

Chapters of Soteriology

By Donald Perry

Table of Contents

1. My Salvation and Sanctification Testimony 9/4/79
2. My No-Repentance-Necessary Gospel Tract 11/18/09
3. My Calvinist My Calvinist Repentance-Necessary Gospel Tract
8/25/18
4. The Fruitless Gospel 9/15/18
5. The Golden Ticket of No-Repentance Salvation 1/1/2019
6. Edward Stevens is missing the Already-But-Not-Yet 1/6/2019
7. Are You "Saved," or Are You "Being Saved" (1 Cor 15:2) by Bill
Mounce

My Salvation and Sanctification Testimony

Sometime in July 1979

When growing up my parents would take my brothers and myself to church. As I got older I had abandoned that and go ride my bike around West Orange, NJ and later I would go rock climbing.

I used to camp out for months at a time at the Trapps Cliff in New Paltz, NY. When I was there, I slept on the Carriage Road or in a fist aide litter on top of big rocks under the Hudson Boulder overhang. It was the only dry place when it rained. Sometimes it would rain for days, usually no more than three at a time.

One sunny morning while I was just getting up I thought to myself "*Why not try to solo something hard, maybe 5.10?*" I had heard of people soloing climbs. I thought to myself that Maybe Swing Time would be a good idea, or Erect Direction, I thought. I had made a conscious decision that it did not matter if I fell. I had lived my life and was ready to commit my life to a climb or what might lie beyond it. There was nothing in the world that I felt was worthy of my devotion that I needed to stick around, so with that I said: "God here I come." knowing anything awaited me, I might make it I might not and that was okay with me at the time.

It was about 7:00 AM when I made it up to the big blocky overhanging wall 200' above the ground on E.D. I traversed right carefully out over the rock concentrating on what I was doing. Then around the corner I came. Splat splat splat splat on my face. I climbed up the wet open book to its top. The climb was dripping because it had showered the day before. Then I traversed left to leave the corner out over the roof, but the chalked holds I was using were seeping. I could not handle it and back right I went to rest in the corner. Later I tried it again, but it was too much for me, and I was getting sewing machine leg. "Now what?" I said to myself. "I cannot go down, its wet, and I cannot go up." I decided to postpone this thing, if I could, I changed my mind, I was not ready to die. I decided to call for help and see if someone could rescue me, which was a little embarrassing.

After a while I saw some people walking on the carriage road below. I called to them for help, which was slightly embarrassing. The people started climbing up. When they got close I yelled over to them:

"Help"

"Where are you?" called a man.

"I am up in this corner and I can't get out," I said.

"Where is your climbing partner?" asked the man.

"I soloed up here and got stuck in this corner."

"Are you ok?" said the man.

“Yes” I said.

“How long have you been there?”

“About an hour ... and ... when you get to the top you will need to rappel down to get a rope to me since the wall is so over hung.”

“Ok” said the man.

I had a lot of time to think about my life there. I decided that I would know more about who I was and why I was climbing in the first place if I ever got out of there. That I would make up my mind if I would believe in God, or do anything with that. It was at that point that I started to feel that if I did not do something I might very well go to Hell. The man and the woman hurried up the last pitch of Up Draft and talked a little among themselves. About 40 minutes later a man rappelled down about 20' out from the wall and threw me a rope. I tied it on with one hand and climbed up without falling.

“Thank you,” I said.

“I really appreciated that. The overhang I was on was seeping water and I could not climb it. I thought it would be better to wait there rather than try and do it.”
“I am glad you waited too,” said the lady.

It where there that I had to come to conclusions about life, death, God and Hell. It became obvious that if there is no God then all life was indeed meaningless. I did not appreciate the hero worship that was becoming common among those who were breaking out of the 5:11 barrier, for a lot of people this was what they lived for, but for me it was not something I was too interested in.

I did not appreciate the hero worship that was becoming common among those who were breaking out of the 5:11 barrier.

I wrote this 10:00 AM Tuesday September 4th 1979

These are realizations God gave to me on 10:00 AM Tuesday September 4th 1979 that helped reverse the course of my life to turn toward God and serve Him instead of myself.

HELL. There may be a place like hell for those who sin to go after they die and I don't want to go there. It is better to live one's life believing there is a God. and possibly be wrong and go to heaven for eternity rather than the other way around. [*Additionally, if the God of the Bible exists there will be a heaven and a Hell to define the meaning of what happened in this life to people who worshiped God or loved their own flesh.*]

MEANING. If there is no God then all life has very little if any meaning. It is better to live one's life believing there is a God as this sets the course of one's life on the only logical path. Chaos is the other alternative. [*Additionally, if your life here has little meaning I then you will not have a problem soloing climbs.*]

WHO IS GOD? Looking around at the world I found that God must be love. The highest aspect of one's life is how much one has loved or is loved. [*Additionally, love is not God if love is subjective.*]

IS THERE A BOOK? The Bible is full of truth like no other book that points to a God of high standards of love and logic. [*The Bible is a direct revelation of God. Jesus is defined as the Word of God.*]

February 18th 1996

These are realizations God gave to me on that helped reverse a course in my life to turn toward God from an increasing destructive life of lukewarmness starting 17 years before.

TEMPORARY LIFE. While salvaging the sunken boat (Turmoil) in Port Newark, NJ a fellow I was working with died when the boat fell back into the water. This helped me to realize that this life is very short and temporary and there is nothing anyone can do once it's your time to go. My life has always seemed especially temporary. God has had to save me from death in my present occupation of industrial smoke stack demolition and climbing (as my favourite pastime) more than a few times. I know God has intervened to keep me here. I believe I would not be here if God had not intervened to insure I stay here by protecting me with angels. The earth is just a temporary stop like a dream before the dawn and it is a place where God is trying to reveal His glory to men but men refuse to acknowledge and serve Him. It is the "gate to the hereafter" not "the life" as the world wrongly believes and lives it. This is a great mistake to make. This life is not a place to become comfortable and it is not a place where we can get comfortable or spend our lives fulfilling our own pleasures ultimately, because we are on our way out. My neck started to hurt quite a bit over a few months and I could hardly drive. This made me realize that I could not fulfil any plans without God's intervention for He was giving me life. How can I do anything apart from His will because He is going to stop me eventually either by ending my plans at my death or before.

