

#3 FORUM POST ON THE OT FAITHFUL AND THEIR SALVATION

Dear 2_____,

You said:

Now seems to be a good time for me to state that I'm not intending to be your teacher. I highly doubt that I am going to teach you anything that you have not heard, nor at least considered. But . . . just as the death of an animal took away guilt, so too does the death of Christ take away guilt. He placed upon himself the penalty for our corruption and that which came about because of it. This is what I mean by paying the debt.

Christ has given me a love for the truth so I am always searching for the truth and testing my understanding against scripture. If I find a verse that seems to contradict my beliefs, I can't rest until I resolve the issue. Though I don't learn much from others anymore, there have been a couple times over the past year that I learned something from a forum member. The most common error that I have made is misapplying a verse. In other words, the truth which I apply to the verse is absolutely true, but the verse itself is not teaching that particular truth when I thought it did. My understanding of the truth did not change but my understanding of what a particular verse teaches did.

Yes, the work of Christ on the cross takes away guilt after we are "in Christ". To be "in Christ", we must approach Him only by faith and have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Early and Latter Rains). Only then does the work of Christ at the cross take away our guilt. At the time we are converted, His blood covers our sins and removes our guilt. But to get to that point, we must travel the pathway that takes us to conversion. Only the child of God which is born from conversion will be sinless and live forever. The child of the Devil is destroyed (Old Vessel) when our conversion is completed. The Old Vessel is crucified with Christ. For that reason, God's Elect are no longer shown on the Seven-Headed beast of Revelation. Once we are fully converted, we are no longer considered to be a part of mankind. We have become a new creature in the Kingdom of Heaven.

You said:

However, the "debt" of their sin was not yet paid. Thus God was fair and just in not punishing those of times past for their sin, for the debt is not paid until the death of Christ.

Romans 3:24-26 NLT - "Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. 25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, 26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus."

Though certain men and women may have been utterly Purified by Christ, they were not yet

made Right with God, for the death of Christ had yet to take place. Prior to the death of Christ, people were made Right by and With Christ, but they were not yet made Right with God.

The Old Testament (OT) Faithful were justified by their faith. Their faith is the same faith which the Elect are given after they respond to Elijah's call of repentance. Faith is what makes the pathway straight for the Lord to come with the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

For the OT Faithful, since they died prior to receiving the Latter Rain of the Spirit, they have not entered the Kingdom of Heaven yet, nor have they been "born again".

Christ said this concerning John the Baptist who was the greatest "born of women":

Mat 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Christ considers John the Baptist to be the greatest of Adam's offspring. No one was closer to being like Christ than was John the Baptist – and that is saying a lot when considering some of the other highly blessed OT faithful; people like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Daniel, David and Elijah. But even with his incredible gift of faith, John the Baptist missed entering the Kingdom of Heaven during his lifetime. Like the other OT Faithful, he was born prior to the New Covenant of Grace through Faith coming to the world. He simply was not chosen to be saved during his physical lifetime. However, he along with all the other OT Faithful, will be quickly saved upon their bodily resurrection which will come at the end of this present age. At that time, the Lord will come to them and give them the Latter Rain of the Spirit. This will give them a new birth into the Kingdom of Heaven and will make them ready, watchful and sober for the Day of the Lord which will immediately follow the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

Hebrews chapter 11 gives us the most details concerning the fate of the OT Faithful and I will now present the key verses of that chapter:

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

This "good report" is the same good report that Joshua and Caleb gave to Moses upon their return from spying out the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb are "types" of the Elect. Their report was based on faith and because it was, they were ready to receive their promised inheritance. They had put their trust in God rather than in their own abilities.

However, the other 10 spies came back with a bad report which was based on their own abilities (works) rather than on faith in God. After all the reports were heard, the Nation of Israel believed the bad reports and became too fearful of enter the Land. Those people are "types" of a "called out but not chosen" believer. As a result of their lack of faith, the Nation of Israel was sent into the wilderness for 40 years where everyone who believed the bad reports died. Only Joshua and Caleb lived to cross the Jordan River (type of the Latter Rain) into the Promised Land (salvation).

