

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-5

#sal-5 — Online NEWSpaper “SALVATION” series. Each editorial builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.



From #sal-4—

The Great Commission has nothing at all to do with “getting people ‘saved.’” It’s about making Disciples! But nobody can “make DISCIPLES” from pulpits or in classrooms. That’d be like trying to “teach” rooms full of pre-adolescents how to ride their first bikes!

Yet the visible church’s focus is on filling its pews with BELIEVERS. Most of those folk are sincere, but they’re a lot like those creatures at James 2:19 who believe and tremble. “But we’ve always done it this way...”

...whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.
— Luke 14:33

That sounds pretty harsh, to be sure, but Jesus said it. So how are we frail humans to respond? Perhaps we can learn from the apostle, Paul: He was fully convinced that when he decided to follow Christ, that was just the beginning of a race that he’d be compelled to run aggressively (not passively) all the way to the finish line.

When he became aware that he was nearing the end of his personal race, he wrote this:

*I have fought a good fight,
I have finished [my] course,
I have kept the faith:*

*Henceforth
there is laid up for me in Heaven
a crown of righteousness, which
the Lord, the righteous judge,
shall give me at that day...*

— 2 Timothy 4:7,8 —

Yes, it is quite true that Paul’s assigned race was likely different from the one that God has assigned to you. We think you can safely count on that. (Whew!)

Jesus called our individual assignments “crosses.” Those are quite different for each of us. The secular version of the take-home message is, “You’ve gotta play the hand you were dealt.” This is how Jesus said it...

*And whosoever doth not
bear his cross, and come after
me, cannot be my disciple.*
— Luke 14:27 —

In the quote from Paul, at 1 Timothy 4:8, above, he said that righteous judge will give him a crown of righteousness on “that day.” What day was he referencing? That’d be the one and only Judgment Day.

On that day, the righteous judge will determine how well we each have carried the cross that He assigned to us.

Participation trophies are abundant today. While we can’t be certain, we are pretty sure that God won’t be giving out any of those on Judgment Day.

Christ’s Yoke?

*Take my yoke upon you,
and learn of me; for I am meek
and lowly in heart: and ye
shall find rest unto
your souls.*
— Matthew 11:29

Is that just a memory verse for children’s church or might it be a really serious command? If you grew up around farm animals, you already know that yokes are placed on the necks of two animals for the purpose of using the strength of them both for getting some critical work done. Might we safely conclude that that is the only purpose for Christ’s yoke, too?

Have you taken that yoke? If so, what kind of work do you think Christ expects from you? There’s a lot of misinformation afoot on that topic.

Like many among the naïve faithful, I waited and prayed for years that the Lord would reveal His calling on my life. Meanwhile, I pursued things I enjoyed and was pretty good at doing. Those were secular pursuits for the most part. They yielded a good living and I had a ball. Still, though, I often thought God just didn’t have

a plan for me, except to be a good adult Sunday School teacher and a spokesman for my denomination’s “What ‘We’ Believe” franchise.

Much later, I learned that He had been preparing me for TODAY. So, what was “my calling” during all the previous decades? It was to pursue things I enjoyed and was pretty good at doing! Might that be God’s current plan for you, too?

Among the confusing messages of the visible church is that each of us should expect a “special” calling, much like the one Samuel experienced. The disturbing result? Many of the naïve faithful come to believe that their preachers are “called” and the rest of us are “not ‘called.’”

The vast majority of the professional clergy come to think that, too—subliminally, perhaps. So, the presumed “not ‘called’” regularly pack the bleachers to watch and cheer as paid professional Christians compete in “get ‘em all ‘saved’” games on beautifully appointed Sunday AM playing fields.”



*You’ve taken Christ’s yoke?
That’s good. Do you know
that the only reason for
a yoke is to get some
critical work done?*

