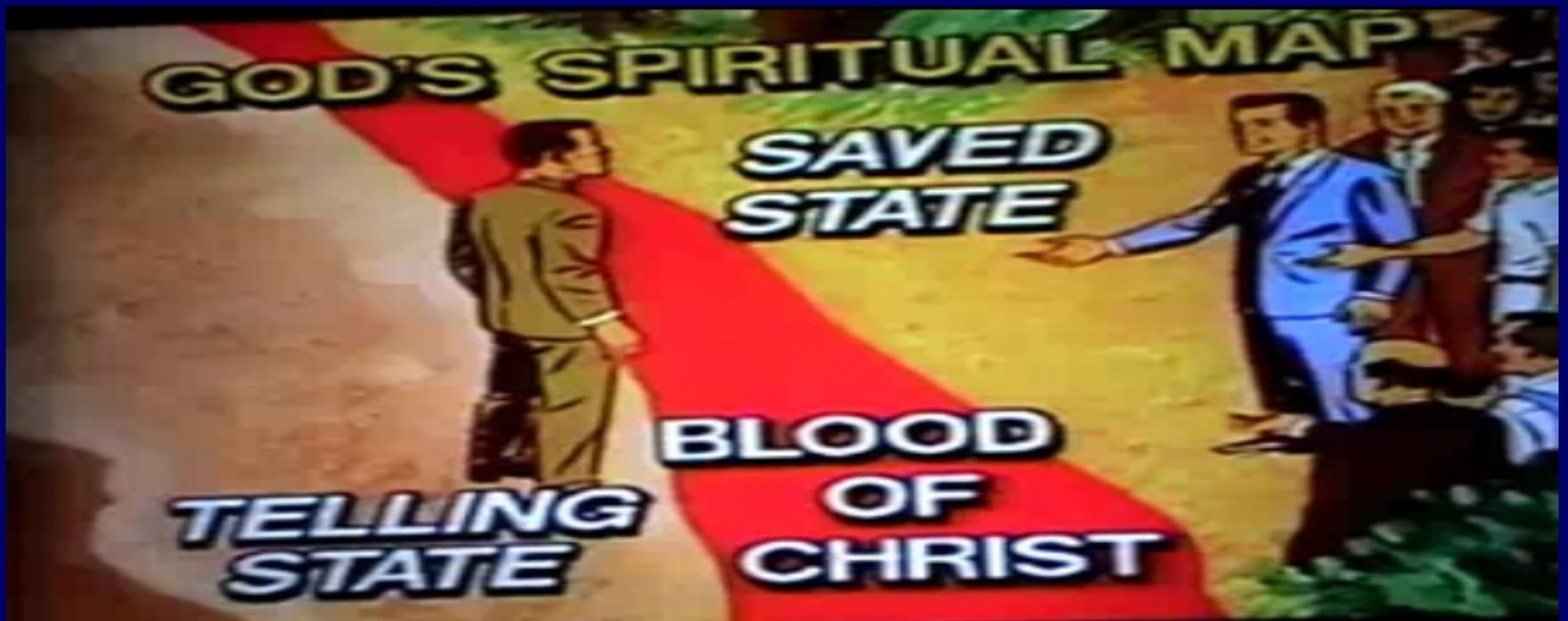
**AT WHAT POINT ARE SINS
FORGIVEN?**



**Romans 10:10; says, "for with the heart
man believes unto righteousness;
and with the mouth
confession is made unto salvation.**

**THE BELIEVER WHO HAS CONFESSED
Jesus as the Son of God
still has not reached the “saved state.”**

**The blood of Jesus is the dividing line
between members of CHRIST'S FAMILY
and those who are still unsaved.**



**Only the blood of Jesus
can wash away sins and bring
a person into the saving grace of God.**



Therefore, the **same basic question**
must again be asked,
“What must I do to be saved?”

The **answer** to the **believer**
who has **repented** and **confessed Christ**
is found in Acts 22:16;
**“Arise, and be Baptized,
and wash away your sins.”**
Acts 2:38; 8:36; 10:48; Matthew 7:21;

SINCE JESUS PROMISED

"He that believes and is baptized shall be saved," the traveller now enters the "saved state" which leads to eternal life.

IMPORTANT QUESTION

AT WHAT POINT ARE SINS FORGIVEN?

