

#32 *FORUM POST ON THE PATHWAY TO SAVLATION

Dear B____,

The Grace of God will come to everyone at a time of God's choosing but where in scripture does it ever say that grace enables everyone to come to Christ? There are no such verses. Jesus Christ is the Grace of God and His work of giving us the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is what enables a person to seek and to know God.

The work of Christ is what enables a person to be saved. Grace is the reason why He does His work.

We must wait on the Lord to complete His work in us AND in the rest of mankind. He is the one who chooses the timing of His work. Mankind has no power to choose when Christ comes to us. For now, Christ is only appearing to and saving the First-Fruits of mankind in this present age. They are the Elect and the Heirs. They were chosen from the foundation of the world for no other reason than it suited God's "will" and His purposes. Unless a person has been chosen to be in the FIRST FRUITS group, they will have to wait on the Lord to come to them at a later time in the next age. This is part of the patience of the saints.

Paul's conversion "typed" the pattern all Elect Gentiles will follow for salvation in this age. In this pattern, Christ came "suddenly" to Paul and gave him the gift of the Holy Spirit, without Paul's asking or permission. He was simply chosen - just as ALL who are going to be saved in this age are. At the time of Paul's Early Rain experience on the Damascus Road, Paul had "set his mind on the flesh" (**Rom 8:5**) and was the "chief of sinners" (**1Tim 1:15**). Paul's only hope was the Grace of God (embodied in Christ) who came to him and gave him the necessary gifts to change him from within. This is the only way scripture says a person receives the Holy Spirit and is the only reason why Paul called Jesus "Lord" on the Damascus Road. Mankind simply cannot seek Christ in our created spiritual condition. Christ must come to us and give us the Early Rain of the Spirit. This is the grace of God. We have no Free Will power to decide to come to Christ without Him coming to us first and doing His work within us.

Because salvation occurs solely by the work of Christ within mankind, salvation is certain for all mankind. At the end of the final age, this verse will be testified to be true:

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.

Christ is the Savior and it is 100% His work to save us. If Christ fails to save even one person, He would be a failure. But of course, this could never happen since the LOVE of God never fails (**1Cor 13:8**).

Concerning repentance; those who need to repent are those who are called out believers who mind the things of the flesh. They are the ones who have only received the Early Rain of the Spirit. Their repentance is to stop approaching Christ by their own “works” (things of the flesh). Salvation only comes by faith alone, knowing that Christ will do all the works within us. Even our confession of Faith is the work of Christ.

This understanding of repentance was John the Baptist's message to the Nation of Israel. Those who responded to his call did so only because God worked within them to make it happen. God is the cause of all things, even the "answer of our tongue:

Prov 16:1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

The entire Nation of Israel was called out but needed to repent of their works in order to seek Christ by faith. And like Christians believers who are also called out (Early Rain), they too need to repent of their Works and seek Christ by faith. Our repentance is to stop approaching Christ by our own Works (Old Covenant).

Christ even said that approaching Him by Works is the preferred method of mankind’s carnal nature:

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

Only a Work of Christ within us can change our preference for the Old Covenant.

The Law was given to us to lead us to Christ. The Pathway to Salvation goes through the Law and then onto Faith (**John 5:1-15**). To be saved, we must travel both (Law & Faith) portions of the pathway; the Wide Path that leads to destruction (Law) and then the Narrow Path that leads to life (Faith).

The Early Rain of the Spirit starts us traveling the Wide Pathway. Those who travel that pathway will do so until they either physically die OR until Christ comes to them a second time with the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

Many are called but Few are chosen (**Mat 22:14**). In other words, many are given the Early Rain of the Spirit so that they will start traveling the wide pathway that leads to destruction. BUT only a FEW of these “many” are chosen to make it to destruction in their lifetimes. Those who make it are born again. They will then travel the Narrow Pathway that leads to maturity as a son of God.

