

#10 FORUM POST ON WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A PERSON'S SALVATION

Dear All,

Calvinism paints a picture of a God who preplanned the salvation of each individual, that the number that was to be saved was fixed before creation, and that the will or actions of man play no part in man's eternal destiny. As stated in The Westminster Confession of Faith:

God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished. Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of His free grace and love alone, without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving Him thereunto; and all to the praise of His glorious grace....The rest of mankind, God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of His own will, whereby He extendeth or withholdeth mercy as He pleaseth, for the glory of His sovereign power over His creatures, to pass by, and to ordain them to dishonor and wrath for their sin, to the praise of His glorious justice. (Westminster Divines, 2021)

The idea (above) of God fixing destinies was not believed for the first 400 years of recorded Christian history. Those who came directly after the Apostles believed our actions determine if we are saved. The Earliest Church Leaders believed in Free Will theology. The idea that we work in Synergy with God, that our actions, either good or evil, determine if we are saved. Making statements like:

1. This expression [of our Lord], "How often would I have gathered thy children together, and thou wouldest not," (Mat 23:37) set forth the ancient law of human liberty, because God made man a free [agent] from the beginning, possessing his own power, even as he does his own soul, to obey the behests (ad utendum sententia) of God voluntarily, and not by compulsion of God. For there is no coercion with God, but a good will [towards us] is present with Him continually. And therefore does He give good counsel to all. And in man, as well as in angels, He has placed the power of choice (for angels are rational beings), so that those who had yielded obedience might justly possess what is good, given indeed by God, but preserved by themselves. On the other hand, they who have not obeyed shall, with justice, be not found in possession of the good, and shall receive condign punishment: for God did kindly bestow on them what was good; but

they themselves did not diligently keep it, nor deem it something precious, but poured contempt upon His super-eminent goodness. (Irenaeus [A.D. 120-202], Against Heresies - Book 4 Ch 37)

So what am I posting today? Well, I was doing my daily Bible reading, and came across the following which supports the Free Will, argument.

1Sa 2:30 Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.'

Firstly, it shows that God's plan is not fixed, that when He decrees a thing, He does change His mind, based upon man's actions. If everything was predestined, then He would "know all things", and would never have made the statement.

Secondly, it shows there is an action of man's that brings God's honor, or displeasure.

for those who honor Me I will honor

and

and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed

F _____

Dear F _____,

You quoted:

1Sa 2:30 Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.'

To believe that this scripture supports the Doctrine of Free Will is adding things to the scripture that it does not say.

Here is how Christ teaches:

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts (the converted Elect). 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language (spiritual language) will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them (babes who draw milk) precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Christ teaches His truth "here a little, and there a little". The scripture you quoted is completely silent on how it comes about for a person to "honor Me" or "despise Me". You ASSUME that it comes from a person's supposed free will ability but that is not true. When we look to other scripture (here a little, there a little), we find that when a person honors Christ or despises Christ, they do so because it was caused by the Lord.

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

Prov 20:24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Prov 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Deut 29:4 Yet the LORD hath not given you a heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day.

Jer 10:23 I know, Jehovah, that the way of man is not his own; it is not in a man that walketh to direct his steps.

Phil 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

I see believers add to scripture in the way you have done quite often. If a verse is silent on some aspect of what it is teaching, we should not add our assumptions to the verse to fill in the void. We MUST look to other scripture to fill in the silent part of the verse.

After a person understands that Christ controls mankind's "will" and gives mankind "the answer from their tongue", it is much easier to accept that all mankind will someday accept Christ as their Lord and Savior since scripture clearly says that Christ will cause it to happen.

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

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

Rom 5:18 so then as it was by one offence towards all men to condemnation, so by one righteousness towards all men for justification of life. 19 For as indeed by the disobedience of the one man the many have been constituted sinners, so also by the obedience of the one the many will be constituted righteous.

1Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

The problem for most believers who reject the truth that Christ will save all mankind is that they believe that mankind must make a free will decision to accept Christ or not. But according to God's Word, mankind has no such ability to accept Christ apart from Christ causing it to happen.

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

1Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

When Christ is ready to begin the spiritual process of salvation within a person, He will come to them and freely give them the small measure of the Holy Spirit. He does so without their asking or permission. Why? Because of what this scripture says:

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?

In the farming analogy, the small measure of the Spirit is called the Early Rain. In the marriage analogy, it is what makes a person into a "virgin" who is espoused to Christ.

It was the Early Rain of the Spirit that caused the Apostles to know that Jesus was the Christ and to have the desire to call Him "Lord". It was the Early Rain that caused Paul to fall to his knees on the Damascus Road and accept Christ as his Lord.

The verse below applies to the Early Rain of the Spirit and is why the Apostles & Paul were empowered to call Jesus "Lord" BEFORE they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the Latter Rain):

1Cor 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 Spirit indwelling a person, no person can call Jesus their Lord. Because Christ must give the Spirit to a person before they can make a confession of faith, He alone controls who will be saved and when they will be saved. The individual person has no say in the matter. Since this is how salvation comes to a person, scripture says it is a free gift from God and that mankind has no works to perform to have it. Mankind does not even have to "receive it" as I frequently hear others teach. Salvation is given to a person because it was God's "will" for them to have it.

In this age, Christ is only saving those persons whom God decided before the foundation of the world to bless with an early salvation. They are called the Elect, the Bride, the saints, the chosen, the heirs of Abraham, etc. Christ is not working to save anyone else at this time. Since He is not working to save anyone else, no one else will be saved except those who were chosen to be blessed.

But since the Father sent Christ to save the world (**1John 4:14**) and because God loves all mankind, Christ will not forget about those who remain unsaved.

In the next and final age, Christ and His Bride will judge the balance of mankind in the Lake of Fire. The Lake of Fire is a spiritual symbol that represents Christ's judgment. It is not literal fire.

Here is how Christ will judge the lost in the Lake of Fire:

The penalty of sin is death - but before any of the lost who are condemned to death perish by Christ's judgment, Christ will have mercy upon them. His mercy will come to each lost person by giving them both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit. With the Spirit, each person will have faith and will be born again. The newly born child of God will then be gathered to heaven leaving only the child of the Devil (who they used to be) to perish in the Lake of Fire. This death satisfies justice.

The entire process of saving a person I just explained above is called conversion. Conversion requires Christ to give a person both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit, followed by judgment to destroy the child of the Devil. Each Elect person in this age is saved this way before

they die. The "lost" in the Lake of Fire will also be saved this way with one change to the steps. The lost will begin their time of judgment while they are still a child of the Devil. The Elect's judgment will begin after they have been born as a child of God. Because of this change, the Elect will not experience wrath during their time of judgment but the lost in the Lake of Fire will. But in the end, everyone will be saved and will enter the Kingdom of Heaven just as God's Word proclaims they will.

These verses apply to Christ's judgment:

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: JUSTICE, MERCY, AND FAITH: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

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

Job 34:12 Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

No, not everyone will be saved.

Mat 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the *everlasting fire* prepared for the devil and his angels:

F

Dear F _____,

Christ is only saving the Elect during this age. As a result, the balance of mankind will be cast into the Lake of Fire upon their resurrection just as the verse you quoted states. However, Christ's judgment is NOT like mankind's judgment. Christ will have mercy upon the lost prior to their death (the penalty of sin).

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

things.

You are missing Christ's love and mercy that He ALWAYS shows to His enemies.

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Mat 3:6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Christ's work of saving mankind continues until the last of mankind is saved. There are no scriptures that state differently. The "lost" of the final age will lose the rewards that the Elect will receive but they will still be saved as Paul firmly states in the scripture below.

1Cor 3:13 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. **14** If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. **15** If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

"Fire" is a spirit word that means judgment. It does not mean the same thing as what man's wisdom teaches:

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things (**words**) with spiritual (**words**).

Your understanding of Christ's judgment omits justice, mercy and faith. Christ will not omit them when He judges the "lost".

To believe as you do, you have to remove many, many scriptures from God's Word. As I pointed out in my first post, Christ teaches His truth "here a little and there a little". You should not be adding your assumptions to God's Word. You should be looking to other scripture to fill in the silent parts a verse.

Here is the verse you quoted:

Mat 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

You have added to the verse your assumption that those who are cast into the Lake of Fire (judgment) will never be shown mercy and faith by Christ before they perish. This belief of yours is not true and is proven to not be true when we look to other scripture.