Washed in the BLOOD

**SINS FORGIVEN
RECEIVE
INDWELLING
HOLY SPIRIT**

SAVED

**NEW MAN
(REBORN
IN CHRIST)**

**be baptized
confess
repent**

believe

hear

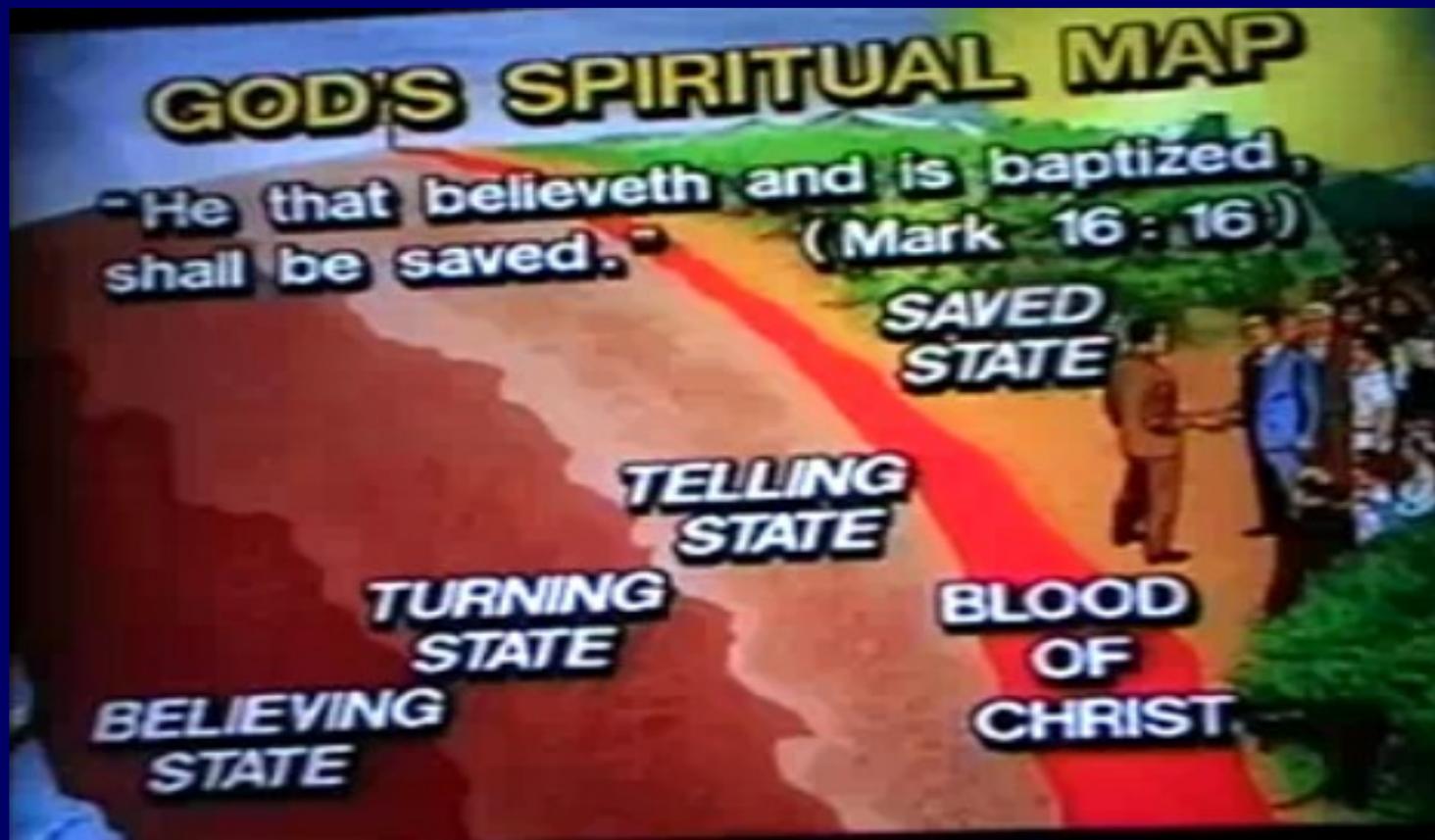
TIME LINE

**OLD MAN
(LOST IN SIN)**

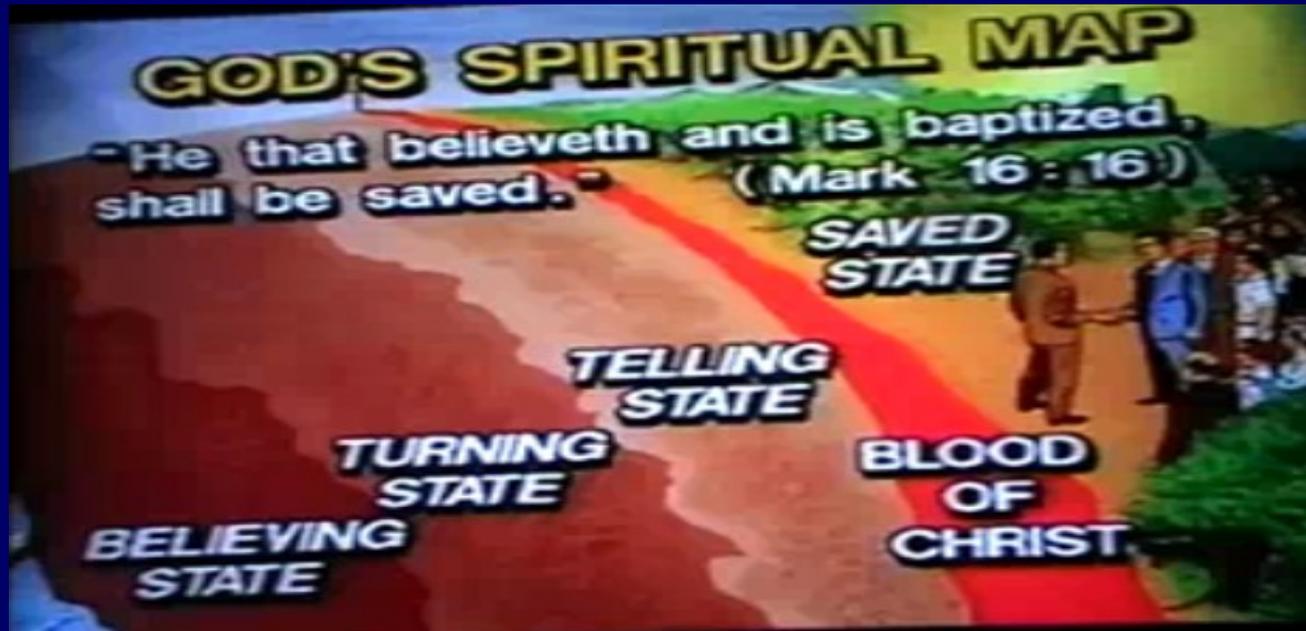
**Saved by God's Grace
Through the Blood of Jesus**

This is **THE ASSEMBLY, GOD'S KINGDOM**, for **God adds** all saved people to **HIS FAMILY**.

Without the **GRACE** and **LOVE OF GOD** and **SACRIFICE OF JESUS BLOOD**, there could be no **"SAVED STATE."**



Having followed **God's spiritual map**
through **BELIEF, REPENTANCE,**
CONFESSION OF FAITH and **BAPTISM**
Enabling access to the **BLOOD OF JESUS**
the man can **know** he is in the "**saved state**",



NOT through **HIS OWN MERITS**
but by **THE GRACE OF GOD.**

**For baptism to be valid,
one must believe before baptism that
Jesus' blood can save him and believe
after baptism that the blood has saved him.**

Hebrews 9:12-14; Acts 8:36-37; Romans 6:3-4, 17-18;