Since the OT Faithful obtained the same good report as Joshua and Caleb, they too will be able to enter the Promised Land when the Day of the Lord arrives for them. Faith is the key which unlocks the door to salvation. And that is why the OT Faithful mentioned below are considered “heirs” to the promise made to Abraham:

Heb 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. 4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. 5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. 7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.

However, like John the Baptist, they all “died in faith, not having received the promises”:

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

But God has not forgotten their faith because God has already “prepared for them a city”.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

The verse below applies to the OT Faithful just as the verse applies to the Elect of this age:

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

This city/place is New Jerusalem. It is described in Revelation chapter 20 and it represents the Bride of Christ which will include the OT Faithful.

Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Through faith, the OT Faithful will receive a “better resurrection”.

Heb 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

However, the OT Faithful have not “received the Promise” and have not yet been made perfect. But upon their resurrection, Christ will give them the Latter Rain of the Spirit, then the Day of the Lord (judgment) will come to them just as it came to the Elect. At that time, they will “be made perfect” by being sanctified by the truth and purified by judgment. They will then reign with Christ in the final age over the rest of mankind.

This verse applies:

Mat 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. 9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*. 10 When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The centurion is a type for the Gentile Elect who will “sit down” with the OT Faithful and reign with Christ in the final age.

However, most of Israel will not come to Christ by faith but will remain under the Law until their physical deaths. In the final age, when they see that their “works” came up short of the Kingdom of Heaven, there will be “weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

These verses below are a second witness to this truth:

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. 29 And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. 30 And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

You quoted:

Romans 9:5 NLT - "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and **Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen."**

It sounds like this verse and you are equating human nature as being the same as a body of flesh. I have to disagree.

Look at it this way: **BODY + SPIRIT = A LIVING SOUL**

Mankind's spirit is marred but Christ's spirit is perfect. Christ came in the same body of flesh that mankind was given but because He had a perfect spirit governing that body of flesh, He never developed a carnal nature/human nature. He remained holy and never sinned. But since mankind has a marred spirit that is subject to vanity, the body of flesh causes us to have a carnal nature. In

other words, the body of flesh we were given by God, exposes our marred spirit. And that is the problem mankind needs correcting, otherwise we will always continue to sin.

The carnal nature governs what we do and believe. Likewise, Christ's holy nature governed what He did and believed. Christ did not have a carnal nature/human nature. He only had a holy nature because He had the full measure of His Father's Spirit.

Someday mankind's body of flesh will be changed to a spiritual body which will not tempt us to do the things our physical body tempts us to do. That is why Paul said this about our body of flesh:

Rom 7:23-24 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

To answer Paul's question, Christ will deliver us from this body of flesh by giving us a spiritual body which will not make war against our minds.

Do you understand the difference between our body of flesh and our human nature now?

The NLT is incorrect to use "human nature". Here is the KJV translation which states the verse correctly:

Rom 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

The YLT may be even better:

Rom 9:5 whose are the fathers, and of whom is the Christ, according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed to the ages. Amen.

Joe

Dear D___,

I can't stress enough what I am about to say to you. It is the key to salvation. I know that you believe what I am about to say but your understanding isn't quite there yet. I will say this to you again though - I believe Christ is working in you and is preparing your heart to receive new truth.

Faith is the key to salvation. Faith is the doorway to Christ. Faith is believing what Christ tells us, especially when our senses and mind tell us it can't be true. It is the same faith Joshua and Caleb had when they spied out the Promised Land. They believed God could and would conquer the "giants in the land" and were ready to receive that blessing from God. The other TEN spies were afraid and did not believe God. They could not enter the Promised Land because they had no faith.

A side note on this story: TWO is the number for the witness of Christ in this world. It usually refers to Christ's Elect. That is also why in Revelation it teaches on Two Witnesses. The Two Witnesses represent all the Elect. They are not two people who will appear on the earth at some future date. The number TEN represents "completeness". That "completeness" usually relates to

the completeness of our carnal nature after it has devolved (by the spirit of anti-Christ) into a Man of Sin. We can apply that understanding of the number TEN to when Moses sent 12 men to spy out the Promised Land. TEN spies came back with a “bad report” which was based on their own abilities to defeat the “giants in the Land”. TWO spies (Joshua and Caleb) came back with a “good report” which was based on faith and the belief that God will defeat the “giants in the Land”. The phrase “giants in the Land” represents the strongholds of our carnal nature (Old Man) that must be destroyed. Later, Joshua and Caleb are the only two who cross the Jordan River (Latter Rain) into the Promised Land. Everyone else died in the wilderness where Satan dwells and where the drought occurs between the Early and Latter Rains.