CONFUSION. Without a committed life to God I found I was travelling about in circles like those in the wilderness with Moses. One minute I miss God's smile, and the next minute I want to do my own thing. Too much confusion. It is much simpler to be hot or cold than lukewarm. The lukewarm life is a road of continuous searching for something new but never finding anything. In truth a bad situation is the same as a good one because a good situation out of "Gods will" makes one uncomfortable because it is stolen not given.

DISAPPOINTMENT. Anything you get in this life rusts, rots, or wrinkles and if what you like here on earth is not something passing away remember that you

are passing away. It says in the book of *James* that rust is a witness against us. To look for something here in this life to rest in for pleasures sake will only result in disappointment.

REAL LIFE. Heaven is where the correctly lived life is, and when we get there, we will be serving God every day from then on. So, I realized that I needed to get into the habit of serving God since that's what I am going to be doing for the rest of eternity anyway. Real life is lived by those in heaven serving God. They are not finding and always looking for ways out or ways to please themselves. This life is so short, why do anything, but what pleases God. Real life in heaven is serving and worshiping God. This real life can start now not after death. We are created by God to worship and serve His Holy laws which God exalts above Himself. God did not create us to serve our own lusts & pleasures but to enjoy our life given from Him in light of His presence. Since this world belongs to God we need to serve Him. Those who do not want to serve Jesus, God will put in prison because God's plan is to make a perfect world. There is a big deference between the people of heaven and us. The people of this world serve themselves for the most part, so it seems kind of unusual for us to serve him, especially if we have the TV as our friend. However, think how many in heaven wish they had a second chance to live this life differently! God hides himself from the proud, but don't be fooled he is not too far from each of us! Remember Enoch walked with God. God is here too.

THANKFULNESS. Heaven is not a boring place and we need to get excited about going there because that is our real home, up there with God. There are angels in heaven that only live with God to worship him. Everything we could or would desire is there which means to search out extra things here on earth is a result of unthankfulness and great selfishness, not to mention the fact that God has given us so much already!! Look around!! Why try to find something good in this world anyway, we already have so much. So, will we be unthankful and greedy? The ungodly life is just full of lust, not thankfulness. Big difference. One must also be careful not to think one is better than others. God's grace not our works make us different. There is nothing special about us apart from God.

BLINDNESS. The Devil blinds men to these truths. God has intervened in my life because He is presently giving me life. The lukewarm life is a road of continuous searching for something new but never finding anything that leads to satisfaction where one could say "look I have found something worth serving other than God".

September 30th 2007

On Sept 30th I made a commitment and wrote:

I will stop harboring situations and people which estrange absolute communion with Christ. That is other communions with other people, I will just put Christ first, He will be my “first love”. Other relationships are first foundations of sinking sand. I will put away unhealthy and unclean things (and if necessary, people) far from me, I will cut off these from the body. This will give me the ability to rule even with a rod of iron, it will give me control rather than to relinquish control to Satan and man when are where I could be as dead as a millennial saint. On the other hand, if I keep control in the flesh I could be like Samson. Those who are servants of sin wish to bring me captive to my complete undoing as the trust becomes stronger in their faith. I will commune only through Christ and not absent from Him. I will run to commune through the Spirit with everyone and put away communication through weak old ways with the old man that bring rot into men’s souls.

November 18th 2009

I fully embraced the doctrines of “Easy Believism” diametrically opposed to “Lordship Salvation” and set out to evangelize the free gospel to the world!

August 19th 2018

Manmade faith: From 11/18/09 until this day (8/19/18), I was struggling within the margins of Christendom not able to find where my responsibilities lie after having excepted the doctrines of “Easy Believism” diametrically opposed to “Lordship Salvation” given to me through Pastor Steven Anderson, Charles Ryrie, Zane Hodges, Robert N Wilkin, Bob , Dr. Charles Stanly. On August 19th, after a short reconsideration on the 21st through the 24th I made a firm commitment to Lordship Salvation thereafter on the 25th till this present day. From the 21st to the 24th my human nature felt a sense of freedom that I realized was allowed to be sinful until the 25th where I reclaimed a position of true salvation that I first had on the 19th.

Solving the problem of victory: The problems I was having within the doctrine were that there is no way one can have victory and centrality outside of making Jesus Lord of all. I prayed about this problem often and found no solution other then what I saw in Buddhism, where slavery to sin is foolish. When Lordship is not required, and especially if it is not a component of salvation it is made optional. I realized that the Lord’s sheep hear His voice and follow Him. They do not create their own Christianity after they are saved. Now again, no longer did I view my Christianity as being able to be a free agent of God, but rather that I became restrained by the teachings of Gospel which encompasses

the entire Bible, Jesus being the bread of life. And to depart from this daily bread is to depart from God.

Power: True faith, true salvation has ongoing salvation past, present, and future. This means that if you are saved, if you are a branch (John 15) you will not be cut off. You are to be a branch, a sheep being molded into the image of Christ as you painfully crucify the flesh, not a wild goat, not a wild vine. True Christianity has power, Jesus said in Matthew 16: *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Manmade Faith: Salvation does not have a date you can point to where you realized you believe Christ (See John 8:30ff), it is the presence of the Lord in your life, either you have Him, or you don't. And if there is no works, if there is no fruit, then you do not have Christ and He knows you not, you have no assurance and you do not have the Holy Spirit. For even faith is a work of God, John 6:29, *"This is the work of God, that ye believe"*.