Where does Mat 25:41 state that Christ will not show mercy and faith to those He is judging? It is not in the scripture.

One final point. Consider this verse below:

John 3:18 He (the child of God) that believeth on him is not condemned: but he (the child of the Devil/all mankind) that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Because all mankind are sinful children of the Devil, mankind is "cursed" and "condemned already". Because this is the true state of all mankind, it is necessary for Christ to give mankind a new spiritual birth prior to each person's destruction. The spiritual process that Christ uses to make this spiritual change within a person is called conversion. Conversion will destroy the child of the Devil in the Lake of Fire. But the newly born child of God will be removed from that judgment before the individual perishes. It is only the child of the Devil who is destroyed. It is in this way that Christ will save all mankind - and it happens solely by His work which cannot fail.

Consider this scripture below on the judgment portion of conversion:

Isa 66:16 For by fire (judgment) and by his sword (Word of God) will the LORD plead with all flesh (all mankind): and the slain of the LORD shall be many (all mankind).

All mankind will cease to exist after Christ's judgment of mankind is complete but the Kingdom of Heaven will be that much fuller.

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Do you have the faith to believe Christ can accomplish what 1Tim 2:3-6 states?

Joe

Another member responded to me:

Dear FaithWillDo,

While God's love and mercy are vast (Psalm 103:8–12; John 3:16), Scripture consistently teaches that salvation is conditional upon repentance and faith in Christ (John 3:18; Mark 1:15). The idea that all will be saved—often called *universalism*—contradicts the clear warnings of eternal separation from God for those who reject Him (Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8–9).

Jesus Himself spoke of two distinct destinies: the narrow way that leads to life and the broad way that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13–14). Revelation describes a final judgment where those not found in the Book of Life are thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).

God truly desires that all be saved (1 Timothy 2:3–4), yet He does not force salvation upon anyone. Love by compulsion is not love at all. Those who persist in rejecting His Son remain under condemnation (John 3:36).

Thus, while God's invitation is universal, the Bible affirms that its acceptance is not.

M_____

Dear M_____,

Your beliefs ignore the teachings of many scriptures.

Salvation is by "promise" (Gal 3:18) and is not conditional upon man's works. Salvation only requires the works of Christ. That is the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

So how can this be true since scripture says (as you pointed out) that faith and repentance from works are required for salvation?

What you are omitting from your understanding is that Christ is the cause of a person's faith and repentance from works. Under the New Covenant, Christ's works are spiritual works that change a person from within. Christ causes mankind to "will" and to speak and to act. The teaching that mankind has a free will ability is a lie from Satan. Only God has a free will.

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

Prov 20:24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Prov 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it

whithersoever he will.

Deut 29:4 Yet the LORD hath not given you a heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day.

Jer 10:23 I know, Jehovah, that the way of man is not his own; it is not in a man that walketh to direct his steps.

Phi 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

When a believer states that they have a free will ability, they are sitting in God's Temple claiming to be God. This is the common denominator that all apostate believers have.

When Christ is ready for a person to have faith and repent from their works, He will come to them and freely give them a small measure of the Holy Spirit. He gives them this gift without their asking for it and without their permission to give it to them.

In the farming analogy, this gift is called the Early Rain.

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 (Christ) shall come unto us as the Rain, as the Latter and Early Rain unto the earth.

The Early Rain of the Spirit is what the Apostles received while they walked with Christ and it is what Paul received on the Damascus Road. After Christ gave them the Early Rain, they all recognized Jesus as the Christ and they called Him "Lord". So why do we know this is what happened to them? The verse below explains why they had to have been given the Early Rain:

1Cor 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.

If Christ doesn't give a person the small measure of the Holy Spirit, they will continue in their rejection of Christ until they die. The only way a person can have faith in Christ and accept Him as their Lord is if Christ comes to them and freely gives them the Early Rain of the Spirit. Once they have this gift, they can no longer reject Christ. It is in this way that Christ builds His church. It is solely by His work. The person has nothing that can take credit for concerning their faith and their repentance. It was Christ who prepared their heart with the Early Rain and was the one who gave them the answer from their tongue. If Christ wanted the entire world to believe in Him today, all He would have to do is give each person the Early Rain.

You said:

Jesus Himself spoke of two distinct destinies: the narrow way that leads to life and the broad way that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13–14). Revelation describes a final judgment where those not found in the Book of Life are thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).

Before the foundation of the world, God the Father chose certain individuals to be saved in this present age. They are the Elect, the heirs of Abraham, the Bride of Christ, the saints, etc. They did not choose Christ, Christ chose them.

Those who are not chosen for salvation in this age will be rejected upon their resurrection and be cast into the Lake of Fire. The Lake of Fire is a spiritual symbol that represents Christ's judgment. His judgment is for the purpose of enforcing the penalty of the Law upon a person for their sins. That penalty is death and not eternal torment in literal fire.

Fire is Christ's spirit word that means judgment. The word that is translated as "eternal" should be translated as "age-during". When Christ casts a person into the Lake of Fire, it is only for a certain portion of that age. At that time, they will be judged by the Law and will experience wrath & torment. But as I have been explaining to FutureAndAHope, Christ's judgment is not like mankind's judgment. Christ will not omit justice, mercy and faith from His judgment (Mat 23:23). Before anyone perishes from their time of judgment, Christ will have mercy upon them and freely give them the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit just as He earlier did for the Elect. After the lost person has this gift of the Spirit, they will have faith and will be "born again" as a child of God. The newly born child of God will then be gathered to heaven leaving the child of the Devil (who they used to be) in the Lake of Fire to be destroyed. After the child of the Devil's destruction, the person will be converted. And like with the Elect, Christ will cause it all to happen. Mankind's salvation is 100% His responsibility and He accomplishes it by His spiritual work within a person.

You said:

God truly desires that all be saved (1 Timothy 2:3–4), yet He does not force salvation upon anyone. Love by compulsion is not love at all. Those who persist in rejecting His Son remain under condemnation (John 3:36).

First of all, 1Tim 2:3-6 does not say "desires", it says "will have". I have heard this argument many times before and it makes little sense. Why? Because "desires" is an emotion and does not require anything to happen to prove that one has it. It merely needs to be stated. But when you read 1Tim 2:3-6, it says that saving all men and having them come to the knowledge of the truth will be testified in due time. In other words, a future event will occur that proves the statement. The only event that can testify to the truth that Christ will save all men and have them

come unto the knowledge of the truth is for it to happen. And it will happen just before the end of the final age arrives. When that day comes, it will give glory to the Father:

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

Secondly, even if "desires" is the proper translation, it makes no difference on the outcome of the statement. Why? Because God always accomplishes His desires.

Job 23:13 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? And what his soul desireth, that will he do.

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.

You said:

Thus, while God's invitation is universal, the Bible affirms that its acceptance is not.

Your comment shows that you are mixing man's works with faith (mixing the Old and New Covenants). When a believer adds their own works to faith in Christ to do all the works, they are mixing the Old Wine with the New Wine. This of course happens to each babe because Christ causes it to happen - it is part of the pathway that He causes all babes to follow.

These verses apply:

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

Prov 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. 27 For a harlot is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. 28 She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increases the transgressors among men. 29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? 30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red (Old Wine), when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moves itself (represents man's works) aright. 32 At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder.

When a babe (Early Rain only) mixes the Old Wine with the New Wine, they are committing the

one and only sin that leads to their spiritual death. With this sin, they are following the crooked way of Satan and have become apostate. Again, since the death of Paul, this happens to all babes in Christ.

This verse applies:

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts (converted believers). 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language (spiritual language) will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them (babes who draw milk) precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken (by Satan).

A babe's spiritual blindness (Paul's blindness after receiving the Early Rain) is the reason why all babes will fall from grace and become apostate.

If the babe is one of the Elect, Christ will "come again" to them and pour out the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the Latter Rain). This is what the Apostles received on the Day of Pentecost and what Paul received after being in Damascus for three days. No one can deviate from this pathway. For babes who are not Elect, they will die in their sins and upon their resurrection, Christ will tell them that He never knew them. They will receive their portion with the unbelievers in the Lake of Fire. But in the end, they will still be saved.

1Cor 3:13 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. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

These are nice sentiments but they ignore scripture. Here are just a few.

