

BIBLE EXPLORER

News

"Featuring News That Shouldn't Be News But Is News"

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Online Newspaper

SALVATION THEOLOGY

— The Remarkably Incredible Extremes —

sal-4

#sal-4 — Online NEWSpaper "SALVATION" series. Each editorial builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.



From #sal-3—

Most believers apparently seek only *The Warm Fuzzies*. That makes them easy prey for those who seek followers and followers' dollars...and feed them "more attractive" Salvation messages. Paul said such folk are babies, only able to tolerate scriptural milk...

- > "The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
—Jeremiah 17:9
- > "How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity?...and fools hate knowledge?"
—Proverbs 1:22
- > "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool..."
—Proverbs 28:26
- > "My people are destroyed for lack of KNOWLEDGE..."
—Hosea 4:6
- > "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Is'ra-el is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge...."
—Romans 10:1,2

But what about that
— "Getting 'Saved'" —
thing?

Nobody ever "got 'saved'" in the 1st Century. When they heard and believed the gospel message, they confessed their sinful lifestyles and repented of them. Their repentance equated to decisions to abandon those sinful lifestyles and to actively follow Christ. So at what point in church history did people start "getting 'saved'"?

At this point, our **Link1™** Bible Research Team has not been able to uncover even one example of people "getting 'saved'" at any point before the early Nineteenth Century. Is it possible that the now-pervasive "getting 'saved'" phenomenon was created by evangelical preachers who perceived the need for a marketable catch phrase by which to captivate the uninformed masses in the early 19th Century? Were they salesmen at heart...needing a tool with which to "close the sale?" The now-popular "altar calls" and "the sinner's prayer" phenomena also started in the early 19th Century. (A lot of really strange things started happening in April, 1830 – on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. (That is the fascinating subject of our topical series #2.)

Meanwhile, there is this: From the mid-1800s until now, the oft-unspoken but easy-to-observe primary mission of the visible church has been "to get

people 'saved'." You may've noticed that most Sunday sermons are actually "salvation" sermons...creatively repackaged. Might that be a problem? Well, yes: The Great Commission has nothing at all to do with "getting people 'saved'" or anything else that might resemble that:

- > "Go ye therefore, and teach[^] [make disciples of] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching[^] them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." —Matthew 28:19,20
- [^] The NKJV, the NLT, the NIV, the ESV, the HCSB, the NASB, the NET, the RSV, the ASV, the YLT, the DBY, the RVR60 and the Interlinear texts all confirm that Jesus instructed us "to make DISCIPLES;" not Believers. The making of Believers is the job of The Holy Ghost and HE does that in conjunction with the sharing of the Word by Disciples...with people who ask:
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_f08d524e254448893326a34a60a97cd.pdf

The observable result of the visible church's substantially erroneous mission focus is that our church buildings are filled (sometimes to overflowing) with BELIEVERS; not DISCIPLES. Big difference! Believers may be "Sitting On The Premises," but they're stereotypically *passive* in their christianity. Most of'em subconsciously think they're paying the resident professional christians to do all their Bible studying and critical thinking for them. Their typical

scriptural diet is Sunday morning "milk." (Growing up is a choice we each make, you know.)

DISCIPLES can't be made from any pulpit or in any classroom. They learn to...

DISCIPLINE themselves for meaningful productivity within the community of faith.

BELIEVERS, then, are...well, kind'a-sort'a like the devils who believe and tremble. Paul characterized them as babies who can only tolerate scriptural "milk."

Do you think Disciples can be made from pulpits or in classrooms? Assemble a bunch of young kids in a classroom and try to "teach" them how to ride their first-ever bikes!

It is, unfortunately, not a "preaching" or "teaching" assignment, but a COACHING assignment. Where, then, are the coaches and who's helping those folk learn how to become effective discipleship coaches?

"But we've always done it this way..."