The conversion event expressed in more commonly used terms is when Christ comes to one of His chosen First-Fruits a second time and gives them the Baptism of the Spirit. At that time, they will become a child of God. Immediately following the new birth, the Day of the Lord will

come and bring judgment to destroy the believer's carnal nature (Old Man). This is the conversion event.

Joe

Dear B _____,

You said that "**anyone who blasphemes the Spirit shall not be forgiven**". That is not a true statement. There is no unforgivable sin. Here is the verse you referenced:

Mat 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this age, neither in the age to come.

The age in which Christ made this statement is the age of Law. The "age to come" is the church age. Their sin will not be forgiven in either of those two ages BUT it will be forgiven them in the final age - the Lake of Fire age.

You said:

Paul is one example of a man who came to Christ. His experience does not represent how everyone will come to Christ.

First of all, Paul did NOT come to Christ. Christ came to Paul and when He did, Christ gave him the Early Rain of the Spirit. Paul did not ask Christ to do it nor did Christ wait to get permission from Paul. In fact, Paul was on His way to Damascus to ravage the church (**Acts 8:3**). Paul hated Christ. However, all that changed in an instant of time when Christ "suddenly" came to His temple (Paul) and gave Paul the Early Rain of the Spirit.

Paul's conversion is the pattern by which all Gentiles who are chosen will follow:

1Tim 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

Mankind's salvation has to happen this way, otherwise we would have to contribute our own "works" in order to be saved. But scripture says we cannot contribute anything in our carnal minded spiritually flawed condition we have from birth.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Rom 3:10-11 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

You said:

It is God's work in us that leads us to repentance but we must choose to act in cooperation with His guidance in order to receive salvation. Romans 2:4-5.

Romans 2:4-5, nor does any verse say that "we must choose to act in cooperation with His guidance in order to receive salvation". Scripture says that no man seeks after God or can understand Him. The only solution to this problem is for Christ to come to us and change us from within. He makes this change within us by giving us the Holy Spirit. Christ does not ask us for permission to it and He does it because of His grace.

Unless Christ comes to a person and gives them the Holy Spirit FIRST, no one can call Jesus "Lord":

1 Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

Mankind has no "free will" power to call Jesus "Lord". We must be given the Holy Spirit FIRST before it is possible. That is why Christ comes to us and gives us the Spirit without our permission.

You said:

I'm not sure what you mean "when Christ comes to them a second time". What scripture is this referring to?

The Early and Latter Rain of the Spirit is the core teaching of the Great Mystery of Christ and His church (Eph 5:32).

In order to be saved, Christ must come to a person TWO times.

Jam 5:7-8 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the EARLY and LATTER rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Hos 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the Latter and former (Early) rain unto the earth.

Deu 11:14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first (Early) rain and the Latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

Christ taught about the Early and Latter Rain quite often but He did not use those terms. He taught the Early and Latter Rain in the parable of the Ten Virgins (shown in my original post of this thread). Christ used the Early and Latter Rain in His teaching about spiritual understanding in **Mark 8:21-25** and in **John 8:3-10** about when a person comes out from being under the Law.

Christ also used them in His teaching on Paul's conversion: Paul received the Early Rain on the Damascus Road when Paul first called Jesus "Lord". Then after Paul was shown to be blind for three days, Ananias (symbolizes Christ) came to Paul and gave him the Latter Rain.

The Latter Rain is the same baptism the Apostles received in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost.

Daniel's seventy weeks prophecy also types the Early and Latter Rain. I have written a short paper on this prophecy if you are interested. The prophecy teaches the timeline of how Christ saves the OT Faithful and the Elect. Daniel's prophecy is not about future end-time world events as most believers understand it.

The Wide Path and the Narrow Path also teach the Early and Latter Rain. A person starts out on the wide path when they are called out from the world (Early Rain). If they are chosen, they will experience the Latter Rain and travel the Narrow Path.

There are more examples of the Early and Latter Rain in scripture but I will end with this final one:

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

Upon receiving the Early Rain, we all stumble and fall on the stone (the Law, works), but upon receiving the Latter Rain, we (our carnal natures which cause us to approach Christ by "works") are utterly crush to powder by the stone after it is written in our hearts.