The Bible speaks very directly about the fate of those who persist—deliberately and continually—in rejecting God. The theme is consistent across the Old and New Testaments: ongoing, willful rejection of God leads to separation from Him and ultimately judgment.

Here's a clear summary with supporting verses:

1. They remain under God's wrath

John 3:36 – "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

Persistent rejection doesn't just forfeit blessings—it leaves a person under existing condemnation.

2. They will face eternal separation from God

2 Thessalonians 1:8–9 – "...in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might."

This is one of the clearest NT statements that rejection of God results in everlasting exclusion from His presence.

3. They will be judged according to their deeds

Hebrews 9:27 – "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment."

Revelation 20:11–15 – "...And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done... And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

4. God gives them over to their own choices

Romans 1:18, 24, 26, 28 – "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth... Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts..."

Persistent rejection leads to God allowing them to follow their desires, which results in deeper moral and spiritual ruin.

5. They cannot claim ignorance—God has revealed Himself

Romans 1:20 – "For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived... so they are without excuse."

6. They will not inherit the kingdom of God

Galatians 5:19–21 – "I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Revelation 21:8 – "But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable... their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

While it is true that the natural man has no free will, the spiritual man does and he can reject the purpose of God for him. Jesus makes it clear in John 3:19 that the basis of Judgement is what we love. "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."

Here's what it's teaching:

1. The "light" refers to Jesus

In John's Gospel, light is a recurring metaphor for truth, holiness, and the revelation of God (John 1:4–5, 8:12).

Jesus coming into the world is the decisive moment of God's truth and salvation being made available.

2. The judgment is based on response to the light

This isn't judgment in the sense of God arbitrarily condemning people—it's the reality that people's reaction to Jesus reveals their spiritual state.

The coming of light exposes hearts for what they are.

3. People's rejection is rooted in love for sin

The reason given is not intellectual disagreement but moral preference: "people loved darkness rather than the light."

Darkness means ignorance of God, falsehood, and sin.

This shows rejection of God is a willful choice, driven by affection for sin rather than a lack of evidence.

4. Evil deeds create hostility toward God's truth

Light exposes evil (John 3:20). Those committed to sinful lifestyles resist exposure and thus reject Christ.

This explains why the gospel meets not only apathy but sometimes hostility—truth unmask sin, and many prefer to hide.

M

Dear M _____,

You said:

The Bible speaks very directly about the fate of those who persist—deliberately and continually—in rejecting God. The theme is consistent across the Old and New Testaments: ongoing, willful rejection of God leads to separation from Him and ultimately judgment.

All mankind in their natural state will always reject Christ and will always disobey Him. If you can't accept this simple truth, you are not going to understand why the spiritual process of conversion is necessary for a person's salvation.

Here is mankind's natural state of being:

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

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.

1Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Rom 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Because all mankind has sinned, all mankind has become the children of the Devil (**1John 3:8-10**). As a result, all mankind is "condemned already" because of their sin (**John 3:18**). Nothing can change that fate that awaits them as John 3:36 states. Because death is the fate that awaits all mankind, it is necessary for Christ to convert all the children of the Devil into the children of God BEFORE they perish from the penalty of the Law.

This change is mankind's salvation and is solely Christ's work to perform.

The change from being a child of the Devil into being a child of God is what Christ does to save a person. The spiritual process that Christ uses to make this change is called conversion.

Conversion from a child of the Devil into a child of God cannot be seen with human eyes because it is a spiritual change. This truth is what Christ was teaching in the verse below:

Luke 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

By the end of the final age, Christ will have converted all mankind into the children of God. After the last person of mankind has been converted, 100% of the children of the Devil will have perished in the Lake of Fire.

As the verse below states, only a person who has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit can call Jesus "Lord". These people are the children of God.

1Cor 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.

If you can't understand the concept of conversion, you are not going to understand many of the New Covenant teachings of Christ.

All six points that you listed in your post about the children of the Devil are true. I have never stated differently. But what you are missing is that Christ will convert all the children of the Devil into the children of God prior to the child of the Devil's destruction. You don't seem to understand the spiritual process of conversion and why it is necessary for salvation.

I will respond to one more of your comments.

You said:

While it is true that the natural man has no free will, the spiritual man does and he can reject the purpose of God for him.

The natural man is a child of the Devil. This applies to all mankind. The spiritual man is a converted believer. He is no longer a natural man because he has been converted. I will go with the assumption that you understand them in this way.

So you believe that the natural man does not have a free will ability??? I'm puzzled because that belief seems to contradict some of what you have written in your posts. However, that understanding is true. No one has a free will ability.

Let me ask you this: Since the natural man has no free will ability to be able to have faith in Christ and accept Him as Lord (per the verses I quoted at the start of this post), what must happen to the natural man to change him into a believer?

Could it be that Christ must give the natural man the Holy Spirit so that the natural man will become a spiritual man who accepts Christ? And since the natural man does not seek after God or understand Him, it is necessary for Christ to give the Spirit to the natural man without his asking or permission.

1Cor 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.

The "spiritual man" is a converted believer who is a child of God. He has been given both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit, followed by judgment. It is this judgment that destroys the natural man (a child of the Devil who disobeys God). Because the spiritual man is governed by the Holy Spirit, they will never reject the "purpose of God for him". And just like Christ, the spiritual man is willing to lay down his life rather than disobey God.

Contrary to your beliefs though, the spiritual man does not have a free will ability. He walks by the Spirit and only does what the Spirit directs him to do. As I have stated, only God has a free will ability.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

You must have a radically different definition of "eternal."

Matthew 25:46

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

2 Thessalonians 1:9

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.

Daniel 12:2

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt

I think it is pretty clear as to what God says about this.

M

Dear M _____,

Over the centuries, the translation of scripture has been done by apostate believers who believe in false doctrines like the doctrines of Free Will and Eternal Hell. Because they have these false beliefs, they have translated certain verses to make them conform to their beliefs. This is especially true for verses that contain the Greek words "aion" and its adjective form "aionios".

“Aion” means an age of time and “aionios” means age-during or pertaining to the age.

The ages are a very important concept in scripture. God’s creation only pertains to the ages, and once the ages come to an end, so will the reign of Christ.

With this concept in mind, let’s look at how the KJV translates “aion” in the verse below:

Here is an example:

Rev 11:15 And the seventh messenger trumpets. And loud voices occurred in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of this world became our Lord's and His Christ's, and He shall be reigning for ever and ever! (aion aion) Amen! (KJV)

Here is the correct translation:

Rev 11:15 And the seventh messenger trumpets. And loud voices occurred in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of this world became our Lord's and His Christ's, and He shall be reigning for the ages of the ages! (aion aion) Amen! (YLT)

The phrase "ages of the ages" comes from “aion aion”. This phrase cannot mean “for ever and ever” as the KJV translates it because of what Paul says below:

1Cor 15:25 For he must reign until he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Christ's reign comes to an end after He destroys the last enemy of death. This happens after the last person of mankind has been saved. Christ will not reign for ever and ever as the KJV says in Rev 11:15.

And likewise, the same error occurs in this verse:

Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (aion aion) (KJV)

Here is the correct translation:

Rev 20:10 and the Devil, who is leading them astray, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are the beast and the false prophet, and they shall be tormented day and night -- to the ages of the ages. (aion aion) (YLT)

We can know that the YLT is correct because the Lake of Fire is the judgment of Christ which will come to an end after the last person of mankind has been converted. Judgment will not last “for ever and ever” once its has been satisfied.

Below is a verse that uses the Greek word “aionios”. It is the adjective form of “aion”.

Mat 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting (aionios) punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (aionios) (KJV)

Here is the correct translation:

Mat 25:46 And these shall go away to punishment age-during (aionios): but the righteous to life age-during. (aionios) (YLT)

The verse above is contrasting what happens to the two different groups of people during the final age (the goats and the sheep). The goats will receive judgment while the sheep will have life. It is not addressing what happens to them outside of the ages.

And since Rev 20:10 says that judgment is only for the “ages of the ages”, punishment is likewise only for the age. It is not “everlasting” as the KJV says.

Here is how Christ judges mankind in the Lake of Fire:

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to

them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his Sun (Christ) to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain (the Early & Latter Rains) on the just and on the unjust.