Back to Faith: Christ is mankind's Savior and the New Covenant is His spiritual work which will eventually save all mankind. It is hard to believe for most that He will accomplish this great work. It takes faith to believe Him. Also, scripture says that Christ does all the work of saving us, so no man can boast about their salvation. Mankind has no Free Will to decide anything that goes against God's "will". He truly directs all our steps in this life. God has chosen the people who He will save now as First Fruits and He will work to make their salvation happen. Many people who argue for Free Will tell me that God won't force anyone to accept Him. They say those who were chosen from the foundation of the world were only chosen because God knew beforehand who was going to accept Him. This belief is not true. When Christ is ready for someone to accept Him (because they were chosen), He will come to them and do His spiritual work within them until their "will" is changed to match His "will". He doesn't force anyone. Christ is the potter and we are the clay. He will make us into whatever vessel He has decided. We have no Free Will ability to deviate from what God has decided for us. To believe this truth takes a great deal of faith because mankind has no ability to perceive the spiritual work which Christ does in our hearts. Because of this lack of spiritual vision, mankind believes that they have a Free Will which can go against God's "will" and win. This belief in Free Will is why we stumble over Christ (not believing Him, faith). That belief is the core of the Old Covenant of Law that lets mankind try, from their own supposed Free Will ability, to be righteous before God.

Here is a short teaching from Christ on it:

Mat 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Christ is the stone. We stumble over Him because we don't come to Him in faith. We still try to approach Him with our own works (usually a mixture of works and faith). A belief in Works is a product of our belief in Free Will. Works is how Satan teaches mankind to approach God. We easily accept this doctrine because it is what our carnal nature prefers (Old Wine over the New Wine). We all stumble over Christ (stone) and are broken (lose our salvation after receiving the Early Rain) because we can't approach Him solely by faith in our carnally minded condition. This is what scripture teaches and it takes faith to believe it.

For those who are chosen, Christ will come to them a second time with the Latter Rain. This time the stone (Christ) will fall on us and grind us to powder. Powder is a symbol for what is pleasing

to God. In this case, it is our faith in Christ. That truth about powder can be discerned by the way powder was used in the temple ceremonies.

The bottom line is that we must believe what Christ tells us. If we do, it is credited to us as righteousness, just as it was for the OT faithful.

I know that you have said you are leaning toward rejecting the Doctrine of Free Will because you said this: **I am not inclined to believe in free will, for it defies the idea that God would be in control.**

With this post, I just wanted to re-enforce your rejection of Free Will and carry that rejection forward into all your beliefs of what Christ tells us in scripture.

If we have faith, we will believe everything that Christ tells us He will do for us. One of the most important statements He makes in scripture is that He will save all mankind. I don't think you are at that point of belief yet. Also, Christ would never harm anyone in literal fire like the Doctrine of Hell teaches. It is blasphemy to say that Christ would harm anyone in fire for all eternity. Only Satan and those who follow Satan would believe that about Christ. That doctrine is void of God's love and shows a lack of faith in believing verses like these:

1 Cor 15:20-28 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Phi 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Tim 2:3-6 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Rev 7: 9-17 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

2Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Acts 3:20-21 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Believing Christ is the foundation upon which truth is built. All other things that I have been presenting to you are good and wonderful to know, but without faith, they are meaningless. Our salvation depends upon believing Christ.

So how do we believe Christ? From our Free Will ability to do so? NO!

The first issue to overcome is that scripture is written in Christ's spiritual language. His truth is concealed by this language. So unless Christ heals a believer's spiritual blindness so that they can understand what He says, how can they have any faith in Christ? Keeping all but those He has chosen spiritually blind is how Christ ONLY saves His Elect in this age and no others. Then after an Elect believer has the ability to understand Him, Christ will also give them the Faith they need to believe what He says. Spiritual vision and increased Faith are spiritual gifts that come with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain).