Calvinism: Furthermore, all this is required within Calvinism where works and fruit are justifiably part of your salvation in a past, present, and future context—
—if they come from God you justifiably have them, if they come from you then the argument will arise that true faith must be without works. In other words, works are justified if God is the potter and you are the clay. If your faith is the source of your creation and salvation then one can argue you are to have faith but you do not have to have ongoing works, your faith alone proves you are saved and works are optional. The works are only there to prove you might have had faith and are in contract, for who can believe someone without also doing what they say because you believe it to be true. Nevertheless, works to prove you once had faith don't command the Christian life. Jesus said *"If you continue in My word then are you my disciples .."*

This is what I wrote on the 19th: "Steve Anderson is incorrect, rather John MacArthur is correct, which some call Lordship Salvation—but more neatly understood within the framework of John MacArthur 5 point (not 6 point) Calvinism. Your Good works are not your own because God is working with you both to will and to do, see Todd White for more on that as well, who is not a Calvinist, I think. You have to live a life of repentance if you are saved making Jesus Lord of All."

This is what I wrote on the 25th: "Those in Matt 7:21 said ironically Lord Lord, the parable is not teaching that Jesus is not Lord! They did not say Saviour Saviour, the subject is Christ's Lordship not Saviourship. Likewise, in John 8:31 mere faith has to be followed up by the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Luke 14:25 shows discipleship and first faith go together, you cannot be a disciple of the devil and have saving faith. Luke 14:25 reads: *"And there went great multitudes*

with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 26If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.” Matthew 13 shows an evil heart with the seed of faith does not bear fruit on good soil. Those with no understanding etc are not saved any more than those in John 8:31.

Subsequently I wrote my 2nd Gospel tract past the paper below.

My No-Repentance-Necessary Gospel Tract

11/18/09

Acts 13:39, 48b says: “And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses ... and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”

The good news simply believes Jesus. “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.” Jn. 3:36

Believing in Jesus alone, this is the condition for being joined to God. (Romans 10:13-17) Typical: see “believe” in John 1:12, 3:16-18, 36, 5:24, 6:29-30, 35, 40, 47, 7:38, 8:24, 10:26, 11:25-26, 16:27, 20:31, First John 5:1,5,10,13, Acts 10:43. Did you know that the only thing you have to do to have everlasting life is have faith to believe [1.] in Jesus? If you can “believe” Jesus by this you know you have “everlasting life”. (Matt. 16:13-17) If you truly trust Jesus you will allow Him into your life and allow Jesus to be your friend, you will read His words. Jesus said in Revelation 3:20: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” James 2:23 says: “Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.” There is no work that you do to secure this gift, but you need to ask realizing your need. Please pray this prayer: Dear Jesus, I confess that I am always a helpless Hell deserving sinner. I am willing to trust you with my life and life’s decisions. Jesus I put all my trust in you to save me from my sin, cleanse me now with Your precious blood. Amen.

Apologetics: “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” Romans 3:28, 4:4-5, 14

The Law is a reflection of God and love. The law’s purpose is to prove man is unrighteous always. Romans 3:19-23, Matt. 19:17, 26, Eccl 7:20

Law always brings repentance. Having inherited the Adamic nature man has sin he cannot repent of. Romans 7:17, 18, 1 John 1:8, James 2:10 [2.]

The less we have faith in man's righteousness the more we understand the reason for the Law. Romans 5:12-21, Is. 6:5, 64:6, Titus 3:5

Lawyers kill Christ as they cannot forsake faith in their righteousness to faith in Christ's righteousness. Rom. 9:31-32, 10:1-4, Gal. 4:29-31, Phil. 3:9

Law for attaining salvation by your righteousness is defined as the accursed gospel by Galatians 1:6,9ff. Rom. 6:23a

Following the Law with repentance does not make one righteous enough to then merit salvation. Ezekiel 14:20, Romans 3:28

Even our faith is a gift from God. (Eph 1:19,20 & 2:1,8, Matt. 16:13-17) Neither is our faith perfect faith. Matt. 17:20, 21:21, Gen. 17:18.

Jesus fulfilled the Law, to love God, to give us His life for our imputed righteousness. Jn. 5:39, Matt. 3:15, Romans 5:17-19, 8:3,4, Phil. 2:8, Heb. 12:1, 2

Jesus fulfilled the Law, to make atonement for our transgressions by His death. Heb. 10:12, Romans 5:6,7, 1 Peter 2:24, Gal. 3:13, Is. 53:5

Only repentance from unbelief [Faith alone] is what defines the Gospel, see John and Acts.

Our faith in *Jesus alone* determines salvation. Psalm 89:30-35, 1 John 5:10-13, Gal. 4:23, Luke 8:12-13, John 5:24. [3.]

Salvation is a promise because of faith, and faith is witnessed to by the Holy Spirit, 1 John 5:10-13, Psalm 89:30-35, Gal. 4:23. [4.]

As we love God we establish the Law. Romans 3:31, 1 Cor. 10:13, 1 Jn. 2:4, 5:2, Titus 1:15-16, Galatians 5:16, 17, John 14:5

God judges believers in this world who forget God and repent not. Rev. 2:22-3, Psalm 89:30-35, Heb. 12:6, 1 Cor. 11:30, Jn. 5:14, 8:11,

God judges unbelievers in this world and the next world who will not believe God. Rev. 9:20,21, 16:9,11, Jonah 3:10,

Baptism (being a sign of salvation) shows that resurrected life is a result of faith, Eph. 2:1. Believers are not Baptized more than once.

Law is fulfilled in resurrection when we have Christ's righteousness and the Adamic nature is dead. Romans 7:18, 24, 25, Isaiah 64:6 [5.]

Notes:

[1.] Believe in Greek: Pisteuo. Believe in Hebrew: Aman. See Rom. 4:3. & Gen. 15:6.

[2.] John 8:7, James 4:17, Romans 3:19-23, 28, 4:1-8, 14, 11:35, Gal. 3:10-13, 21-22, 5:3-4. Lk. 18:9, 13, 19, 27, Rev. 20:13, Is. 64:6, 1 Cor. 15:50, Matt. 24:51.

[3.] Acts 10:43, 16:31, Hebrews 10:10, 14. Salvation is a free gift in Jn.