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: JUSTICE, MERCY, AND FAITH: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Since the penalty of sin is death, Christ's individual judgment of a person (**Luke 12:43-48**) will end after each child of the Devil (all mankind) has perished. However, before any person perishes, Christ will have mercy upon them. His mercy will come to them as the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit. With the Spirit, the person will have faith and be "born again" as a new creation; a child of God. The newly born child of God is without sin so he will come out from Christ's judgment. However, the child of the Devil's judgment will continue until he has perished. This death will satisfy justice. After all mankind has perished in the Lake of Fire, Christ's judgment will come to an end. Christ will then deliver up the Kingdom of Heaven to the Father (now containing all mankind) which will give the Father "glory". God will then be "all in all" (within all mankind).

These scriptures apply:

1Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the consummation, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

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

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Then you must not believe God is eternal.

1. Romans 16:26

“...according to the command of the eternal God (θεοῦ αἰωνίου, theou aiōnίου)...”

Here Paul explicitly calls God αἰώνιος → “eternal,” not bound by time.

2. 1 Timothy 6:16 (indirect but related)

God is described as the one who “alone has immortality” (ἀθανασία), which ties conceptually to His eternal nature. While αἰώνιος isn’t used here, it supports the same idea.

3. Hebrews 9:14

“...Christ, who through the eternal Spirit (πνεύματος αἰωνίου, pneumatos aiōnίου) offered Himself without blemish to God...”

The Holy Spirit is called αἰώνιος → eternal, timeless.

4. 1 Timothy 1:17 (again, not αἰώνιος but closely parallel)

“To the King of the ages (βασιλεῖ τῶν αἰώνων), immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.”

This uses the plural of αἰών (ages), closely tied to the same root.

Main Points & Rebuttals

Claim: Bible translators were apostates who forced false doctrines (free will, eternal hell) into translations.

Rebuttal: This is an assertion without historical evidence. Many translators were devout and sought accuracy; translation choices reflect scholarship, not conspiracy.

Claim: “Aion” means “age” and “aionios” means “age-during,” not “eternal.”

Rebuttal: Lexicons show “aion” can mean both “age” and “eternity,” depending on context. “Aionios” in Koine Greek often carried the sense of “everlasting” (e.g., eternal life in John 3:16).

Claim: Christ’s reign ends when death is destroyed (1 Cor 15:25–28), so “aion aion” cannot mean “forever and ever.”

Rebuttal: Paul distinguishes Christ’s mediatorial reign from His eternal kingship. Ending one role does not mean His reign as Lord ceases (cf. Luke 1:33).

Claim: Revelation 20:10 says torment lasts only “for the ages of the ages,” not “forever.”

Rebuttal: The phrase “eis tous aionas ton aionon” is the strongest Greek expression for endless duration, used consistently for God’s own eternal existence (Rev 4:9–10).

Claim: Matthew 25:46 shows “aionios” punishment is only for an age, not everlasting.

Rebuttal: The verse parallels punishment and life with the same word “aionios.” If punishment is temporary, so is life—an inconsistent reading.

Claim: Judgment (Lake of Fire) ends when all are saved and made new; God will be “all in all.”

Rebuttal: Universalism reads texts selectively. Passages about eternal judgment (e.g., 2 Thess 1:9, Matt 25:41) are clear; “all in all” describes God’s ultimate sovereignty, not universal salvation.

M

Dear M _____,

Scripture primarily teaches about the events that happen during the ages. It rarely mentions anything that happens before the ages began or after they will end. Because scriptures is teaching about the ages, it will say that Christ is the God of the ages, that He reigns during the ages and has honor, power & might during the ages, etc. When scripture want to say that Christ is eternal, it will say that He is incorruptible, immortal, has no end or words to that effect.

Here are the proper translations of the verses you quoted:

Rom 16:26 and now having been made manifest, also, through prophetic writings, according to a command of the age-during God, having been made known to all the nations for obedience of faith --

Scripture teaches what happens during the ages. Christ is the God of the ages. He is also immortal but that is not what Rom 16:26 is addressing here but it does so in your next quoted verse:

1Tim 16:6 who only is having immortality, dwelling in light unapproachable, whom no one of men did see, nor is able to see, to whom *is* honour and might age-during! Amen.

The start of this scripture says that Christ is immortal. At the end of the verse it refers to the honor and might that Christ possesses during the ages - the time that Christ reigns over mankind. Once the ages end, so will the reign of Christ over mankind. Why would the verse say that Christ is immortal at the beginning and then repeat that truth at the end of the verse? It would be redundant and unnecessary.

That same problem of redundancy occurs when "aion aion" is translated as "forever and ever":

Rev 19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

Doesn't forever mean without end? Why would the verse need to add another "ever" to "forever"? Does doing that make forever an even longer period of time? That translation makes no sense but this one does:

Rev 19:3 and a second time they said, 'Alleluia;' and her smoke doth come up -- to the ages of the ages!

As I said earlier, scripture primarily only teaches about the things that happen during the ages. It is mostly silent outside of the ages.

Here is your next quoted verse:

Heb 9:14 how much more shall the blood of the Christ (who through the age-during Spirit did offer himself unblemished to God) purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

When it says "age-during Spirit", it does not mean that the Spirit only exists during the ages. You should not read into it that way.

1Tim 1:17 and to the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, only wise God, is honour and glory -- to the ages of the ages! Amen.

Why would the verse say "eternal King" and then say that the King is also immortal since they mean the same thing. The correct translation is saying that Christ is the King of the ages and that He is also immortal.

Concerning your rebuttal of the scriptures I quoted; you are twisting the scriptures to make them say what you want them to say. I see this problem all the time with other people on the forum.

I will respond in general to what you stated.

Nowhere in scripture does it say that Christ has eternal Kingship. That is a false teaching and comes from incorrect translations.

Who would Christ need to reign over after the ages come to an end anyway? By the end of the final age, all mankind will be converted into the children of God who are fully governed by the

Holy Spirit. The Lake of Fire is will also be ended because the children of the Devil have all perished from that judgment.

You are understanding Christ's reign as mankind defines a king's reign. Christ's reign is different - it is for the loving purpose of completing the mission that His Father gave Him:

1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

After Christ has accomplished the work His Father gave Him to complete, Christ's reign will end.

Why do you believe Christ is going to fail to complete the work His Father gave Him to complete?

Christ is mankind's God and never fails at anything. If He were to fail to save even just one person, He would "miss the mark" that His Father set for Him. Can't you see that your beliefs make Christ out to be a sinner?

Consider these verses:

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.

Job 23:13 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? And what his soul desireth, that will he do.

Don't you believe that Christ desires to save all mankind? If you do, then why can't you believe that Christ will accomplish that desire? He is God after all. Your beliefs are bringing Him down to the level of mankind.

Maybe you believe that mankind's "will" is just too strong for Christ to overcome???

Not according to scripture:

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?

If Christ wanted to save every person who is living right now, He could do it simply by giving each person the Holy Spirit. Salvation is a free gift that is given to mankind without their asking for it and without their permission. However, Christ has a plan to accomplish the salvation of mankind and He will stick to that plan.

Christ's plan revealed in scripture shows that the last TWO ages of time are for the purpose of saving mankind.

In this age, Christ is only saving the First Fruits of His harvest of mankind. They are the Elect who were chosen for this blessing from the foundation of the world. The Feast of Weeks foreshadows this first harvest.

In the next and final age, Christ will reign with His Elect to bring in the final and great harvest of mankind. The Feast of Ingathering foreshadows this final harvest.

After the last of mankind has been harvested into the Kingdom of Heaven, the ages will end and life outside the ages will begin. Only then will the Father be "all in all" (His Spirit indwelling all mankind). The Father will then receive glory from Christ's accomplished work.

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

For this great day of salvation to occur, everyone who bows their knee to Christ MUST be indwelt with the Holy Spirit. It can happen no other way:

1Cor 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.

John Hagee (an apostate TV preacher) was teaching about the scripture above on his TV program one day. He said that even if Christ has to break the legs of people, He will get everyone to bow their knees to Him. Can that give glory to the Father? Do you believe that Christ is so incapable of changing the hearts and minds of mankind that He would have to force a confession of faith out of anyone?

Frankly, your foundation of truth is so incorrect, that it is not possible for me to present any scripture to you which would change your beliefs. Christ reserves that power to Himself because He is the only One who can baptism a person with the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain). Without the Latter Rain, no person can see the true Christ.

