

# 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-12 — Online NEWSpaper "SALVATION" series. Each editorial builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.

### What We Believe

- All Seminaries Teach It.
- Their Graduates Preach It.
- Their Uninformed Buy It.
- Let The Buyer Beware.

How do *real folk* respond to what people they love have taught them about Salvation theology? They respond a lot like that young couple in our first two editorials of this series who hooked-up on a Saturday evening in a big city night club. These are among the reasons why that is observably true:

1. Extremely few of those folk (professional or volunteer) who presume to teach "what 'we' believe" have ever reexamined "what 'we' believe" objectively.
2. When "what 'we' believe" is presented as a forgone conclusion, the typical believer is afraid to question it...except in their often perplexed minds. *Cognitive Dissonance* reigns in the hearts and minds of many of the otherwise intelligent folk who fear the "Doubting Thomas" label with a major passion.
3. The masses, including churchgoers, are headline readers. They rarely grasp what follows a headline, except when it comes to things that entertain them. For example, those who regularly hear the Calvinist

headline, *We're not under Law; we're under Grace!* are apt NOT to comprehend, *What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law...?* at Romans 6:15

4. Churchgoers love their preachers and teachers. It is perhaps subconscious for most, but there is the pervasive presumption that *preachers and teachers are "called" and "chosen" and we are not, so they are our superiors.*

5. Real folk are attracted to free stuff, as in the current political arena. Passive church folk have invested their *Faith Equity*<sup>SM</sup> in their preachers and teachers. In doing that, they effectively confirm the presumption of christian elitism for those folk, who come to treasure it. A typically effective way for them to perpetuate their elite status is to sugar-coat the Salvation message for their admirers: Those free tickets to Heaven are selling like hotcakes!

If our lovely young Sunday School teacher gal is to die in her unrepented lifestyle of one-night-stands, there will be no participation trophy for her. If our handsome young traveling business guy is to die in his unrepented lifestyle of alternating between one-night-stands and "getting *saved*" again, there will

be no participation trophy for him on Judgment Day, either. Both mindsets and both of those lifestyles are a mockery of Our Lord's sacrifice at Calvary.

"I know we're not supposed to be *Doubting Tomases*, Linda, but I just can't help it! Every time I find myself questioning things I hear or see in church or on Christian TV, I have to pray for forgiveness!"

"I used to do that, too, Liz. But then I read something that told me that skepticism can be a GOOD thing – not a bad thing at all!" offered Linda. "Look! It's right here in your Bible!"

*Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

Acts 17:11 [NIV]

"But that's out of context!" Liz snapped.

"There! You've just been a skeptic again! That's great! Do you feel guilty?"

"No. Well, yes...a little, I guess...I don't know!" Liz blushed.

"Have you ever thanked the Lord for giving you a brain that lets you sort things out...you know, figure stuff out?"

"Well, yes."

"See? You have the spirit of a sound mind! According to

2 Timothy 1:7 that's a gift from God! To not use your good mind fully, especially when searching for Truth, would be a senseless waste of God's gift to you!"

Might Thomas have been among the most noble of Jesus' disciples? Are you a *Doubting Thomas*? If not, you should be; but in the style of the Bereans!

Our **Link1**<sup>TM</sup> Bible Research Team has invested an enormous number of hours, days, weeks and months in prayerful scholarly research and analysis into this project. Because this writing is a work of non-fiction, We have had no real choice but to rely heavily on our God-given sound MINDS and to force a truly objective mindset. Because we're ALL biased to some degree, that's no easy task! (Bet you knew that.)

We hope you will conclude that we have succeeded in that objective...to our mutual benefit. If so, please share this with everyone you know. If not, please let us know that:

### END OF "SALVATION" SERIES

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