

**Are  
you  
lost?**

**A**

**Admit you're a sinner**

**B**

**Believe in Jesus**

**C**

**Call on His name**



## Where this formula falls short...

- The fact that the language is drawn from scriptures that include baptism is just a touch ironic. Notice Acts 22:16, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:37-38, 16:30-34).
- A lot of it comes down to a misconception about the nature of baptism. Is it a work I do? Or a work God does to me? Titus 3:3-8 answers this question. "Calling on the name of Jesus" involves following Him down the path He prescribes. I do not call someone using the wrong number, or a remote control instead of a phone!
- Does this mean we are "making salvation harder" by supposedly adding conditions to it? Shouldn't salvation be as easy as the road sign or pamphlet? Remember that Jesus never framed salvation in this way. In fact, many who employed "the name" will be turned away because they did not obey (Matthew 7:15-23). Discipleship involves a total change, a rebirth, as Jesus explained to Nicodemus (John 3).



A stack of three wooden blocks. The top block is light-colored wood with a large red letter 'A' on its front face. The middle block is also light-colored wood with a large yellow letter 'B' on its front face. The bottom block is light-colored wood with a large green letter 'C' on its front face.

**A**

**B**

**C**

## **What rebirth involves . . .**

- Rather than easy formulas, rituals, or pamphlet mantras, Jesus Christ challenges us with cross-carrying, alienation from the world, and learning to give up everything (Matthew 10). While it's true that He also says, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light", that is only in comparison to the massive weight we carry because of our sins.
- Grace is free, but it is only accessible to those who have a wholehearted willingness to be hewn, melted, and molded by God. The old "me" must die to make way for the "new creature", and this only happens in baptism.
- Romans 6, Colossians 2:12-13, Ephesians 2:1-10
- Giving people only the first steps in the process, while seemingly obscuring the most important part of the transformation, leaves people as ill-equipped as only teaching the first three letters of the alphabet!