These scriptures apply:

Prov 2:1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, IF YOU CALL OUT FOR INSIGHT AND RAISE YOU VOICE FOR UNDERSTANDING, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Jer 33:3 ‘CALL TO ME, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

1Sam 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? (day of salvation/conversion) I WILL CALL UNTO THE LORD, and he shall send thunder and Rain (Latter Rain); that ye may perceive and see (spiritual blindness healed) that your wickedness is great (have become apostate/a man of sin), which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

When Christ is ready to open the eyes of one of His Elect babes, He will cause them to pray for understanding. Christ will then pour out the Latter Rain and heal their blindness. This is the only way a person can find the knowledge of God.

Christ did this for me back in 2005. My testimony from that time is presented on my website which is shown below my member name - in case you have an interest in reading it.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I have just presented you with facts that contradict your statement. You have an inconsistent reading of the scriptures and you cast shade on God's watch/care over them. Was God asleep when these "bad translators" were "slaughtering" His words of life? Your religions is based upon your opinions and largely ignores facts.

FaithWillDo said:

You are twisting the scriptures to make them say what you want them to say. I see this problem all the time with other people on the forum.

That is because you see twisted as straight, so when the scriptures are presented to you straight, they appear twisted.

FaithWillDo said:

Nowhere in scripture does it say that Christ has eternal Kingship. That is a false teaching and comes from incorrect translations.

Promise of an Eternal Throne (Old Testament Prophecy)

2 Samuel 7:16 — God promises David, “Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

This covenant pointed forward to a descendant of David who would reign eternally.

Jesus as the Fulfillment of the Davidic King

Luke 1:32–33 — The angel declares to Mary: “The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

This directly ties Jesus to the eternal throne promised to David.

Jesus’ Reign Described as Everlasting

Hebrews 1:8 (quoting Psalm 45): “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.”

This affirms the eternal duration of Christ’s reign.

Jesus Acknowledged as Eternal King in Glory

Revelation 11:15 — “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

Conclusion:

Scripture consistently shows that Jesus fulfills the promise of an eternal Davidic king whose throne, reign, and kingdom have no end.

What you have presented is on your own authority using your narrow definitions of the Greek text. Many of these misguided translations are wildly out of context and if one were honestly reading the mistranslated scriptures you present, then God is not eternal.

Also, you choose to believe the way you do of your own free will. God does not want companion bots nor did He plunge the world into sin and immense suffering. Humans chose to do that. God does not will crimes like rape and murder or the slaughter children on us.

M

Dear M_____,

You said:

Was God asleep when these "bad translators" were "slaughtering" His words of life?

Of course not.

Do you think that anything in this world can happen that is not caused by God? The bad translations didn't happen by chance or my man's supposed free will ability. They happened because God caused them to happen.

The scripture below explains why the apostasy of the church happened and who caused it to happen. Apostate translators just add to the veiled nature of scripture.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts (converted believers). 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language (spiritual language) will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them (babes who draw milk) precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken (by Satan).

You quoted:

2 Samuel 7:16 — God promises David, “Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

David and his house (the Elect) will reign with Christ for the ages - not forever.

This is the correct translation:

2Sam 7:16 and stedfast is thy house and thy kingdom unto the age before thee, thy throne is established unto the age.'

Incorrect translations are not limited to the NT Greek. The Hebrew word "olam" means the same as "aion". It never means forever/eternal.

Hebrews 1:8 (quoting Psalm 45): “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.”

After the last enemy is destroyed, Christ's reign will come to an end. It is not eternal.

Here is the correct translation:

Heb 1:8 and unto the Son: 'Thy throne, O God, is to the age of the ages (the final age); a scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of thy reign;

Paul explains this truth of Christ's reign ending someday in the scripture below WITHOUT using the commonly mistranslated word "aion":

1 Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the consummation, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 FOR HE MUST REIGN UNTIL he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

If you don't believe that Christ will defeat the last enemy of death (caused by sin), then I can see how you would believe that Christ will reign for ever and ever, never having completed the mission His Father gave Him.

But Christ will complete His Father's mission and He will put an end to sin and death. In the end, all mankind (children of the Devil) will cease to exist but the Kingdom of Heaven will be that much fuller.

As for my authority, it comes from Christ and not from men. Everything that I believe and teach is supported by scripture.

I used to believe very much like you do prior to my conversion in 2005. But since that time, the Lord has fed me the same feast that He feeds to all His Elect. I may be the first truly converted person you have ever met because the Elect in this world are "few" in number.

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

I do know several other converted Elect believers but I did not meet them in any "church". Why? Because there are none there. After a person is converted, they will quickly leave the church that they were attending because light does not fellowship with darkness.

As I said in my previous post, when Christ is ready for one of His Elect babes to receive the Latter Rain and be converted, He will cause them to pray for understanding. This truth is even shown in Paul's conversion "type":

Acts 9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias (a type for Christ); and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. 11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: FOR BEHOLD, HE PRAYETH, 12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. 15 But the Lord said unto him, go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. 19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened.

Only after Christ gives a babe the Latter Rain will the scales fall from their eyes so that they can eat "meat" (truth).

I recommend you pray for understanding as Paul was surely doing before Ananias came to him.

Prayer is the only way anyone will be given the Spirit of Truth so that they can eat meat just as Paul and I have consumed - and Christ will make sure that they pray that prayer at a time of the Father's choosing. Nothing is left to chance or to a person's "will". If Christ doesn't answer a person's prayer, it is only because they are not one of the Elect. No one can change what God has already chosen.

You said:

You choose to believe the way you do of your own free will. God does not want companion bots nor did He plunge the world into sin and immense suffering. Humans chose to do that. God does not will crimes like rape and murder or the slaughter children on us.

The belief that you expressed in your post comes from the deceptions of Satan and the carnal mind of mankind.

You need to consider these scriptures on evil:

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

Ezek 14:9 And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.

Amos 3:6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?

Ecc 7:13 Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?

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

Prov 16:4 The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

Job 2:10 But he said to her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. We have also received good from God, and should we not receive evil? In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Paul said this about what causes a person to sin:3

Rom 9:19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? (when a person sins) For who hath resisted his will?

Here some other scriptures besides Rom 9:19 that reject the false teaching that mankind has a free will:

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

Prov 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Isa 26:12 O Jehovah, thou appointest peace to us, for, all our works also thou hast wrought for us.

Isa 44:18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

Jer 10:23 I know, Jehovah, that the way of man is not his own; it is not in a man that walketh to direct his steps.

Ecc 3:1 To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

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?

Prov 20:24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Here is one more - a greatly misunderstood scripture:

Phi 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

Why would Paul say to work out your salvation with fear and trembling? It's not because a person has the free will ability to work it out own their own. It's because it is God who works it out from within the person - causing them to "both will and to do of His good pleasure".

And what is His "good pleasure"?

Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

"Every word" includes evil and consuming leavened bread. It is this leavened bread that causes a person to accept Satan's false teachings and to become apostate. We all must live by this word below:

Mat 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

When a babe eats leavened bread, they don't know it because the leaven is hidden in the meal

(truth). This is the nature of being deceived.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

These verses often raise serious theological concerns, especially around the nature of God's holiness and whether God is the *author* of evil in the sense of moral wickedness. To respond well, we need to define two key things:

The biblical meaning of "evil" in context.

1. The distinction between God's sovereignty and God committing sin.

Let's walk through each verse, looking at the Hebrew terms and the broader theological context.

1. Lamentations 3:38

“Out of the mouth of the Most High proceedeth not evil and good?”

- **Key word:** "evil" = *ra'* (רָעָה) in Hebrew
- *Ra'* often means **calamity, disaster, distress**—not necessarily moral evil.
- **Context:** This is in the middle of Jeremiah's lament over Jerusalem's destruction. The point is that **both prosperity and disaster come under God's sovereignty**, not that God does morally wicked acts.
- **Interpretation:** God allows or ordains calamities as judgment or correction, but He does not sin. He is holy and cannot do moral evil (Habakkuk 1:13: “*You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong...*”).

2. Ezekiel 14:9

“And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet...”

- This is a **judicial deception**—God gives people over to their own delusions **as a judgment** (compare 2 Thess. 2:11: “*God shall send them strong delusion...*”).
- God is not lying or sinning—He is withdrawing truth from those who have rejected it.
- Think of Pharaoh's hard heart—God “hardened” it, but not by sinning against Pharaoh; He gave him over to what Pharaoh had already chosen.
- **Interpretation:** This is God exercising just punishment, not committing evil.