I recommend that you pray for the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Also, repent of your "works" if you have not already done so.

Christ said that we don't get what we pray for because we pray for the wrong things. If you can now see what you need to pray for, then pray for it with all your heart. God is the giver of good gifts.

Joe

Dear D____,

You really don't understand what I have been saying. I can tell by what you believe that Christ has not given you spiritual vision yet. I thought that He may be starting to heal your blindness because of your willingness to discuss what I have been presenting and your limited rejection of Free Will. For that reason, I recommended that you pray for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. If you can't see your need for it, then it is not time for you to receive it. To see that need, Christ will give you the ability to see the Abomination of Desolation within you and will reveal to you that you are a Man of Sin.

Becoming "worse than the first" and dwelling at Midnight happens to EVERYONE after they receive the Early Rain (which you certainly have). If a person is chosen, Christ will come to them a second time while they are in that Fallen Away spiritual condition and reveal to them their true spiritual condition. Once they "see" this truth, Christ will cause them to repent of their works and give them the faith they need to believe what He says in scripture. He then heals their spiritual blindness and a new world of truth opens up to them. Their worldly paradigm is destroyed which came from their carnal mind and a new paradigm in Christ is given to them. They now have the ability to understand the truth presented in scripture with the mind of Christ. This is one aspect of conversion and is a dramatic spiritual experience, one with trumpets, earthquakes, lightning and thunder. Their sun is darkened and the moon is turned to blood. This all happens very quickly, in "one hour" (**Rev 18:19**).

After a person receives the Latter Rain, they quickly learn that the whole loaf of bread they had been eating was FULLY leavened. Every doctrine of Orthodox Christianity is false. When a person understands this truth, it is a spiritual earthquake. They quickly learn that the church they have been attending is a place where the "blind lead the blind" and is a den of wolves who are deceived by Satan. When I learned this truth, I never returned to any church. Light has no fellowship with darkness.

We all must live, not just by bread, but by "every word that comes from the mouth of God" (**Mat 4:4**). We all experience the leavened bread before Christ gives us the true bread from heaven. "First comes the physical, then comes the spiritual" (**1Cor 15:46**).

If you believe that you don't have to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God, then you are still spiritually blind and are lacking in Faith. This opinion is not an attack on you. I experienced this time of being Fallen Away, too, up until I was 44 years old. I used to teach about Hell and I lost many non-believing friends (whom I was trying to convert) because of it. I was completely deceived by Satan and was one of his ministers - unknowingly, of course, because the leaven was hidden in the bread I was eating.

Also, you made a comment about John Hagee. He is a heretic and a very powerful Minister of Satan. His teachings have harmed many people. But this is all in accordance with God's "will":

Lam 3:38 Out of the mouth of the Most High doth not there proceed evil and good?

We all live by every word that comes from the mouth of God, even John Hagee. Christ gives us all this experience of evil to humble us:

Ecc 1:13 An experience of evil God has given to the sons of humanity to humble them by it.

We are humbled by our experience of evil when we come out of it and look back. The problem with being deceived is that when we are being deceived, we cannot know it. Only after we see the Abomination of Desolation stand in the holy place will we know of the great deception we had been under.

Finally, I understand that you have studied scripture a great deal and you seem to have a real love for the truth. I studied a great deal before I was converted, too and I thought I had a good knowledge of the truth. But those were wasted hours because I was spiritually blind. All the understanding I came away with from my studies, I would fit nicely into my worldly paradigm box.

We all do what this verse warns us not to do:

Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

For this reason, Christ must convert us and destroy the Man of Sin who is the one responsible for this sin. Only the newly born child of God will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.

At this point, I'm sure you do not want to continue our discussions. It seems to be the Lord's "will" for the time being. I still recommend you go to bible-truths.com and read some of Ray Smith's teachings. His letter to John Hagee is easy to find and you will see that it destroys what Mr. Hagee has been teaching about the Doctrine of Hell.

If ever Christ opens your eyes and you are ready for more discussions, I will make myself available, as the Lord "wills".

Joe