



Paul and Silas were jailed in Philippi. The prisoners listened as they prayed and sang hymns. But the jailer slept – until an earthquake rocked the prison and loosed all the prisoners!

Knowing he would be put to death if his prisoners escaped, the jailer was about to kill himself. But Paul stopped him: “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here” (Acts 16:28 NKJV). The prisoners were unshackled, but miraculously none escaped!

This brought the jailer to his knees before Paul and Silas: “What must I do to be saved?” He was sure he’d have to do something. Their answer really surprised him: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved” (Acts 16:30-31).

Like that jailer, many people think they must do something to earn salvation. But

the Bible says, “By grace you have been saved through faith ... it is *the gift of God*, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). It also says, “the wages of sin is death, but *the gift of God* is eternal life in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:23).

Are you like that jailer, thinking you have to pay the penalty for your sins? God says, “The blood of Jesus Christ ... cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

God gives you the same good news He gave that Philippian jailer: salvation is based on belief, not works. You cannot work for the gift of eternal life – it’s free!

Admitting that you are a sinner in need of salvation, all you have to do to be saved is believe that the blood of Jesus saves you. Like the Philippian jailer, will you do it right now?
—*L. J. Ondrejack*