

Article of the Month
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Universal Salvationism? ***NO!***

Sometimes people are not careful readers. It has come to our attention that some who have read this website have concluded that it teaches what is commonly called “Universal Salvation.” Universal salvation is the doctrine which teaches that no one will be lost. Sometimes the teaching is carried even to the extreme that says the devil, himself, will be saved. Let it be known in no uncertain terms that we do not subscribe to such a doctrine. The Bible teaches with clarity that some humans and some in the spiritual realm will end up in extinction — oblivion for eternity.

A related absurdity to universal salvation is that multitudes will live in eternity without salvation — subject to unspeakable tortures, a punishment which clearly cannot fit any crime! This criminal doctrine of eternal torment, which blasphemes the name of God, comes from the first lie: “Thou shalt not surely die.” Unfortunately, mankind’s religions have, almost without exception, subscribed to this lie. It is based on the error that we have immortal, and, therefore, indestructible souls — things that go on for eternity without the possibility of destruction. My! What perversions of thought the human mind can conceive!

SALVATION’S CONCEPTS

God, in His unimaginable omniscience, knew that if He created intelligent beings with the freedom of choice, that these beings would learn **ONLY BY EXPERIENCE** what is involved when God’s laws are broken. But God wants obedience **NOT** by force, but by choice. There remained no option but to create free moral beings and then to **PERMIT** the horrible experience with evil. Thus, in the end, these intelligent creatures would be informed via experience with evil. They would be, consequently, free to choose life and obedience because it is the best thing to do.

Nevertheless, God needed to impress with clarity that the only option to life and obedience is **DEATH**. And God’s justice is something which can never be violated. He cannot lie or deny His own perfect attributes of Wisdom, Justice, Love and Power. When man was condemned to death, the punishment would have been irrevocable **UNLESS** a way were provided by which the death sentence could be paid for. This is the Scriptural doctrine of “The Ransom for All.” (I Timothy 2:3-6) We are not **EXCUSED**

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from the death penalty imposed on Adam and his race; we are RANSOMED from it. Jesus voluntarily gave his perfect human life IN EXCHANGE for the human life of Adam. Justice was maintained; but love will triumph! (I Corinthians 15:21, 22)

Jesus' ransom "for all" is just that — a release FOR ALL from the death sentence imposed in Eden. But this is not universal salvation. It is universal OPPORTUNITY for salvation. God wills that all men be "saved" FROM THE DEATH SENTENCE so that they will HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to choose life once they have learned the rules, benefits, and contingencies. (I Timothy 4:10 and 2:4.) It is clear in I Timothy 4:10 that THIS salvation (being saved from Adamic death) is for ALL — believers AND unbelievers alike.

The awakening of the dead and their subsequent instruction toward "resurrection" (a complete re-standing in righteous harmony with God) is during the thousand years of Christ's reign. (Acts 3:19-23; Revelation 20:1-3; 11-15) Both of these passages make it clear that those who THEN refuse to conform will be DESTROYED. No eternal universal salvation there!

It seems that a most-Scriptural delineation of the matter is this: ALL of humanity will be saved from the dying condition. But this does not give them a guaranteed life-salvation. That they must choose to attain. All who choose otherwise will be destroyed. God refuses (both justly and in love for His creatures) to let the horrors of disobedience be present in the eternity He has planned for all of His intelligent creation.