**IMPORTANT
QUESTION**

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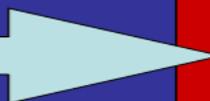
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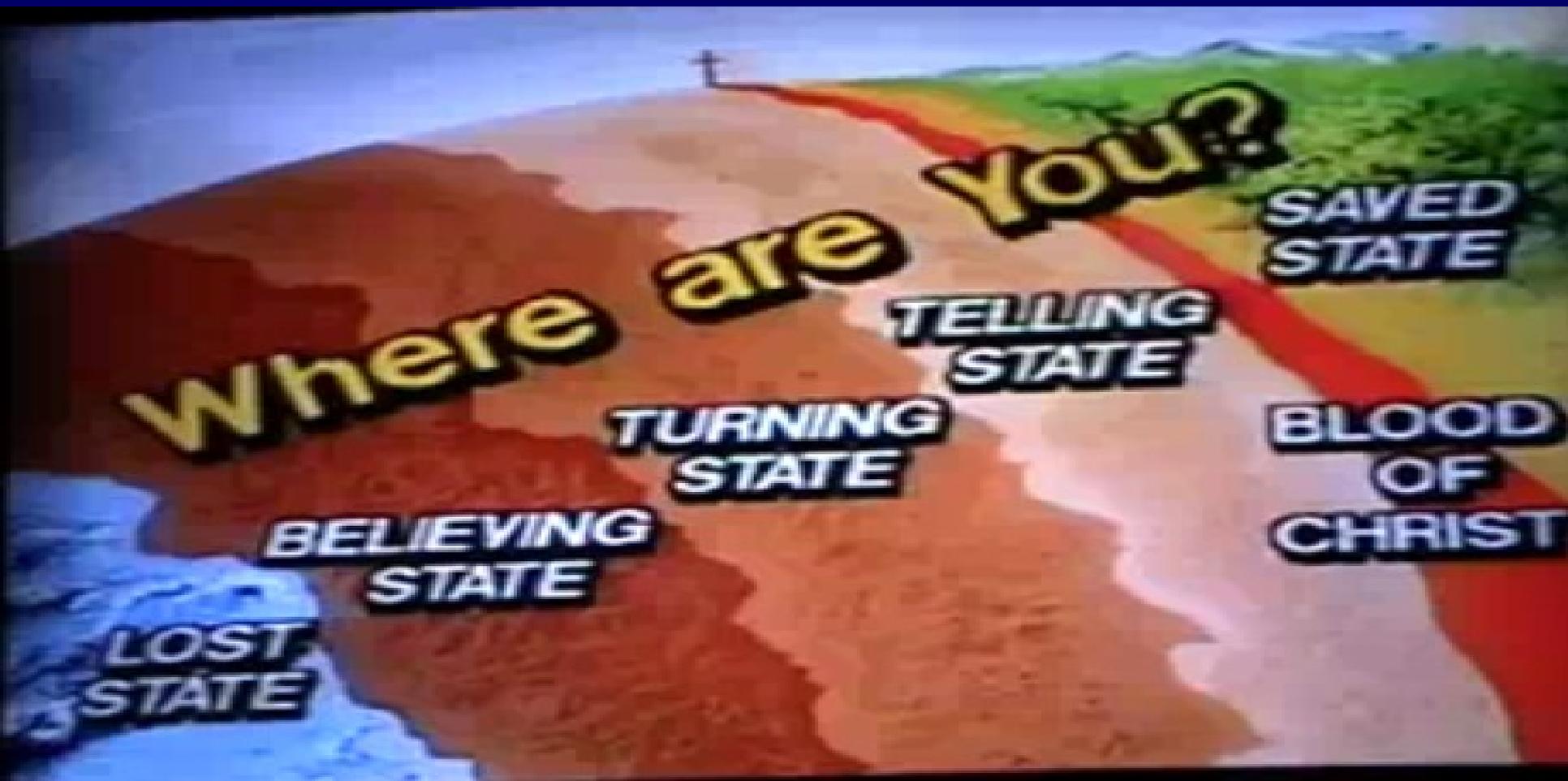
The **saved person** is now ready,
with the **help from fellow Christians**
and **his Heavenly Father**,
to begin **living the Christian life**.

The **hope of eternal life**
now becomes
an **anchor for the soul**.

Acts 2:47; 2 Titus 3:5; ' Hebrews 6:19-20;

No one can reach the "**saved state**"
through his own **MERIT** or **WORKS** of law.

WHERE ARE YOU SPIRITUALLY? In what state are you living? You have learned from God's Word that if you believe in Jesus as God's Son, you are in the "believing state."

