

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-11

#sal-11 — Online NEWSpaper "SALVATION" series. Each editorial builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.



Paul very clearly thought that genuine belief in the Gospel message must result in the aggressive running of a RACE ...and the FINISHING of an assigned course: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith." —2 Timothy 4:7

henceforth there is laid up for me in Heaven a crown of righteousness

From #sal-10—

Jesus made it really clear that only those who endure to **THE END** will be saved. (See Matthew 24:10-13 and Mark 13:13.) How must we define that word, "endure?"...and "to the end" of what?

For we are made partakers of Christ, IF we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.
Hebrews 3:14

Deby Boone made the following song lyrics famous in the late 1970s or early 1980s. They have become the virtual anthem of the 21st-Century visible church:

"It can't be wrong when it feels so right!"

That mindset is pervasive. It is why it is really, really hard to objectively reexamine the things people we love and respect have taught us about the Bible and Christianity.

Several scriptures tell us to put on the MIND of Christ. Not

even one instructs us to put on His HEART—or his "feelings" either, for that matter. We mentioned that in the third editorial of this series, but we didn't include the scriptures to which we were referring. Here they are:

- > "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your MIND..." —Romans 12:2
- > "Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." —Philippians 2:5
- > "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound MIND." —2 Timothy 1:7
- > "...Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same MIND..." —1 Peter 4:1

Here's the Old Testament version of it...

- > "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool..." —Proverbs 28:26

So what remedy is there for a sincere believer with a sound

mind who really wants to avoid passivity? Might it be this...?

"Study^[G4704] to shew thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth." —2 Timothy 2:15 [KJV] ^{G4704} spoudazō; Strong's: "...do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study."

But if you read most any other Bible version you have likely missed out on the significance of this strong admonition to believers who would gain God's personal approval. It is a confirmed fact that many of the newer versions aren't translations, but paraphrases. Why paraphrase the scriptures when the original languages are relatively easy to translate accurately?

Almost all of us Christian creatures of Human Nature (i.e.: the Sin Nature) have latched-on to one of the multiple sectarian doctrines. When setting out to interpret the scriptures we are *naturally* inclined to the bias of the related dogma. Perhaps it is often subconscious...

Still, though, it is SPIN. Here are five examples of such pertinent liberal "translation:" https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_95e24c94e86e4bd89ffe6860121a611e.pdf

- ☛ "Do your best^[G4704] to..." [ESV]; [NIV]; [RSV]; [ASV]
- ☛ "Make every effort^[G4704] to..." [NET]
- ☛ "Strive diligently^[G4704] to..." [DBY]
- ☛ "Give diligence^[G4704] to..." [HNV]
- ☛ "Study and do your best^[G4704] to..." [AMP]

Sounds to us like an effort to prepare believers to expect PARTICIPATION TROPHIES on the Day of Judgment: "Congrats! You tried!" or "Congratulations on your sincerity!" or something like that?

That "Do your best!" one is classic, in that "real people" likely interpret it as a sanction for their passivity. That is the current norm, you know.

There are allegorical[^] passages in the Bible, but many of those who view the whole thing as allegorical may never "get it." On the flip side of that are those who've decided that all scripture is straightforward with never any allegory or symbolism. Many of those folk will never "get it," either.

[^]"Allegorical" is the adjective form of the noun, "allegory." Per the Miriam-Webster Dictionary, "allegory" means "the expression by means of symbolic fictional figures and actions of truths or generalizations about human existence..."

Attention!
Globally, there are millions who Believe. The vast majority never study the scriptures at all. Most who do study do it to confirm "What 'We' Believe." Few there be who study diligently, to gain Truth. "...narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." — Jesus, at Matthew 7:14 —