3. Amos 3:6

“...shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?”

- Again, “evil” = *ra’* (calamity).
- This is about **God bringing judgment (e.g., war, plague, famine)** to cities in response to sin.
- Amos is a book of warnings—God is not sinning but **acting righteously in judgment**.
- **Interpretation:** God allows or ordains disasters, but never commits moral evil.

4. Ecclesiastes 7:13

“Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?”

- “Crooked” here means **what appears to us as adversity, mystery, or frustration in life**.
- The verse is teaching humility: we cannot change God’s providence or plan.
- **Interpretation:** It doesn't mean God acts wickedly, but that His ways are often beyond our understanding.

5. Ecclesiastes 1:13

“...this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.”

- Hebrew: “evil task” = difficult, burdensome toil
- Not “moral evil,” but the **frustration and difficulty of life under the sun**.
- This is part of the fall—life in a cursed world is hard, but this is a tool for humbling mankind.
- **Interpretation:** God allows hardship, but again, not sin.

6. Proverbs 16:4

“The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.”

- “Wicked” people are not created *to be wicked*, but God allows their choices and uses even them in His sovereign plan (think Pharaoh, Judas).
- “Day of evil” = judgment day, calamity, punishment—not moral evil.
- **Interpretation:** God justly judges the wicked; He doesn’t create them *as* wicked, but uses their rebellion to fulfill His justice.

7. Job 2:10

“Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?”

- Job is speaking of **calamity or suffering** (loss of health, children, wealth).
- And the text says, “*In all this Job did not sin.*”

- So this affirms that calling such disaster “from God” isn’t accusing Him of moral evil—it’s recognizing His sovereign control.
- **Interpretation:** God allows suffering in His sovereignty, but never sins in doing so.
- The word “evil” in these verses refers to **calamity, judgment, adversity—not moral evil or sin.**
- God is **sovereign** over all things—including disasters and the actions of wicked people—but He is **never the author of sin.**
- God may **use evil agents, permit evil, or ordain calamity, but He remains just, holy, and good.**

M _____

Dear M _____,

I have heard your arguments many times before. They are simply not true when compared with what scripture teaches. You are shaping God's Word to conform to your pre-existing beliefs about God and what He is doing in this creation.

The truth that scripture proclaims is that nothing happens in God's creation that He has not planned and spoken into existence. He is the cause of all things.

Isa 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. 7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

1Cor 8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

Ecc 3:11 He has made everything fitting in its season; However, He has put obscurity (the world/man's carnality) in their heart so that the man may NOT find out His work, that which God does, that which God does from the beginning to the end.

But once a person is converted, the mystery of God will end for that person:

Rom 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

In this age, God is using evil and sin for His good and loving purposes of creating new children who will have an experiential knowledge of evil.

If God didn't create evil for mankind to experience, there wouldn't be any.

With what I stated above, it is easy to see that God doesn't just "allow" things to happen as you frequently contended in your post. God is in full control, and because He is, He knows the "end from the beginning".

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.

God's foreknowledge comes to Him, not because He is a fortuneteller, but because He causes all things to happen by the certainty of His work.

God created Satan to be mankind's tempter and destroyer because God desires mankind to have a fuller experience of evil.

Look at how God used Satan in the verses below:

2 Sam 24:1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

How did Christ move David to number Israel? He sent Satan to him.

1 Chron 21:1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

Do you think that Satan was in the Garden of Eden by chance or by Satan's supposed free will choice to be there? Neither. Satan was there because it was God's "will" for him to be there. Do you think that Eve sinned because of her supposed free will choice? No. Eve sinned because God made her spiritually marred and subject to vanity. Because Eve was spiritually marred, she developed a carnal mind which is the reason why she sinned.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (LUST OF THE FLESH**), and that it was pleasant to the eyes (**LUST OF THE EYES**), and a tree to be desired to make one wise (**PRIDE OF LIFE**), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.**

Eve didn't sin because of her physical body, nor did she sin because she was tempted by Satan.

Eve sinned because it was God's "will" for her to sin. She had no choice in the matter and neither does anyone else.

Rom 9:19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?

Rom 9:14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

When Christ came in the same physical body that mankind was given, He never sinned. When Satan tempted Him, again, He never sinned. Why? Because Christ was spiritually perfect, having the Spirit without measure. As a result, Christ never developed a carnal mind which puts the needs of self over a person's need to obey God. Christ even went to the cross rather than disobey God.

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Someday, all mankind will be re-made to be spiritually like Christ. And like Christ, the new creation will be willing to die rather than to disobey God.

After evil has served God's purposes for mankind, God will end it. In this age, Christ is ending the Elect's experience of evil. To accomplish that task, Christ will convert the Elect from being a spiritually marred and carnally minded child of the Devil into a child of God; a spiritually perfect creation who does not sin.

In the final age, Christ will convert the balance of mankind just as He did with the Elect. The scriptures below apply to Christ's judgment of those who are cast into the Lake of Fire (represents judgment/not literal fire).

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun (Sun of Righteousness) to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain (Early & Latter Rain) on the just and on the unjust.

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: JUSTICE, MERCY, AND FAITH: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

The penalty of sin is death (not eternal torment in literal fire), but before any of the lost perish,

Christ will have MERCY upon them. His mercy will come to them as the Early and Latter Rains. With the Spirit, the person will then have FAITH and be "born again" as a child of God. The newly born child of God will then be removed from Christ's judgment. However, the child of the Devil (who the person used to be) will remain in the Lake of Fire until he perishes. This death will satisfy JUSTICE. This is conversion.

In the end, God will have many new children who have a knowledge of good and evil and who are like Him in spirit and character.

What mankind is experiencing now is the birth process that God uses to create His new children. This is the meaning of life and why we exist.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Your posts are not convincing at all. You are simply trying to reinterpret the bible by fiat. Your argument is simply, "Because I say so."

M

Dear M _____,

I don't expect you to believe anything I say, and for that reason, I support my words with scripture - which you should believe.

You need to understand that Christ teaches His truth in a "mystery" just as Paul said below:

1Cor 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Christ teaches in a mystery using "stammering lips and another language". He teaches this way so that carnally minded mankind (includes babes) cannot understand His spiritual teachings. Then to make His teachings even more difficult to understand, Christ teaches it here a little and there a little, line upon line, concept upon concept. Christ also teaches His truth in parables, types, prophecies and analogies. This way of teaching truth is for the purpose of restricting understanding to only the converted Elect who have the Spirit of Truth to guide them. It is not given for anyone else at this time to understand.

The apostate churches of this world will usually not accept what I presented above. They won't accept it because they teach that salvation is only available at this time - before a person dies. And since they have this incorrect foundation of truth, they won't accept that Christ would purposefully conceal Himself and His truth from this world. After all (they would say), how can

a person make a free will decision to accept Christ if He is concealing the knowledge of Himself and His truth from them?

However, Christ does conceal Himself and His spiritual teachings from this world and even from "babes" in Christ. Why? Because Christ wants everyone to learn to trust in Him for their salvation and not in their own abilities. The Old Covenant was given to teach this truth. After a person learns that their own abilities are not enough to save them, that knowledge will lead them to Christ and His New Covenant where He does all the works.

Below is a portion of scripture where Christ teaches that His truth is concealed from everyone except those who have been converted:

Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. 16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, it is because we have no bread. 17 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? 18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. 20 And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. 21 And he said unto them, how is it that ye do not understand?

In the verses above, Christ is giving His disciples a lesson on the spiritual language of God's Word - His language:

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language (spiritual language) will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

At this point in time (before they were converted at Pentecost), the disciples had received the Early Rain of the Spirit but had not yet received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain of the Spirit). And because of such, they were still spiritually blind and could not understand the spiritual teachings of Christ.

Christ ends His comments above by asking the disciples this question: "**How is it that ye do not understand?**" No response from the disciples is recorded in scripture. However, Christ answers

His own question in the very next four verses.

Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. 24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. 25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Since Christ is the Word of God, He teaches us not only through His words which are recorded in scripture but also by the things that He did. In answering the question that He proposed to the disciples in verse 21, Christ goes to Bethsaida and gives us His answer in type by the healing of a blind man.