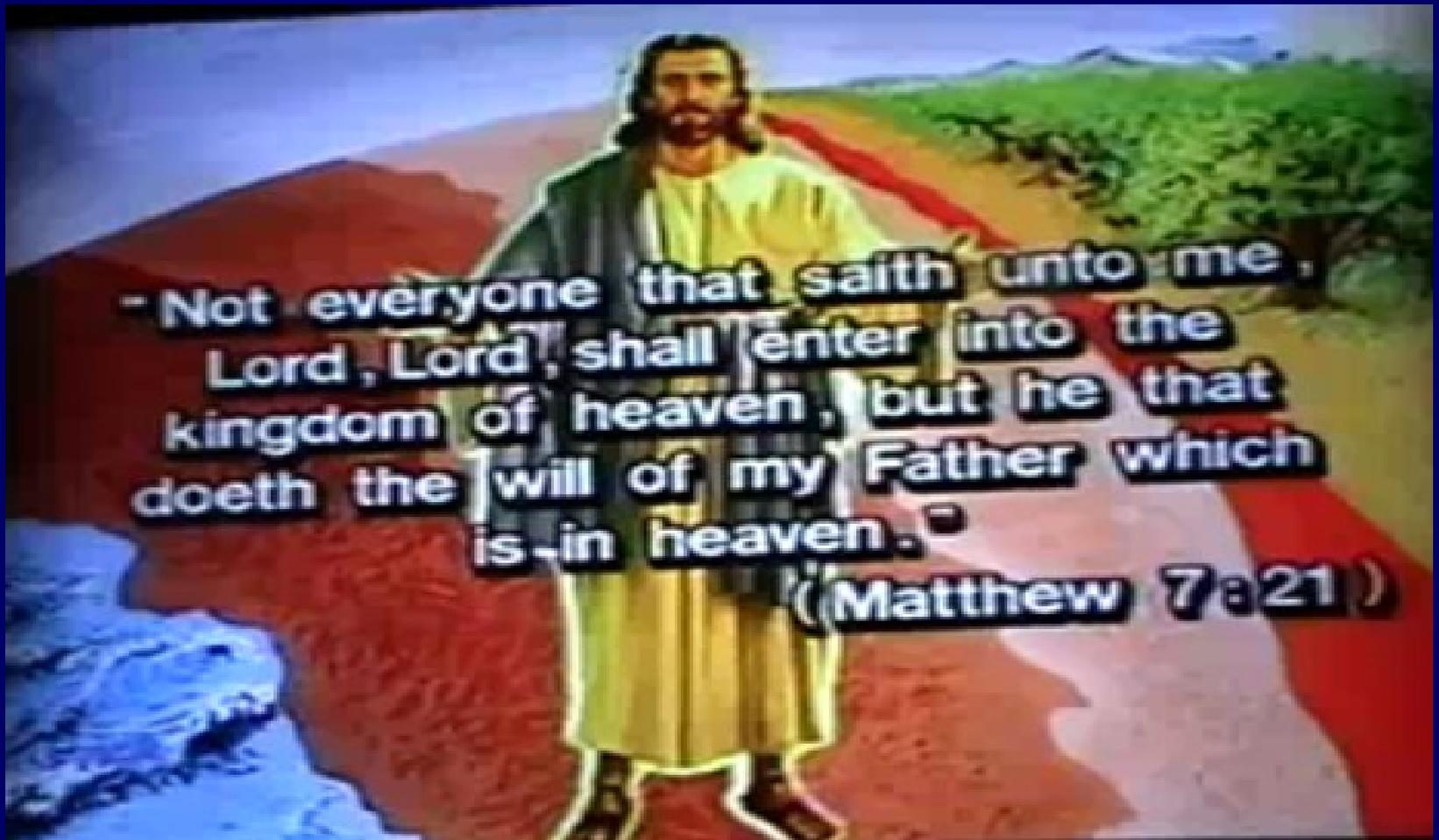


If your faith has led you to turn from sin
and **turn back towards God,**
you are in the **“turning state.”**

If you are eager now
to confess your faith in Christ,
only one thing
stands between you and salvation,
You need cleansing by the BLOOD of Christ.

Where you are at this moment
could well determine
where you will be throughout eternity.

JESUS SAID “Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but **he that does the will of my Father** which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21;)



**It is God's will that you be saved.
He sent His Son to make it possible.**

**He gave His inspired word to show the way.
He holds out His promise to encourage you.**

**JESUS is waiting for YOU
to SURRENDER YOUR LIFE
completely TO HIM.**

**The choice,
the final decision, must be yours.**

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Next in the series:-

Part 5:- God's People through history.