3:16, Romans 5:15, 16, 17, 18.6:23, 11:29.

[4.] The KJB says “are saved”: Heb. 10:14, Matt. 7:14, 1 Cor. 1:18, 2 Cor. 2:15, 1 Jn. 5:13. We are not “being saved” NKJV.

[5.] 1 Corinthians 15:50-57, Galatians 3:3, 5:5, Rev. 22:3.

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My Calvinist Repentance-Necessary Gospel Tract

September 2018

“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” This is what Jesus said after His resurrection from the dead in Matthew 28.

Subsequently in Revelation 21 Jesus promised:

“Behold, I make all things new ... He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”

If you are willing to believe Jesus, please start by reading through the Gospel of John found in the New Testament, which is a clear revelation of Jesus Christ.

“He that believes on the Son has life eternal; and he that is not subject to the Son Shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” John 3:36 KJV M.T.

If you are willing to obey Jesus and make Jesus Lord of your life, please find a church that holds to the Reformed Confessions, where Salvation is not manmade and wholly of the Lord. You can add your name in its book of members. Becoming a member of a church is so important, it is symbolic of having your name written in the Book of Life, Revelation 3:5; 21:27.

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Below are examples of local Reformed Confessional churches in my area and online: Iglesia Bautista North Bergen. North Bergen, NJ 07047 <https://www.ibrnj.org/> Trinity Baptist Church of Montville, NJ <https://www.trinitymontville.org/> Apologia Church 1805 E Elliot Rd

www.Redirectionism.com/what-is-the-gospel

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The Gospel is found throughout the Bible, but the clearest presentation of it in any book of the Bible is found by reading through the book of John.

1. God is Love and God Hates sin:

God is love and love should be God, love cannot be subjective if it is to be love at all. Love is the most important thing in the world. The 1st Commandment is to love God with all your heart, mind, and soul. **God hates**, God hates sin so much He sent His Son to die on the cross to pay a penalty for and atone for the sin of His people. Jesus said "*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*", John 10:1. Jesus's love was to only do those things which pleased His Father.

2. Man is made in the image of God, but wishes to live separated from God:

John 3:20 says "*For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*" **Man is separated from God and hates God.**

Romans 1:18ff says men do "... *hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; ...*" **Man thinks he should be God and hides in sin.**

John 8:34-36 says "... *Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin ... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed*" NKJV **Man by nature has bound himself to worship other things** instead of God.

Ephesians 2:1-6a says "...*we were dead in trespasses, made us alive with Christ...*" **Man needs a resurrection from sin.**

3. What is the Gospel?:

Through faith man is reconciled to God. But if a person has no results of that relationship, or if one supposes salvation is separated from becoming a servant like Jesus, is that a saving faith? A man-made faith will not make Jesus Lord of all. The faith that God gives His Sheep is a result of the work of Holy Spirit, Titus 3:5. Galatians 5:22ff says "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,...*" And therefore Galatians 5:18 says "*But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*" This means that your works don't save you, nevertheless **those who are of Christ's sheep follow the Shepherd, John 10:27.** Romans 8:14 says "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*" John 8:31,32: says "*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed ...*". See also John 15:1-7; Luke 8:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

4. God does the saving:

Romans 11:32, 35 says: *"For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all. ... who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?"* Faith is the work of God, John 6:29. *"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."* Romans 8:30 says: *"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."* Jesus is a perfect Saviour.

5. Ask Jesus to save you, you can not save yourself.

Revelation 3:20 *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

6. At the Last day there will be a judgment that has to do with works (Rev. 20:11-15).

Acts 17:30, 31 *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: **31**Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.* Those that are saved have been saved, and are now being saved, and one day will forever be saved and separated from sin to God at the resurrection. Salvation is both a process and a reality in those who are being saved, 1 Cor 15:2, 1 Cor 1:18, Rom 5:9, John 8:30-32.

The Fruitless Gospel

9/15/2018

This paper is an answer to the doctrine of Zane Hodges, Joseph Dillow, Robert Wilkin, Steve Anderson concerning their fruitless gospel.

Assurance of Salvation

God does not leave believers with merely a first faith assurance for salvation alone after one confesses faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! The faith exercised on the day of repentance (Acts 17:30) to salvation to be born-again only has to do with a faith an ongoing reality that produces fruit or else conviction of sin that one may produce fruit. Saving faith is in not bound to a single point in time, rather it is an ongoing manifestation of ongoing salvation which has various aspects.

True faith is an ongoing faith as can be seen in 1 John 5:13 which says *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”* 1 John 5:10a *“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself:...”*. In Matthew 7 knowing and having a relationship with Christ as Lord is our assurance that we are saved. If any man is in Christ he is a new creature, old things have passed away and all things have become new.

False faith is manifested where faith does not continue. Titus 1:16 is says *“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”* Jesus says of His sheep in John 10:5, 27 *“And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. ... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:”*. 1 John 2:3, 4 proves: *“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”* 1 John 1:5, 6 says: *“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.”*

Calvinism

True Faith. Faith from God has God's works set in us for assurance, whereas the Fruitless Gospel of Anderson does not. This is because it is based on one moment in time based in the work of man, faith being alone by itself, James 2:17. And because all is defined by man, therefore any works in relation to assurance must needs be thrown out! This results in a Gospel without necessary fruit. Yet in truth, faith without fruit can be a way of assurance while on milk while the seed is beginning to grow before showing in time whether be

a tare or a wheat. But every time a confession of faith in Christ's ability to save shows forth the fruit of a tare it is evident that only God can save sinners.

Is God guilty of sin when man does not repent?, Romans 9:13, 19. The answer is no, all men left to their natural abilities have free will to only conclude that the cross is foolishness, 1 Cor. 1:18.