In verse 23, Christ leads a blind man out of the city. Once outside the city, Christ places spit on his eyes and touches him with His hands. These actions occur as the blind man is looking down which symbolizes the carnal aspect of His healing. Christ does not have to tell the blind man to look down, the blind man just does it naturally. The spit (water) symbolizes the blind man receiving the **Early Rain of the Spirit** with its accompanying vision (carnal understanding). This event represents the time when a person is called to be a saint and when they enter the church.

After Christ asks the man what he could see, the man looks up and says that he could see men "walking as trees". "Walking as trees" is a spiritual symbol for babes who walk by sight (the flesh/marred spirit with a carnal & religious spiritual nature) rather than by faith & the Holy Spirit. The man's blindness was not total any longer but he was still very near-sighted and could only see Christ carnally. Paul stated that this near-sighted type of understanding will only allow a believer to see "Christ and Him crucified" (**1Cor 2:2**). This means that the new believer can see Christ's physical work that He did under the Old Covenant, but Christ's spiritual work that He is presently doing under the New Covenant will remain blurred.

This first healing of the blind man reflects the true spiritual condition of a new believer when they first enter the church. At this time, the believer is left carnally minded and spiritually near-sighted. They can see a little, but that only opens the door to Satan's carnally based deceptions - deceptions which each new believer will readily accept due to their marred spirit & carnal mind still being in control of them (**Mat 12:43-45, Mat 24:24 & Luke 5:39**).

For a carnally minded and spiritually blind believer (Early Rain only), the Old Wine still tastes better to them:

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

The Old Wine represents the Old Covenant which is based on the works of man. The New Wine represents the New Covenant which is based solely on the works of Christ.

Peter says that this near-sighted condition is the same as being blind:

2Pet 1:9 But he that lacks these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Peter makes this statement because the believers (babes) to whom he was addressing were mixing their own works with faith. They were still preferring the Old Wine.

In the final verse of the story of the blind man, Christ lays His hands upon the man's eyes again, but as He does, Christ has the man look up instead of down. This second healing represents the **Latter Rain of the Spirit** when true spiritual vision is given to a believer. The man's upward gaze represents the spiritual aspect of the healing in contrast to the carnal aspect when the blind man was looking down at the earth.

From that moment onward, we can know that the blind man is a type for a called AND chosen believer who has received both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit (**James 5:7-8**). The man has been given eyes that can see spiritually ("**drawn from the breasts**" Isa 28:9). From his new ability to understand God's Word, the man will come out from Satan's deceptions and will begin walking by faith and by the Spirit. After the man dies and is resurrected from the grave, He will receive the reward of life during the final age where he will reign with Christ.

Mat 25:46 And these shall go away to punishment age-during, but the righteous to life age-during.

For those who were not chosen and were not given eyes that can see spiritually, they will go away to judgment with the unbelievers (**Luke 12:46**). They will suffer loss, but by the end of that age, they, too "shall be saved; yet so by fire":

1Cor 3:13 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. 14 If any man's work abides which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

If you have not prayed for understanding yet, I recommend that you do so because Christ is the only one who can give you understanding.

Jer 33:3 ‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

If you are still not able to receive any of what I have been presenting to you, it is probably a good time to end our discussion. If you ever have any questions though, I would be happy to try and answer them.

Joe

Another member started responding.

Dear FaithWillDo,

αἰώνιος aiōnios, ahee-o'-nee-os; from [G165](#); perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well):—eternal, for ever, everlasting, world (began).

aionios means eternal indeed. Maybe there is a UR only interlinear out there.

H

Dear H_____,

The definitions of "aion" and "aionios" have changed since the 1st century when the NT letters were written. This change occurred to accommodate the false doctrine of eternal hell. I can't prove that to you from any historical records but I know in my heart that it happened. How? Because the doctrine of eternal hell conflicts with many scriptures and with the very nature of who God is.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I am aware but that was remedied when UR was declared anathema in the Fifth Ecumenical Council in 553ad. You can argue the philosophy of aionios from back then but it still doesn't hold water.

H

Dear H_____,

Yes, I'm sure it was argued against in that council in 553 A.D. and at many other times. That should not surprise anyone since the churches that the very Elect started in the 1st century A.D. all became apostate shortly after Paul's death.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

The Doctrines of Free Will and Hell are two of the "perverse things" that Paul warned would come into the church. Paul also warned his churches about the coming apostasy for three years with tears because he knew that many of the babes he personally knew were going to fall away and become apostate. The apostasy was not a far off event as many teach. And because none of the flock was spared, all the churches became apostate and they still are to this day.

John even said this:

1John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

To learn truth, one should NOT be looking at church history/teachings. Scripture is quite sufficient and is the only true source of God's truth.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Joe, in order to properly interpret scripture proper use of hermeneutic principles are necessary. Two of these principles are historical and autographical. The history of the time as well as the author's intent among other literary devices frequently define context. For example, during the time of Paul gnosticism, among other Jewish and Greek inspired heretical groups, was already rising its ugly head. These were the warnings from Paul to the churches. The early church did not become apostate. You, in fact, are buying into gnostic though as you promote UR.

H

Dear H_____,

No, the proper use of hermeneutic principles is a teaching from the apostate church. The ONLY way a person can understand scripture is by the guidance of the Spirit of Truth which must be given to them by Christ.

Christ speaks His truth in scripture with stammering lips and another language, line upon line, concept upon concept, here a little and there a little (Isa 28:9-12). Christ purposefully teaches in the manner so that carnally minded babes cannot understand His truth.

The apostate churches of this world are full of babes who are spiritually blind and unable to find the truth of God - just as Christ intends. You should not be listening to them.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Sorry Joe but I can see how your studies have led you to error If you merely rely on your own understanding. Remember that all born again Christians are led by the same Holy Spirit that you claim leads you. It is pretty weak of our Lord and Savior to not be able to preserve the church that He started, even if fragmented into different denominations. However, even as fragmented as it is, our Lord and Savior remains front and center.

Be blessed.

H

Dear H_____,

Babes are the only ones who need to be led by the hand (spoon fed by others). Paul "typed" this truth on the Damascus Road after he received the Early Rain and became blind. His blindness represented his spiritual blindness and that is why he had to be led by the hand by others.

As for the apostate church, Christ fully intended and caused the early churches to become apostate. Scripture clearly teaches that truth to those who have eyes that can see.

The many different denominations of the apostate church (approx. 1000 - 2,000) was foreshadowed by the the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel. The Tower of Babel is a type for the apostate church.

Here is the teaching:

Gen 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men built. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people *is* one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one

another's speech. 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Note: The Great Harlot is a spirit word that represents mankind's marred spirit that has a carnal and religious spiritual nature. The Great Harlot reflects the religious aspect of mankind's spirit. It is the Great Harlot that causes a babe to accept Satan's false gospel that mixes works with faith. This is religion and the crooked way. Christ said it this way using the Wine analogy:

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

The Old Wine represents the Old Covenant which is founded upon man's own works of trying to follow the Law. This is the crooked way and the way a babe will prefer until they are converted.

In the Tower of Babel account, God saw that mankind was of one mind & voice and that they were attempting to build a tower to heaven. The “one mind and voice” represents the power and control that Satan had over the Great Harlot since she was committing spiritual fornication with him. The tower represents mankind’s attempt to be equal with God and to spiritually dwell where God dwells. The Great Harlot (contained in every person) teaches mankind that they can accomplish this feat by their own works (represented by the laying of bricks that will lead to heaven).

Mankind also wanted to “make a name for themselves”. This represents the self-righteousness of mankind. This self-righteousness is also displayed by the man of sin (apostate babe) who operates under a “works” based belief system. The Old Man becomes the Man of Sin after the Great Harlot comes under the total influence of the spirit of anti-Christ.

2Thes 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

The religious belief system that is produced by Mystery Babylon the Great teaches mankind that salvation by works is not only possible but that it will make us equal with God. The Doctrine of Free Will is the foundational belief of this lie from Satan. Satan used this lie with Eve in the Garden of Eden and he is still using it to this day.

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

God is the only one who has a Free Will. Mankind does not have this level of power or sovereignty.

To stop this attempt to build a tower up to heaven, God confused the languages so that mankind would be fractured. This confusion of languages resulted in the many different apostate church denominations/sects; all who call themselves "Christian".

One last point on the apostate church: Though there are many different beliefs and teachings contain in the apostate churches of this world, they have one belief in common. That belief comes from Satan's false gospel that mixes works with faith. All the apostate churches teach that a person must do something that comes from within themselves to be acceptable to Christ or to receive the Holy Spirit & salvation - things like make a free will confession of faith or be baptized in water. Some churches add many other requirements that a person must follow in order to be saved.

