

Message



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Cultural Christianity's Salvation Views

- ***"Now is the Day of Salvation"***
 - Billy Graham Evangelistic Association
- ***"Today is The Day of Salvation"***
 - Seek & Save the Lost
- ***Salvation in Christianity***
 - In Cultural Christianity, salvation is the "saving of human beings from sin and its consequences, which include death and separation from God" by Christ's death and resurrection and the justification following salvation.
 - Variant views on salvation (soteriology) are along the main fault lines dividing the various Christian denominations, including conflicting definitions of sin, justification, and atonement.

God's Calling & Election

■ John 6:44

- “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”
- People do not come to Christ strictly on their own initiative, the Father draws them.

■ John 6:59-65

- “For this reason, I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”
- Coming to Christ for salvation is never a merely human achievement.

God's Calling & Resurrections

- **God's calling connection to the belief in the different resurrections**
 - **It is crucial to the understanding of Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles because these festivals symbolize different physical and spiritual harvests—one early, smaller harvest and one later, much larger harvest.**



Winning the More

■ I Corinthians 9:19-22

- Paul mentions five times here that he is trying to “win” different people, and in verse 22, he writes that he is trying to “save some.”
- This passage is commonly interpreted that Paul would present himself differently in various circumstances to win people for Christ; he became all things to all men in order to “save” at least some of them.
- This interpretation fits the general evangelical belief that Christians should do whatever is necessary to “win souls for Christ” and to get all manner of people “saved” before they die.



The Father Must Intervene

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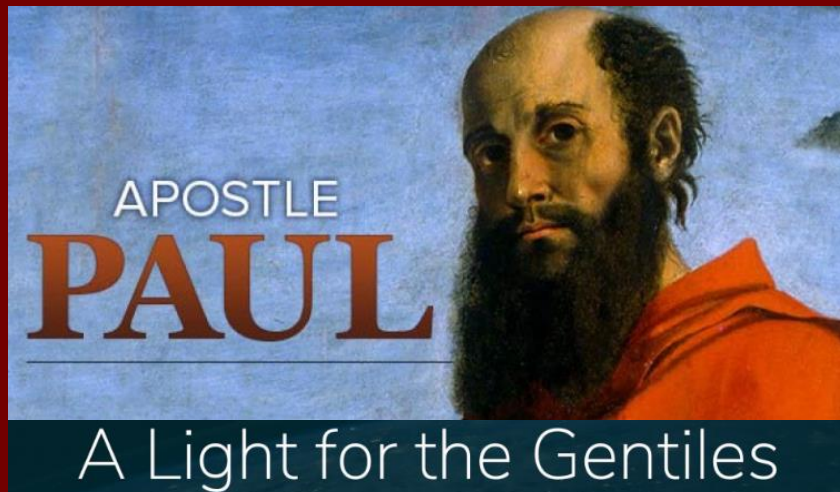
God May Work Through Human Tools

■ Acts 13:44-49

- “...And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed...”

■ John 17:3

- “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”



Other Scriptures For Consideration

– Ephesians 2:8

- “For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourself, it is the gift of God.”

– II Thessalonians 3:1-2

- “...not all have faith”

– Matthew 7:21-23

- “Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord will enter the Kingdom of God...”

– Acts 2:39

- “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

– I Corinthians 1:9

- “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Win Is To Gain

■ I Corinthians 9:19-22

- The word translated as “win” is *kerdaino* (Strong’s #2770), and its basic meaning is “gain”. It means “to acquire by effort or investment.” It can mean “to earn” or “to make a profit.”
- *Kerdaino* is used in Matthew 18:15, “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.”
- The gaining here is not about “winning” someone “for Christ.” When we gain our brother, we are gaining a better relationship.

Win Is To Gain

■ I Corinthians 9:19-22

- Similarly, the “winning or gaining” that Paul is striving for is simply protecting or improving the connection he had with the people he encountered.
- His “gaining” of these people was not the same thing as converting them or of opening their minds to the reality of God.
- The word translated as “Save”, *sozo* (Strong’s #4982) means “to make safe”.
- I Corinthians 8-10 relate to Paul’s basic teaching throughout these chapters is that it was far better for the Corinthians to deny themselves a lawful thing than to risk causing a brother to stumble. He uses his own self-denial as an example, showing that he would go without lawful things to keep from causing unnecessary offense.

Win Is To Gain

■ James 5:19-20

- James is referring to making a man safe by helping him to stop a sin; not eternal salvation or justification.
- If an individual helps another avoid or overcome any sin, a type of salvation has occurred because there is always greater safety where sin has been diminished.



Ways To Become All Things To All People

■ Listen

- We are often too eager to share our own thoughts.
- One common mistake is to jump into a conversation before we really hear what the other person is saying.
- We all appreciate being heard; when we extend that courtesy to someone else, he or she is more likely to listen to what we have to say.
- By listening first, the other person becomes an individual we care about rather than simply a mission field to convert.



Ways To Become All Things To All People

■ Be Kind

- This should go without saying for Christians, but, unfortunately, we can forget kindness in the passion of the moment.
- Getting in the last word does not mean we won the argument or earned the person's respect.
- James 1:19–20 advises us to “be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” Kindness and respect never go out of style and are appropriate regardless of the subject matter.



Ways To Become All Things To All People

■ Be Sensitive to Culture

- Trained missionaries know that, before they can reach a cultural group, they must understand the particulars of that culture.
- We don't have to approve of every part of a culture to understand it or reach those immersed in it.
- By first listening to discern where people are spiritually and then finding commonality with them, we may be able to reach appropriately, if the opportunity is provided by the Father.



Becoming All Things To All People

■ Application To Our Life

- The goal of a Christian is to be inoffensive wherever possible.
- The Apostle Paul practiced self-denial so that he could gain a positive rapport with others.
- In this way, he might help them because his preaching of the truth could stir repentance in some area.
- Without compromising, Paul kept the door open so that if the Father would call an individual, he could be used as a tool.