Predestination and the Gospel. The Gospel is freely offered to all who will only believe, however men are called to a faith that will be ongoing. Our message is the same as Jesus when He said, "*Lazarus come forth!*" The example set by Scripture is unanimous. Men are called to believe, whom ever they be. And those who believe and follow in faith as did Abraham (James 2:21) will be saved at the judgment. If that seed has no relationship with the farmer unto the harvest, then there is no salvation. For an enemy by night has sewn tares in the field of the farmer.

The Gospel has an unlimited message.

The Gospel is defined as the whole book of Mark 1:1 "*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;*". In other words, the Gospel does not end in a simple sentence, it is more clearly defined by understanding the whole book of Mark, as well as the other Gospels, John, Matthew, and Luke. Romans 1:18 and Galatians 1:7 show an unlimited message inside and outside the church. Where there is faith (Acts 16:31) then there is a perseverance because the Gospel is an unlimited message to forever reflect upon. We are saved and being saved in faith to be saved at the judgment and wrath of God:

Phil. 2:12, 13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. [13] For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

1 Cor. 15:2 *By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

Romans 5:9 *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

1 Cor 1:18. "*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*" KJV verses TR-NKJV-MT-READING "*For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*"

These verses are the most troubling to the fruitless gospel preacher. They were troubling to me, and I therefore could not answer them. my reaction was that I ignored them. I could not understand them. But, I understand them now. Salvation is of the Lord and therefore it is in one sense complete, yet it is

also a process that will not reach completion on this earth until the Day of Judgment.

Scriptural commentary the narrow Gate of Matthew 7.

The Narrow Gate

(Luke 13:22-30) 13Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Here we read that there is not only a narrow gate, but it is hard to find. Likewise, there is a narrow way. Jesus calls us to follow Him, and the same kind of things he asks of His disciples he asks of all those who will believe as we have just witnessed. Anderson denies this and tries to say some of these things that are hard are only for an elite group he calls “disciples”. We as Christians are to walk as He walked. John 2:6 says: “*He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*” Anderson says that way is always easy that leads to life. No, sometimes it is difficult, especially if you are rich. James 1:12 says “*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*”.

Scriptural commentary a tree and its fruit of Matthew 7.

A Tree and its Fruit (cross reference Matthew 12:33-37; Luke 6:43-45) 15Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire. 20Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Not only do we know a false prophet and his disciples by their false gospel, but also by their fruits. Though they say Lord Lord, they do not what He says, and they do not do as He does, they do not follow the narrow way, and they rather work iniquity, they try to fit Christ into their world.

Scriptural commentary on the hypocrites who call Jesus Lord of Matthew 7.

21Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Steve Anderson will say they who do not enter heaven here do not enter because they point to their own works rather than faith in the finished works of Christ. But, Jesus asks in Luke's account: “*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*”. So works are indeed the subject here, the problem is

that these works in verse 22 have to do with work separated from the Lordship of Christ! And note that Faith is not mentioned in this judgment but rather works under Christ's Lordship. And this is also seen in such places as the great white throne judgment in Revelation. And these works have to do with what the believer is doing under the Lordship of the Holy Spirit is the life of the believer, or else if there is no right work, no right foundation on sanctification that too is evident.

Scriptural commentary on the builders of Matthew 7.

That Doeth Them Not (Luke 6:46-49) 24Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

By this parable we must conclude that in the life of the believer that he having a right foundation, that there will be fruit and that his fruit will remain.

Scriptural Commentary Repentance and Baptism in John and the book of Acts.

Anderson and all try to point out that repentance is not in the book of Acts nor in the book of John and has nothing to do either with salvation nor separating the sheep from the goats. Yet, the concept of repentance is there. Jesus said in John 1:11 to the woman caught in sin "go, and sin no more." And in John 5:14 Jesus says to a man "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." So clearly without question repentance is in the book of John. 2 Corinthians 7:10 says: "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." Also Acts 8:22 says "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." If at this point Simon did not repent and the sinner in 1 Corinthians did not repent, then they would prove that they could not be saved. This is how the Bible demonstrates true believers from the false believers. True believers repent. For salvation John the Baptist had men turn from sin and seek God, and the Lord Jesus was baptized as well in that example after which the Holy Spirit rested upon Him.

Dead with Christ in Baptism: *Galatians 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."* Saved people have crucified the flesh,

repent, and set out every morning to keep the law because they love God and therefore God's Spirit rests upon them.

Scriptural Commentary The Branches of John 15

John 15 says: *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ²Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.³Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.⁵I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.⁶If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

Here Steve Anderson says the branches are not people but their works. I think that is a very difficult interpretation for John 15, to say the least.

Scriptural Commentary, The Overcomers of Revelation 1-3

Regarding overcoming in Revelation chapters 1-3 Anderson merely points to 1 John 5:4-5 *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.⁵Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”* Anderson believes that they who do not repent as a way are still saved, there is no need to strive to enter by the narrow gate pick up your cross and follow Jesus—you are already saved—the same to say that the second coming has already occurred as those two in 2 Timothy 2:17: *“...Hymenaeus and Philetus; ¹⁸Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. ¹⁹Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”*

In the book of Revelation chapters 1-3 we see that those who will not have their names blotted out of the book of life are they who overcome, that there are only two choices. To those yet to overcome Jesus says: *“²⁰Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”* These do not yet know Christ and are in need of salvation. Here they are told to repent and follow the way and commandments of Christ or else be blotted out of the book of life at the judgment. Faith is foremost necessary because there is none good but God, but if you cannot invite Christ into your life so as to become a new creation in Him, then you do not trust Him, you do not believe, you will not make Jesus Lord of your life, in the end your works will prove it, and you will not enter into life.

Scriptural Commentary The Rich Young Ruler Matthew 19:16-30

Matthew 19:16-24 *And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? [¹⁷] And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

A Glimmer of Hope: Initially the rich young ruler is challenging Jesus with questions concerning what good thing he or mankind might do to be good and have God admit the same, which is not going to ever happen. As a result, Jesus could answer his question with “There is nothing good you can do, the situation is hopeless”. But He did say that, He said, no one is good but God.

