

## **“If and Only If...”**

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The title above expresses a formula in logic and mathematics regarding compound statements (biconditionals). The formula (abbrev. as *IFF*) applies only when (i.e., “if and only if”) both statements are of exactly the same “truth value.” The *IFF* formula is a powerful way of expressing propositional facts and truths that are incontrovertible.

The New Testament contains numerous statements that readily lend themselves to this formula, but which men deny or ignore on a large scale. Consider the following:

- **“Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins”** (John 8:24). One will avoid dying in sin **if and only if** one believes in Jesus’ Sonship and Deity. Those who deny that Jesus is the only begotten of the Father will be lost.
- **“Except ye repent, ye shall all...perish”** (Luke 13:3). One will avoid perishing (eternally) **if and only if** one repents of his sins. Those who continue in sin will be lost eternally.
- **“Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”** (John 3:5). One may/can enter into God’s kingdom (either its earthly or heavenly state) **if and only if** one is born of water and the Spirit. Jesus will deliver up to God in His eternal heavenly kingdom only those who are in His kingdom here below (1 Cor. 15:24).
- **“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”** (Mark 16:16a). One will be saved **if and only if** one believes the Gospel and is baptized according to New Testament teaching. All others will not be saved (i.e., they will be lost).
- **“Repent ye and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins”** (Acts 2:38). One will receive remission (forgiveness) of sins **if and only if** one repents of his sins and is baptized according to New Testament teaching. Those who come to the Judgment with unforgiven sins will be lost.
- **“He [Jesus] became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation”** (Heb. 5:9). One will receive eternal salvation **if and only if** one obeys Jesus Christ. It is not enough merely to believe in Him; our salvation depends upon obeying Him.
- **“Be baptized and wash away thy sins”** (Acts 22:16). One’s sins are washed away (i.e., forgiven) **if and only if** one is baptized according to New Testament teaching. Baptism is the God-ordained act in which one is cleansed of sin through the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5).

These are but a few of such statements indicating immutable Truth concerning eternal salvation from and damnation because of sin.

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