

Assurance of Salvation
 Part 56

"Going to heaven"

* A difficult (but worthwhile) journey *



The question is...

How often do people talk about the characteristics that *prove* they will be there?

THIS is the more important issue!

If you don't have these characteristics, don't waste your time daydreaming about a place you will never see! (Turn to Jesus instead!)

These characteristics are often called the "**fruit of salvation.**"

Without them:

- You have NO assurance that you ARE saved.
- You might have proof that you AREN'T saved.

By "**fruit of salvation,**" we DON'T mean "pie in the sky!"
 (We don't mean ice cream, either.)

- We're referring to conduct and lifestyle in the "here and now"!
- The fruit we're talking about is the result of **God's saving work** in your life.
 - Its presence means you ARE saved.

The FALSE GOSPEL
doesn't tell you these things!

It teaches an "easy" salvation.

Want to go to heaven?
Just "pray the prayer"
& you're in! *

Do I get pie?

* (One of many examples we could use.)

"Accept Jesus and your troubles will go away!" *

It often teaches an "easy" life.

"Life used to be miserable ... now everything is happy!"

"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," [Paul and Barnabas] said.
Acts 14:22b (NIV)

* (Sometimes there may be half truth to what they say. What they DONT say may be the problem.)

Pie in the sky later... ... and all life's pleasures now!

It may teach "health and wealth."

"Jesus will BLE\$\$ and PRO\$PER you!"

Their minds are corrupt, and they don't tell the truth. To them religion is just a way to get rich.
1 Tim. 6:5b (NLT)

It leaves you thinking you have a "free ticket" to heaven...

BUT THE OPPOSITE IS ACTUALLY TRUE.

Take a Chance
THIS CARD MAY BE KEPT UNTIL NEEDED OR SOLD
GET OUT OF HELL FREE

YOU MEAN THEY LIED?

"You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are."
Matthew 23:15 (NIV)

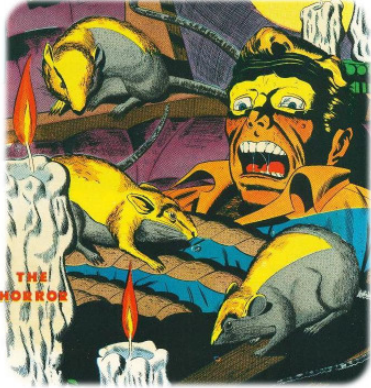
The FALSE GOSPEL should terrify you!



How much should it terrify you?

[HINT]

MORE THAN being tied up & eaten by RATS.



The **GENUINE GOSPEL** teaches a difficult salvation.

★ It's so difficult that you have to rely on God to live your daily life. ★

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

1 Peter 4:18 (NIV)

- Let's REPEAT this for emphasis!
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The **GENUINE GOSPEL** teaches a difficult salvation.

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A PARENTHESIS! The world can invent a "difficult religion" * (prayers, rituals, fasting, etc.)

- But it's comprised of attitudes and activities that sinful human nature can be involved in.

It does not result in salvation.

* (A "difficult religion" is NOT the same as a "difficult salvation.")

- And the answer to the question?

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

1 Peter 4:18 (NIV)

ANSWER:

It's going to be a lot harder for them.

In the end, you'll know that you "made it to heaven" * **ONLY because of God and his power.**

NOT NEEDED!

(It doesn't work, anyway.)



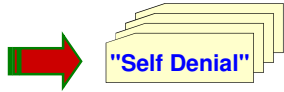
* (i.e., the New Jerusalem)

So what's next in this series?

ONE OF THOSE ASPECTS OF SALVATION WE MAY CONSIDER "DIFFICULT"



Why might we consider this a "difficult" topic?



Because society has taught us the idolatry of "self indulgence."

"After all, you **DESERVE** it!"

YOUR MISSION

- Pray that we will be willing to accept what Scripture says about "self denial."
- Those who are genuine followers of Jesus want to accept it...
- But they know it won't be easy... and they'll need God's power to succeed.

Credits (1)

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