

JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY SAVES SINNERS

Jesus Christ Alone is actually the Saviour of Sinners

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One often hears sermons in fundamentalist churches in which people are told that "Christ did everything He is going to do to save you; now it is up to you to do your part." Salvation is viewed as a cup of medicine that is of no use whatever until a man accepts the cup and drinks it. The idea that Christ can or will save only those who of their own "free will" are willing to accept Him completely contradicts what the Bible says about the effect of total depravity upon the human race. All men are dead spiritually Eph. 2:1-5, hate the truth, hate Jesus Christ John 3:19-21, dwell in darkness John 1:4-5, have a heart of stone Ezek. 11:19, are helpless Ezek. 16:4-6, cannot repent Jer. 13:23, are slaves of Satan Acts 26:17-18, and cannot see or comprehend divine truth 1 Cor. 2:14. This teaching is offensive to the natural man but unavoidable unless one is willing to abandon the Word of God.

The doctrine of total depravity is important, for when it is properly understood, it proves that salvation is totally of God's grace. Those who reject this doctrine and teach that the human will is the sole determining factor between who is and who is not saved have abandoned the biblical doctrine of salvation. 'When one says,' he tells us, ' "I believe in God, the Father Almighty," he means it with reserve for in the domain of man's moral choices under grace, man himself is almighty, according to God's self-limitation in making man in his image and after his likeness.' God himself, he goes on to declare, has a creed which begins: 'I believe in man, almighty in his choices.' "

Armenians believe that God has provided forgiveness in Christ and now is waiting for men to appropriate the redemption provided. It is as though there is a pot of gold sitting there waiting for man to discover it and take it. This view, which makes salvation a cooperative effort between God and man, synergism, is not grace as biblically defined. The moment man contributes something of his own to salvation, even if it is just one act of the will, grace is no more grace. Luther writes: "Granted that your friends assign to 'free will as little as possible', nonetheless they teach us that by that little we can attain righteousness and grace; and they solve the problem as to why God justifies one and abandons another simply by presupposing 'free-will', and saying: 'the one endeavored and the other did not; and God regards the one for his endeavour and despises the other; and He would be unjust were He to do anything else! They, the guardians of 'free will' do not believe that He intercedes before God and obtains grace for them by His blood, and 'grace' as is here said 'for grace'. And as they believe, so it is unto them. Christ is in truth an inexorable judge to them, and deservedly so; for they abandon Him in His office as a Mediator and kindest Saviour, and account His blood and grace as of less worth than the efforts and endeavors of 'free-will'!" Arminianism is the first cousin to Romanism. It is a damnable heresy.

If one man had the wisdom and will to choose Christ while his neighbor did not, then he has reason to boast. But if men are dead in trespasses and sins and totally unable to respond to Christ until He raises them from the dead through regeneration, then there is no reason for a man to boast. God receives all the glory. "Just as Lazarus would never have heard the voice of Jesus, nor would he have ever 'come to Jesus,' without first being given life by our Lord, so all men 'dead in trespasses and sins' must first be given life by God before they can 'come to Christ.' Since dead men cannot, will to receive life, but can be raised from the dead only by the power of God, so the natural man cannot of his own mythical 'free will' will to have eternal life John 10:26-28." The gospel really is good news. Jesus Christ actually saves sinners.