Sabotage?: But then Anderson will argue that thereafter Jesus gives a glimmer of seemingly misdirected hope in the Law to make one good. Is it a contradiction for Jesus to then say at this point, *“but if thou wilt enter into life keep the commandments?”*——Is Jesus misleading the man?——Is He setting the man up for failure contradicting Himself so the man can figure it out for himself because he asks a stupid question? The man is damned if he does and damned if he doesn’t? Has Jesus sent the man off on the highway to hell?

Steve Anderson would say yes, that Jesus is saying to the Rich Young Ruler “Go have at it, learn the hard way—try to realize the Law will make you good. And in this realize I gave in to your way.”

Stumbling Over The Stone: But note, Jesus did not say: *“but if thou wilt be good keep the commandments”*. In context Jesus did not necessarily give two conflicting thoughts. He did not say merely *“but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments”* What He said first was *“No one is good.”*! So, in context here we see that the commandments were not given by God to make this man stumble, nor to make him good by the law.

Take up your cross and follow me: Jesus is saying something else that would happen while the rich young ruler would continue in the law and follow him, if he would. What was that? It was to prepare him to “enter into life”. In context how was that going to happen? First by ever realizing he was not good enough through a sincere understanding of the commandments. That was critically vital for him. I do not think Jesus was contradicting Himself as Steve Anderson would have us to believe, I do not think Jesus was being sarcastic, Jesus was being consistent telling the man to follow Him as Lord to find life, but instead he turned away and followed his riches to corruption.

Jeremiah 29:13 “And ye shall ... find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

The Law does have its place in saving the life of the believer just as does following Jesus. Jesus gave us a pattern of what it means to be a true believer and follower of God. And this is in the understanding that *“there is none good”* on the one hand, and on the other that Jesus said “follow thou me” John 21:21. This is how believers are to enter into eternal life as defined in the NT. But this is the truth that Steven Anderson denies. Steve Anderson would say that Jesus could have said, “Have faith”, where thereafter each man is left to follow his own way and not the narrow way of the Lord. But this was the lie of the Serpent in the Garden of Eden, to be as gods. No, there is one God and one Lord and yes no man will enter heaven either by his own righteousness nor without Jesus knowing the man, Matthew 7. But if we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments because we are a new creation in Jesus Christ with a faith that God gives us. It is not the work of man.

[18] He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, [19] Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. [20] The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? [21] Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. [22] But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. [23] Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. [24] And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. [25] When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? [26] But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Marks account has in 10:24 “How hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter the Kingdom of God.”

Faith Alone? If Steve Anderson is correct, why is it that Jesus never stopped the man and said, “Hold on their partner, all you really need to do is have faith as did Abraham.” Well, Jesus did convey the idea that all these things they are now talking about will not make you good, nevertheless Jesus said you go to do them anyway if you have found the right path. He did not let him off the hook to follow the broad way the way Steven Anderson does, where as a result, you are on your own and you have to save yourself.

James 2:14, 20, 24 “*What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ... But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ... Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*” “... can that kind of faith save him?”

Today the Law does not save us, but it never did. What Love does (Jesus said that Love is the fulfillment of the Law.) is it sanctifies us, the Bible says not without which sanctification no one will see the Lord, Hebrews 12:14. If we need to separate ourselves from Christ, His way, His Lordship, His commandments to be saved then we identify with Satan that we are gods, that we are not of the flock of the Good Shepard, 1 John 2:19. Christ says His sheep follow Him, John 10:27-28. In short, Jesus is talking about something Steven Anderson does not yet understand. Abraham had a faith that was willing to offer his son and make Jesus Lord in his fellowship with God. Steve Anderson is talking about a different kind of faith, a man made faith that can not save you.

[27] Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? [28] And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. [29] And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. [30] But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

First or Last? Jesus says in all this you shall inherit everlasting life but adds “*many that are first shall be last*”. And to be last in many of the parables of Jesus means that you do not get in at all. It appears that Jesus is answering this way because Peter is asking the wrong questions looking for the wrong answers.

My Testimony

On July 3rd 2018 I realized I needed to make Jesus Lord of all in my life. On August 21st 2018 I thought Calvinism as explained by MacArthur was heresy. On August 19 and again on August 25th 2018 I realized the fruitless salvation doctrine of Steven Anderson was heresy. From August 25th onto September 16th I have become ever more fully convinced that Anderson is a false prophet and rather Calvinism is 100% true as explained by James White and others. The results are that I have now been able to live for Jesus Christ as Lord of all parts of my life. Salvation is demonstrated in ongoing faith in the Lord, not in a faith that can deny Him. While in the doctrine of Anderson I felt a freedom to relax in my flesh. In the true Gospel I realized that my faith only crucifies the flesh. The differences in understanding are night and day. Anderson frees the flesh and the true Gospel can only crucify it. I regret having been deceived by Steven Anderson for 10 years and today find it embarrassing that I could believe such nonsense which denies such great and powerful sections of Scripture with a half understanding half the Gospel in relation to faith.

The Golden Ticket of No-Repentance Salvation

1/1/2019

Pastor Steven Anderson posed on youtube: “The Evening and the Morning”
(New Year, Biblical Day)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvTJcFjMcZo> 37:55

*Now look, when it comes to getting to heaven it is just about faith it is not about works. The Bible says by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God, not of works that any man should boast for we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto Good works that God had beforehand ordained that we should walk in them. So, we are saved by faith not of works. But God has works that He commands us to do and if we do them, we will be rewarded ... if your work is burned up the Bible says you will suffer loss but you yourself will be saved. The Bible says, I mean flat out it says look, if your works are burned up all your works are wood hay and stubble you'll loss and it says but he himself shall saved yet so as by fire. So, it's possible to be saved without having any works that your rewarded for on judgment day. It's possible to get to heaven on faith alone by grace alone through God alone or to God alone be the glory and to get there without any rewards,
39:15. 40:13 now do we earn our salvation no, do we earn the ticket to heaven, no it's totally by grace, it's totally of God we don't earn it we don't deserve it.*

Golden Ticket!? I am sorry to inform you people at Faithful Word Baptist Church / Steadfast Baptist Church, there is no Golden Ticket! Veruca Salt's Golden Ticket <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9mba2qb9do> Pastor Anderson is mistaken to say:“ the ticket to heaven ... it's totally by grace”. Salvation is not a “ticket” pertaining to one particular day, that one should identify a day with saving faith. That is not how one knows they are saved according to the Scriptures (See 1 John 2:3, 2:19, 3:14). We know we are saved by our works and making Jesus Lord of all and our relationship with Him as such, that is what the Scriptures teach. If you have no works there is no assurance.

