

8. **Salvation During Covenants Before Christianity** How were the faithful from Adam and Eve to Abraham, those during Patriarchy, and those during 1,500 years of the Hebrew Dispensation saved? The answer: By the blood of Christ. We know (Heb 10:4) “it is _____ that the blood of _____ and of _____ should take away sins.” The Hebrew writer (9:26) wrote: “but now once in the _____ of the _____ hath he appeared to _____ by the sacrifice of himself.” Only the blood of Jesus can wash away sins. He died (9:15) “for the _____ of the transgressions that were under the _____ testament.”
9. **How Did It Work?** Obedience is always required. If they were faithful in compliance to whatever covenant they lived under, the blood of Jesus saved them just as it saves us today when we are obedient to the gospel of Christ. That’s how it worked then and works now. Whether the thief on the cross had ever been faithful to the Law of Moses, or received the baptism of John, is immaterial. The blood of Jesus Christ saved him just as it saved “them” and now saves us. Jesus (Rev 1:5) “_____ us, and _____ us from our _____ in his own blood.” Salvation has never been automatic. It has conditions imposed by God.
10. **Conditions Of Salvation** By conditions we mean steps to be taken, things to do. If there were no conditions everyone would automatically go to heaven. Think about it! One similar condition throughout time is that faith in God be manifested. (Heb 11:6) “But without _____ it is _____ to _____ him.” The thief on the cross met this test as did the ancients under Patriarchy and Moses, and just as we must meet it today. No one has ever been saved without faith. (Eph 2:8) “By _____ are ye saved _____ faith” and (Jas 2:24) “that by _____ a man is justified, and _____ by faith _____.” Remember, (Jn 6:29) “This is the _____ of God, that ye _____ on him whom he hath _____.”
11. **What Many Say** It doesn’t matter what the masses say. Jesus plainly stated (Mt 7:21) that “not every one that saith unto me, _____, _____ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven” and (V14) “narrow is the _____, which leadeth unto life, and _____ there be that find it.” Many try to make the case (#1) that one is saved only by faith alone and (#2) baptism is not essential to salvation. They cite the thief on the cross. That example fails because (a) it happened under a different covenant and can’t apply today, and (b) they cannot prove that he wasn’t baptized with John’s baptism, the only viable baptism at the time. It would be much easier for all of us to accept Bible truth.
12. **What Can A Poor Gentile Do?** Your editor is not Jewish. Are you? _____ One is a Jew or a Gentile in the biblical language of the First Century AD. One had to be a physical Jew to come under the umbrella of the Law of Moses. The thief on the cross lived under that law. Only under the Christian law did Paul write (Gal 3:28) that “there is neither _____ nor _____, there is neither _____ nor _____, there is neither _____ nor _____: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” This is in the spiritual sense, of course, since we still have male and female Christians in the flesh. It is certain that if the thief on the cross is an example for us today it was an example from (Eph 2:15) a covenant that Jesus “abolished in his _____” and no longer applies, not even to Jews.
13. **The NT Plan Is Clear** God’s people once (Ex 18:12) made “a _____ offering” and (1 Chr 23:13) served “to burn _____ before the LORD.” They took different kinds of unleavened bread (Ex 29:23) and waved it back and forth “for a _____ before the LORD.” We know that’s not commanded under Christ’s NT law. Why do folks try to drag the thief on the cross from the Old Law into a Christian setting where he doesn’t belong?
14. **Does Jesus Need Our Contributions To His Doctrine?** If we *add* something to what God (Jude 3) “once _____ unto the saints” our mindset is blatant rejection of the fact that (2 Pet 1:3) “his divine _____ hath given unto us _____ that pertain unto _____ and godliness.” Are you content to let Jesus handle the thief on the cross? _____ Your own life? _____