Joe

Dear B _____,

Matt 7:21-23 Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work lawlessness.

In the verses you referenced above, Christ is teaching about the called but not chosen believers who remain under the Law and are not saved as a First-Fruit of His harvest. They are still approaching Christ by "works" and have become debtor to keeping the whole law of the Old Covenant. Because they fail to keep the whole Law, they are said to be lawless.

The only believers of this present age who enter into the Kingdom of Heaven are those who "do the will of my Father". They are the Elect; the First Fruits.

In verse 22, it says "in that day". The "day" in question is the Day of the Lord which comes upon the lost after they are resurrected from the grave. It is the time they will appear before the

judgment throne of Christ. Because they are still lacking (under Law) and cannot do the will of the Father, Christ will send them off to be judged in the "Lake of Fire".

Fire is a spiritual term that symbolizes the judgment of Christ. Mankind is saved through "fire".

1Cor 3:13-15 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

The "loss" the verse mentions is the loss of reigning with Christ in the final age and not having "life" during the ages.

Here is what Christ's judgment is like:

Psa 9:8 And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

Psa 33:5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

Isa 1:27 Zion shall be REDEEMED with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

Isa 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isa 4:4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

Isa 26:9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Without judgment, mankind cannot be saved. Judgment is a necessary part of the Pathway to Salvation that all mankind will travel. Everyone must be "baptized with fire":

Mark 9:49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.

Mat 3:11-12 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, AND with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Judgment teaches us the righteousness of God. Everything Christ does for mankind is because of His love for us. If Christ did not love us, He would not judge us. He would simply not resurrect mankind and would let us stay in the grave. After all, death is the true penalty of sin.

However, spiritually blind mankind has perverted the judgment of Christ and has turned it into a ghastly nightmare with the Doctrine of Hell.

Prov 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

Judgment is NOT eternal torment in literal fire for all eternity for no loving purpose. Anyone who believes this lie does NOT know Christ.

Joe

Dear T_____,

Rom 8:29 Because whom he has foreknown, he has also predestinated to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he should be the firstborn among many brethren.

God foreknows mankind because He makes us into the people He wants us to be to satisfy His purposes. God is not a time traveler or a fortune teller. He knows the end from the beginning because His "works" make the end turn out just as He planned.

Isa 46:10-11 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of the heavens, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

God "declares the end from the beginning" because He "will bring it to pass" and He will "accomplish that which I please".

You are reading into **Rom 8:29** some very unscriptural things.

Your belief that God predestinated people because He foreknows who will do the necessary works to be saved is unscriptural. Your understanding of this verse teaches a "works" based belief system which God rejects. Mankind is saved solely by the works of Christ within us. Even our profession of faith and our calling Jesus "Lord" is the work of Christ within us.

Our profession of faith is NOT our work. We can only call Jesus "Lord" after Christ comes to us and gives us the Holy Spirit. And when He does, we have no free will ability to do anything but call Him "Lord". We can't reject or curse Christ any longer once Christ does His work within us.

1 Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

Without the Holy Spirit, no man can possibly seek after God or understand Him, much less call Him "Lord".

All mankind in their spiritually flawed created condition, are evil and have no good works. No man can boast about anything to justify their own salvation. Our salvation happens ONLY because of the Grace of God which is manifested in Jesus Christ, who comes to us and does 100% of the work necessary to save each of us.

The Elect, who are the First-Fruits, are predestined to be saved FIRST (that is why they are FIRST-Fruits). Their salvation in this age happens only because they were chosen to be saved first and not because God knew in advance they would accept Christ. Their salvation happens solely because of God's decision to do His work within them to satisfy His own purposes. The rest of mankind is predestined to be saved at the end of the final age.

Since our salvation is 100% the work of Christ, how can it not happen?

It will happen because God knows the end from the beginning. His Word proclaimed it and His work will "bring it to pass":

Isa 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Joe