Regenerated Christians Have Works: Pastor Anderson may say, Romans 4:3 says “For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for

righteousness.”, you can see Abraham was saved by faith. But I am talking about assurance of the believer today, not after he is resurrected. Faith alone is not what proves we are saved today, works do that. Note this is the case in John 8:30,31, 34,35, 39ff: “*As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth forever. ... They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. ... Ye are of your father the devil, ye are not of God.*” Here in John 8 Jesus is showing that He is the Son of Abraham who took on him sin and death, and not as these false believers, false sons, sons of the bondwoman who never was free from sin. Romans chapter 6:6, 7, 8, 20 goes into what Jesus meant here in John 8 when He identified with Isaac, slavery, and freedom.

Baptism: *Romans 6:3 says: “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? [4] Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. [5] For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: [6] Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. [7] For he that is dead is freed from sin. [8] Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: [20] For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.”* What Jesus is saying in John 8 is that unless we have been baptized into His baptism by means of the Holy Spirit, unless we can repent of sin and have victory over sin in our lives we are slaves of sin, and we are free from righteousness and works. This baptism, this freedom is from God through the atonement as seen here in Romans 6. God gives the works and God gives the faith. Our baptism in church represents our baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Salvation is of the Lord: *Romans 6:23 says “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Apart from the gift of the Holy Spirit man can do nothing, man is dead, but through rather the death in Christ there is life, and in this death we have atonement, justification, sanctification and this kind of belief, this kind of faith is given to us from God. Yes, they had faith, but they did not have the baptism from God, they were not saved because they did not have the works of Abraham, the works of the new creation through baptism. There is no resurrection power to do the works of Abraham without the Lord, Jesus said without me you can do nothing.

Making Jesus Lord: And all this would carry with it that unless you can make Jesus Lord of your life you are likewise a slave of sin and no son of Abraham. Salvation is of the Lord, and that salvation comes with the Holy Spirit who

works the works of Abraham who went out to baptize his son. Abraham was as the Father involved in this baptism and in the resurrection of his son, Acts 5:30. And Abraham could not offer his son without himself being baptized as well (Romans 6), these are the works of Abraham. You can't do them? Then consider that you are not saved, even though you believe Jesus can save you in spite of yourself as you continue as a slave to sin "that kind of faith" saves no one. Even the devils believe Jesus can save or damn them, James 2:19.

No Rewards Equals the Truth of Salvation? Answering Andersons comments that because one can be saved with no rewards you can still be saved using 1 Cor. 3:15 does not prove No-Repentance No-Lordship doctrine. You may have no works because you fell into sin and lost all your rewards: Ezekiel 33:13-16 *When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it. 14 Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; 15 If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. 16 None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.* If you do not repent and leave behind a mess when you die all your rewards will be taken away. See also Rev. 3:11 "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." And Hebrews 6:8 "But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned." Pastor Anderson wants to use passages such as 1 Cor. 3:15 and Romans 7 (separated from Romans 6) make the exception the rule, where the exception comes close to the fruit of damnation.

Full Preterists are missing the Already-But-Not-Yet

1/6/2019

Which one is the correct answer?

- 1.) Our salvation has “already” elements (e.g. regeneration) and only “not yet” aspects concerning bodily resurrection.
- 2.) Our salvation has “already but not yet” elements (e.g. regeneration) and only “not yet” aspects concerning bodily resurrection.

First, let me point out something, that the Westminster Confession of faith Chapter XXXII:1 says: “Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead ...*the souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens*”. This short answer here allows for the *already but not yet view* from the present to the future, and it does it within two sentences. It is very clear.

Now, when I go through the booklet Questions About The Afterlife by Edward Stevens (QATA), I went through the whole book and could not find anything “already but not yet” in it concerning the souls of the righteous being made perfect for a process. But rather what I did find is below is rather that after a believer is born-again there is no change to his soul directly implies, but only to his body:

QATA Pg. 39 “Not everything about the seed changes, **only the outer shell** or body form.

QATA Pg. 39 “But there is **total continuity** between the inner person, which has been quickened by God and made alive with immortality and the new body we will have when our inner man rises into its new body form after the death of the outer shell.”

QATA Pg. 38 “It is not the inner germ of life which dies.”

QATA Pg. 40 “**The inner man posses “eternal life”** or immortality out of which the new body arises.”

QATA Pg. 41 “**The inner man of the seed lives on** and “puts on” its new body form in which it will dwell forever with God.”

QATA Pg. 36 “We get a new spiritual body which **arises out of the inner man.**”

QATA Pg. 35 “He shows that this new kind of body arises out of the inner life of the seed/person.”

QATA Pg. 34 “**The inner man was quickened by Christ to have spiritual life. But the outer shell (the physical body), because it is corruptible and corrupted, had to die.**”

QATA Pg. 33 “**Our spiritual life has been restored.** This does not mean the physical body will escape corruption, any more than forgiveness of a convicted killer means we let him get out of paying his penalties.”

QATA Pg. 32 “God told Adam that he would die “on the day” he ate. He didn’t die physically that day. The death was spiritual and moral. **So, why should we expect that at our resurrection to spiritual life we will be made physically alive?** [*< implied H.P.] The resurrection is the event which reverses the original curse which was spiritual death. [*<implied H.P. because you are referring to born-again resurrection as without the already-but-not-yet.*] If the original death was spiritual, why would we expect the resurrection which it reverses to be physical?” [*<implies H.P. because we are in the already but not yet.*] At our conversion our inner man is quickened and made alive and given immortality, out of which will arise our new immortal body form when the outer shell dies at physical death. [*<implied H.P. because there is no already but not yet.*]*

So therefore, do you see that there is no *already but not yet* future other than a change in physical bodies, the same as if you were going on a train to see your departed father, nothing more nothing less. And your seed change-life only concerns the date on which you were born-again.

