

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

DECEPTION IN THE END TIMES

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PART 1: TRUE & FALSE CONVERSION

THE CORE OF THE GOSPEL

In my 47 years as a Christian, I have witnessed scores of Christian friends get into false doctrine of different kinds. I am not talking about other religions like Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam but deviate forms of Christianity; Jesus made a statement that few Christians have understood concerning this departure:

“...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8b

Jesus was not speaking of personal faith but asking if the Gospel would still be preached when He came back. If we look at the verses after this statement, it becomes clear that this was not taken out of context. **verses 9-14**

Salvation in Christ is the core of the Gospel.

TAMPERING WITH THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

Let me begin with the worst type of deviation of false doctrine which is fatal to the person developing it and to the people who buy into it. **Revelation 22:18-21**

1. The doctrine of salvation in Pentecostal churches teaches that you are saved by grace but you must work for it and stop sinning in order to keep it. If you sin, you will lose your salvation and need to be saved again. This keeps people in a terrible bondage and why so many people are saved every Sunday morning and then they come back the next Sunday to be saved again.
2. There is also the circular teaching that you must speak in tongues in order to be saved, you cannot speak in tongues unless you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, and if you do not speak in tongues, you are not saved. This is a fringe doctrine that is common in the United Pentecostal Churches and independent fringe Pentecostal churches like those following William Sowders (1879-1952) and others.
3. Ellen G. White of the Seventh Day Adventists taught that you had to keep the Sabbath on Saturdays, baptized in a SDA Church and be a vegetarian to be saved.
4. The different Catholic churches (Roman, Greek, Russian, etc.) teach that salvation is of the church and that membership in the church saves a person. To be a member, you must be baptized through sprinkling, go through confirmation, take communion, attend mass on Sundays, confess your sins to a priest on a regular basis and pray to Mary.



5. Then there are denominations and organizations like the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational Churches, the Salvation Army, etc. that have lost their way during the years. They are no longer the firebrands they once were in the 19th century. They no longer preach that people must be born again, but emphasize social outreaches, liberal causes, some accept homosexual clergy and even perform homosexual marriages. The common message is to become a good person and becoming a member of the church makes them a Christian.
6. Unitarian Churches do not believe in the divinity of Jesus and deny that salvation comes through Him. Carlton Pearson broke away from his Pentecostal roots in the last century when he declared hell to be non-existent. He believes in universal reconciliation, meaning that everyone will be saved and go to heaven. Evangelist and radio speaker Bob George teaches that a person is not saved by grace, but exclusively by faith. He believes that once you are saved, you don't need to ask God to forgive you of sins you might commit after salvation.

This is just a small sampling of false teaching on salvation. Having shown you some of the errors, let's examine biblical salvation step by step.

THERE MUST BE A SAVIOR

In order to receive salvation, there must be a Savior. God only offers one eternal Savior. **Hebrews 9:11-28**

NEW TESTAMENT SALVATION

Here is what the New Testament has to say about salvation:

1. The word "salvation" refers to being saved from Hell and the Lake of Fire. Any person who rejects the idea of Hell or a Lake of Fire has no need of salvation. **Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10-15**
2. Since all people living on earth will die and there actually is a Hell and a Lake of Fire, it is of great importance to tell them of the way to escape eternal damnation. Jesus said a person must be "born again." **John 3:1-8**
3. To be born again a person must believe that Jesus was the Messiah and took the punishment for sin on Himself. **verses 9-18**
4. How does a person become born again? The apostle Peter provided the answer. **Acts 3:19**
5. Repentance is the key to salvation. **Romans 10:1-13**
6. As many as receive Christ will become the sons of God. **John 1:12-13**
7. The penalty for sin was paid by Jesus Christ on the cross. Man cannot earn salvation through good works; it is a gift and comes by grace, not by works. **Ephesians 2:8-10**

It is faith in Jesus that makes it possible for a person to repent of their sins and trust in Jesus, who through grace, bestows salvation upon the person that calls upon His name.

STEPS TOWARD SALVATION

The following conditions must take place in order for you to be saved:

- ❖ You must believe that God exists.
- ❖ You must believe that the Bible is the Word of God.
- ❖ You must confess that you're a sinner, who needs to be saved from Hell and the Lake of Fire.
- ❖ You must believe that Jesus is the Son of God; He lived on the earth and was crucified and three days later was resurrected.
- ❖ You must believe that Jesus paid for the sins of mankind on the cross.
- ❖ You must confess your sins and believe that Jesus died on the cross for them.
- ❖ You must repent and call on the name of Jesus to be saved.

THE NEED FOR TEACHING

You and I purchase items all the time. In order to buy a product, you must know that it exists and see some beneficial value in it. You can't buy something that you don't know exists.

It is very important for Christians to proclaim the existence of an afterlife and that all people by default are destined for Hell and the Lake of Fire. Jesus is the only way to heaven, for without him, you won't be able to escape those horrible places. He paid for your sins 2,000 years ago on the cross and that is what makes it possible to be saved. Once you are informed about your sin problem and the Savior to fix it, you have to choose where you want to spend eternity. **Matthew 28:18-20**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?