

BIBLE EXPLORER

News

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Online Newspaper



SALVATION THEOLOGY

— The Remarkably Incredible Extremes —

sal-1

#sal-1 — Online NEWSpaper "SALVATION" series. Each editorial builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.



How do real folk respond to what people they love have taught them about Salvation theology? The short story that follows may be our best option for answering that question so that you may never forget it. It may also be the most effective way for you to understand how ridiculous the extreme theories are.

A lovely gal caught the eye of a handsome guy in a big city nightclub. He was consuming moderate amounts of alcohol, but her drink was Perrier on the rocks. They talked and listened to the live band for the first few minutes. Then they danced for quite a while. They were very much attracted to one another, emotionally and physically.

He invited her to join him for a Perrier in the lounge of the luxurious hotel he was staying in while in town on business. "I came here with a girlfriend, so you'll have to take me home afterward, okay?"

He agreed.

It was a piano lounge and the pianist was also a singer, a

genuine talent. She was really impressed. "I have lived here all my life and I have always wanted to see the inside of this hotel. It is gorgeous!"

He was pleased.

The pianist/singer took a break and the gal took the last sip of her Perrier and excused herself to the ladies' room.

She returned and, having also finished his Perrier, the guy said, "Hey! I've got an idea!"

"Oh? What's that?"

"You've always wanted to see the inside of this hotel, so that means you've never seen one of the rooms! In my travels, I have never slept in a more luxuriously appointed room! Wanna see it?"

"Sure! Let's!"

Okay; we don't have to tell you how that fateful night played out. You know. At some point, she said, "I've gotta be home by 8:00." He didn't think to ask why until they had almost overslept: "Why 8:00?"

"Today's Sunday. I've got to teach Sunday School for my high school girls."

"You're a Sunday School teacher? How do you reconcile that with what we've been doing all night?"

"It's like I teach the girls in my class: Jesus loves us unconditionally. He died on the cross to forgive us of all our sins—past, present and future!"

"Wow! At my church, I'm considered a backslider!" I have to get saved, again, every once in a while, especially when we get a new revival preacher."

"Yeah; I've heard about those churches. I think that might effectively cheapen my salvation experience. How does it affect you?"

"Well, I just know if I'm not living right when I die, I'll go straight to Hell."

"Our preacher tells us a lot about it in his sermons. He says that doctrine is from a fellow named Arminius or something like that. We follow the John Calvin doctrines. Both of those guys lived in the 16th Century, I think."

"I've heard our preacher mention John Calvin, but I don't recall ever having heard of that Arminius guy."

"Hey! Here's where I live. Got just a few minutes to get ready for church. When'll you be back in town?"

"Next month, I think."

"Great! Maybe we can get back together and talk more!"

"Sure."

"Bye; had fun."

"Yeah; me too."

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination."

—Samuel Clemens

Most folk who have been schooled on the antagonism that has long existed between Calvinism and Arminianism will initially presume this to be a continuation of that story. It is not. The *experts* in both of those camps keep missing a critical point: one that you will discover later in this series...if you continue following it.

You may be certain that Calvinism and Arminianism are the wild extremes of the gospel message of Salvation. Millions of very sincere folk will be really, really angry on Judgment Day. Their anger will be directed at preachers, but God will hold each believer accountable for making sure he is aligned with the First Century gospel regarding the truth about Salvation.

"Thus saith the LORD; Cursed [be] the man that trusteth in man..."
—Jeremiah 17:5

