

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-6

#sal-6 — Online NEWSpaper SALVATION series. Each editorial builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.



From #sal-5—

Many of the 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.

A valued correspondent wrote this on January 21, 2015: "When a naïve believer fails to receive this 'special' calling, the door is left wide open for a preacher's voice to become *the voice of God*—especially in those churches where there is preacher worship and the church dictates 'standards and convictions' for everybody." This is how I responded:

Typically, it's a preacher or a parent or another zealous relative who fills that perceived vacuum to become *the voice of God*. As an example, my mom tried her best to make me into a preacher. I'm convinced that her motives were purely subliminal, though:

A. To be able to bask in the admiration of her would-

be-preacher-momma friends B. To qualify her for special preacher-momma blessings in Heaven. The fact that her dad was a well-known "super preacher" may've played a big role in that. She kept telling me I could become like Oral Roberts and such as that. Hmm... (Read 2 Corinthians 11:5 in several Bible versions to understand why I've used the term, "super-preacher," here.)

Aside from yielding to such carnal motives, my mom was a godly woman who would stop to actually get onto her knees and pray for me several times every day. Her prayers were worthy and appropriately effective. They may've been responsible for my acquisition of discernment. Along with that and a touch of wisdom, I've learned to lean more to my God-given intellect than to my feelings in things that matter.

Here's my take on all this: The janitors, grass-cutters and nursery workers in the visible church will receive much greater rewards in Heaven than ANY of our paid professional christians, many of whom may already have received their reward.

Yes, there is work to do, but it is beyond naïve to think we can pay our professional christians to do our work for us.

At What Point Is A Believer "SAVED?"

Perhaps the most effective way for us to communicate the scriptural answer to that burning question will be with a word picture...

Imagine yourself lost at sea and on the rapidly failing remnants of a handcrafted raft. You see what appears to be a ship on the stormy horizon. You hope that's what it is and that it will come towards you. If it does, you hope somebody onboard will also see you and come to your rescue. You pray for God to intervene.

The image of that possible ship gets larger and you are very much encouraged as it seems to get closer.

Yes, it is definitely a ship. You start waving your arms frantically – yelling "Help!" as loudly as you can.

Somebody onboard must have seen you because the ship moves alongside your raft, now. A rope ladder unfolds toward you and you grab onto it and, with a sudden surge of strength, you climb up and then onto the deck of that ship. Exhausted, you collapse there.

You can hear the voices of your rescuers, but you cannot understand the language they are speaking. So how can you express your gratitude?

At the next port of call the ship docks and someone takes you to the local hospital. You are severely dehydrated and badly sunburned, too. The whispers of the medical staff makes you wonder if they think you may die. You certainly feel like death. Again, you pray.

The hospital's medical team appears to be competent as it administers a series of tests and interim treatments. They admit you as a hospital patient and you are there for more than a week...feeling better each day.

On the day you leave the hospital, you are feeling much better. You thank the medical professionals for the good work they did and you begin the long journey back to your home.

The people who love you are excited to see you alive and well. There are hugs. A local TV station visits with you for an interview. They treat you as if you are a hero!

Now, at what point in that harrowing saga were you saved? Was it when you first saw that ship? Was it when that rope ladder descended...or when you were able to grab onto it? Was it at some point during your hospital experience? When you got out of the hospital? Upon your reunion with people who love you?

You may find it easy, now, to comprehend the scriptural rationale we'll share next...