The truth is that mankind has no ability in their natural state to understand Christ or to have a desire to follow Him. To correct this condition, Christ began the New Covenant of Grace through Faith.

The New Covenant is solely founded upon the works of Christ. He is the Savior and when He is ready to save a person, He will do all that is necessary for it to happen.

To begin the salvation process, Christ will come to a person and freely give them a small measure of the Holy Spirit (Early Rain). He gives them this gift without their asking for it or permission. With a small measure of the Spirit, the person will have a measure of faith and the desire to accept Him as Lord. They will also then make a confession of faith. They can do nothing else.

1Cor 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.

However, the Early Rain will leave the new babe in Christ spiritually blind, carnally minded and unconverted. In this condition, Satan will not have any trouble deceiving them and adding them to the numbers of the apostate church.

The apostate babe will remain in this lost condition until they die if they are not one of the Elect.

If they are Elect, Christ will come to them a second time and pour out the Latter Rain, followed

by judgment. This will convert the babe and give them their new birth as a child of God. The Latter Rain will also heal the babe's spiritual blindness so that they can be feed truth directly from Christ. After the babe is converted and has become a child of God, Satan will never again be able to deceive them. Their salvation will be secure.

It is my hope that you can receive at least some of what I presented.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Joe, you have been totally misled. I thought I recognized some of your musings. You are an apostle for the late heretic L. Ray Smith. His teachings are non-trinitarian and completely heterodox. You have fallen for devil's teachings. I will continue to respond to your posts but only to expose the heretical teachings.

H _____

Dear H _____,

I have tried to help you but the Lord is not willing at this time. His "will" be done.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

The Lord will never lead me to heresy. The Holy Spirit will always lead me to the truth. On the other hand, ponder thus for a minute. You dismissed my exhortation to learn how to read scriptures using proper hermeneutic tools but you dismissed it as the ramblings of the apostate church. Instead you rely on the teachings of the heretical teachings of L. Ray Smith to the exclusion of everything else. You have been mis-led. Wake up and return to the Lord.

H _____

Dear H _____,

I do not rely on ANY teacher for my understanding. After I was converted, the Spirit of Truth guided my understanding of scripture and has been doing so for nearly 20 years now.

However, Christ did use Ray Smith early-on to teach me some basic truths that allowed me to see that my "wickedness was great" and that I was being deceived by Satan.

1Sam 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? (day of salvation/conversion) I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and Rain (Latter Rain); that ye may perceive and see (spiritual blindness healed) that your wickedness is great (have become apostate/a man of sin), which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

This verse applies to what Ray Smith did for me:

James 5:19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

I was my hope that the Lord would use me to help you in this way but it doesn't seem to be the right time.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Universalism is not supported in scripture. The devil, demons, and evil doers will not be saved. They will spend eternity in the lake of fire. Contrary to your erroneous belief aionios does mean eternal, perpetual. Any other definition would be incorrect.

H

Dear H _____,

Christ is the Savior of the world and scripture strongly teaches that He is.

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

And yes, the children of the Devil (all mankind) will not be saved. They have sinned and are "condemned already" (**John 3:18**). Because they are condemned, they will perish during their time of judgment in the Lake of Fire.

The problem in your understanding though is that you don't understand conversion. The process of conversion produces a new child of God and destroys the child of the Devil.

Because Christ is mankind's Savior, He will convert all the children of the Devil into the children of God PRIOR to their destruction in the Lake of Fire.

Conversion requires a person to have the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit, followed by judgment.

The Early and Latter Rains produce the new child of God WITHIN the person. Judgment

destroys the child of God WITHIN the person. It is a spiritual change. After the child of the Devil is destroyed, the person will be converted.

Conversion is what produces a "new creation"; a child of God who has faith, does not sin and who is not condemned.

2Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away (the child of the Devil); behold, all things have become new.

Christ also uses the analogy of child birth to show the new creation of a child of God:

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Only the new child of God will see the Kingdom of Heaven. The child of the Devil will perish during the judgment that occurs during the Day of the Lord.

This verse applies to that judgment:

Isa 66:16 For by fire (judgment) and by his sword (Word of God) will the LORD plead with all flesh (all mankind): and the slain of the LORD shall be many (all mankind).

Without judgment, mankind cannot be converted/saved. The old vessel must be destroyed so that a new vessel can be made.

Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

The verse above describes "conversion". This is our salvation and it is for this purpose that Christ came into the world.

1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

The God that I know and love is all powerful and cannot fail - not even for one person.

Job 23:13 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? And what his soul desireth, that will he do.

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.

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?

It pleases God to save all mankind so it will happen. Do you have the faith to believe it?

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

Matthew 7:15 NASB2020

You have fallen for one (Ray Smith).

H

Dear H_____,

Yes, prior to my conversion, I was just as deceived by Satan as you currently are. No one is spared from experiencing the Day of Evil.

If a believer has not seen the Abomination of Desolation within themselves, they are unconverted and are still under the deceptions of Satan.

Mat 24:15 Therefore when you see the ‘**abomination of desolation**,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains (**because judgment is about to destroy the man of sin who the babe became**).

A babe can only see the Abomination of Desolation within themselves AFTER Christ has given them the Latter Rain and has healed their spiritual blindness. After they see the A of D, judgment will fall on them to remove and destroy the man of sin (who the babe became when the spirit of anti-Christ indwelt them). This judgment is shown below:

Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field (within one person**); the one shall be taken (**spirit of anti-Christ**), and the other left (Holy Spirit). 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill (**within one believer**); the one shall be taken (**marred spirit of the person**), and the other left (**new divine spirit of the person**).**

After this judgment, the person is converted and saved.

Joe

Another member responded.

Dear FaithWillDo,

Can you point out one example of a scripture that was changed because it doesn't agree with other scriptures? I don't believe you. There are dozens of versions of the Bible and hundreds of translators. You are suggesting that they all got together and agreed to mistranslate specific scriptures to match someone's personal theology? Tell me whose personal theology they agreed on to use as the basis of a mistranslation.

And I have read your other posts discussing this. I have to say, though, that unless you can offer proof of your accusations, my trust goes with the experts.

On another front, Universalism is considered an unorthodox belief and can only be discussed in the Controversial Christian Theology forum.

A

Dear A_____,

So you believe that verses like the ones below are controversial?

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1Cor 13:8 Love never fails;

1Cor 3:13 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. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's

work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: 21 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.

Rom 5:18 so then as it was by one offence towards all men to condemnation, so by one righteousness towards all men for justification of life. 19 For as indeed by the disobedience of the one man the many have been constituted sinners, so also by the obedience of the one the many will be constituted righteous.

John 3:35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Luke 3:4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Mat 21:31 Which of the two was obeying his father?" They replied, "The first, of course." Then Jesus explained his meaning: "I assure you, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do.

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

Isa 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. 23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

1Tim 4:10 For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe. **11** These things command and teach.

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.

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 honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: **2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: **17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. **19** For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; **20** And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

1Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **23** But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. **24** Then cometh the consummation, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. **25** For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. **27** For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. **28** And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Act 2:17 And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

Mat 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. 12 How think ye? if a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? 13 And if so be that he finds it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

Job 23:13 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? And what his soul desireth, that will he do.

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.

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?

What is controversial is that anyone would deny the truth that these scriptures proclaim. But apostate babes do just that because they follow a different gospel that places the responsibility of salvation on the individual. This placement of responsibility is the same as what the Old Covenant of Law was founded upon - the works of man. Under the New Covenant, the responsibility of a person's salvation is Christ's alone and since He is mankind's God, it is blasphemy to teach that He will fail.

1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

By the end of the final age, Christ will have fully accomplished the mission that His Father sent Him to complete. No one will be lost.

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

If what I stated above is not allowed on this thread, then this thread should not be allowed either because what I presented answers the question the thread title asks: "Who is really responsible for salvation?"

As for your question on translations, I have already answered it in my previous posts.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I am not going to facilitate the breaking of the rules and respond to the part of your post regarding universalism, however as regarding your apparent errant translation beliefs, again, how the expert language translators translated the verses you referenced earlier is not in error. If you have no other verses to present, then it is more than likely your eisegesis of scripture that is in error.

A

I did not respond.