I think this is an incorrect view. Rather the seed shows that the Christian entombs the flesh in ongoing death as he should, and at the same time understands true life is rather to be lived with Christ in heaven. At physical death then comes all the things you talk about in your book, in that there is no change only at that point.

Calvin on Romans 6: 7 “For if death destroys all the actions of life, we who have died to sin ought to cease from those actions which it exercised during its life.”

Calvin on verse Romans 6:8 “... And hereby he teaches us that newness of life is to be pursued by Christians as long as they live; for since they ought to represent in themselves an image of Christ, both by crucifying the flesh and by a spiritual life, it is necessary that the former

should be done once for all, and that the latter should be carried on continually: not that the flesh, as we have already said, dies in us in a moment, but that we ought not to retrograde in the work of crucifying it. For if we roll again in our own filth, we deny Christ; of whom we cannot be the participators except through newness of life, inasmuch as he lives an incorruptible life. “

Calvin verse Romans 6:9 *Death no more rules over him, &c.* He seems to imply that death once ruled over Christ; and indeed when he gave himself up to death for us, he in a manner surrendered and subjected himself to its power; it was however in such a way that it was impossible that he should be kept bound by its pangs, so as to succumb to or to be swallowed up by them. He, therefore, by submitting to its dominion, as it were, for a moment, destroyed it for ever. Yet, to speak more simply, the dominion of death is to be referred to the state of death voluntarily undergone, which the resurrection terminated. The meaning is, that Christ, who now vivifies the faithful by his Spirit, or breathes his own life into them by his secret power from heaven, was freed from the dominion of death when he arose, that by virtue of the same dominion he might render free all his people.

In other words, Calvin see's that in all Paul is impressing naturally upon the believer the weight of the already but not yet. There is much in between being born again and physical resurrection.

The problem I am having is that I can not find any way to see how this booklet explains the life of the believer the same way Calvin does in Romans 6 when it comes to where the born-again man is now. It is talking about only what I perceive as ultimately irrelevant elements having to do with location rather than transformation of the born-again nature of man. The way I see it man is like gold mixed up with a lot of dirt and impurities that needs ongoing refining if we are indeed being saved 2 Cor. 2:15 *“For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing”*. It droops off that from the explanation, there is no past present and future aspects. Rather the answers eem to want to agree with a Hyper-Preterist view, that change only has to do with the body, and change will not effect the born-again nature of the believer. It makes it sound like that ultimately we will be sitting in heaven with the same kind of mindset regarding sin and the holiness of God and needing ongoing sanctification and needing forgiveness as we do right now. When John saw Christ in heaven he fell down as dead. Jesus says there will be no marriage, that would require predominately unknown separation from the world and born-again

mindset, yet somewhat viable as through a glass darkly. These are things that we can only see as we put to death the born-again man, putting him where he is supposed to be according to Calvin and Paul in Romans 6. The book is indirectly inferring we are in His living presence now by not spelling this out. It is only giving us physical bodies as far as I can tell. Nevertheless, Full Preterists are not the only ones what to this, it appears that many Reformed believers make this same mistake.

Are You "Saved," or Are You "Being Saved" (1 Cor 15:2)

Jan 09, 2011 Bill Mounce

Present tense

Paul writes to the Corinthians, “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved (σωζεσθε), if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain” (ESV).

This is one of the main verses used when speaking of the three “times” of salvation — past (on the cross), now (as we walk the path), and the future (Day of the Lord). I was asked the other day whether σωζεσθε should be translated “are saved” (NASB, NIV, HCSB, KJV) or “are being saved” (ESV, NET). In other words, is it an aoristic present or a continuous or even a futuristic present?

There are varied and unrelated translations that go with either, so part of the answer is, yes, you can translate it either way. But why the difference, and which is to be preferred?

Fee and Garland see the progression of the verse as going from the past (“received”), present (“stand”), and the present process with the future reality (“are being saved”), understanding that salvation is in one sense a process that will not reach completion until the Day of the Lord.

That there is a future aspect to salvation is undeniable. Rom 5:9 makes it explicit. “Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved (σωθησομεθα) by him from the wrath of God” (see also 1 Thess 5:9-10). More importantly, because of its contextual proximity, is 1 Cor 1:18 where the continuous (or imperfective if you wish) participle σωζομενοις requires a present sense. “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (ESV). Surprisingly, most translations go with “who are being saved” here even if they say “are saved” in 15:2, but this is required by the obviously continuous “are perishing.”

So which is to be preferred? Thiselton says the commentaries are agreed that the continuous aspect “is to be explicated” as it “denotes what is done for them in the future,” and think this is best in this context. What would it mean if Paul said they “are” saved “if” they persevere? Not sure that makes sense. The necessity of perseverance and the meaning of the passage does not make sense if in fact the person’s salvation is in every way wholly accomplished in the past.

I know this is constantly a hot topic, but I guess part of your decision comes down to your theology. (What doesn't?) But as I see it, it makes less sense to say they "are saved if" and more sense to say "are being saved if," and I would point primarily to 1 Cor 1:18.

Ever since I started pastoring, I think this has been the main question that haunts me. What is a Christian? What is a simple, straight forward, easy-to-understand answer that makes use of all biblical data?

For me, it is Jesus' gate and path analogy. Being a Christian is a being a follower of Jesus. You start following at the gate, continue following as you walk along the path, and at the end of the path of perseverance is life. So for me, it is easy to say that while I celebrate the finished work of Christ on the cross and the underserved, grace-filled, regenerative work of the Holy Spirit at my conversion, there is a very real sense in which my salvation is an ongoing process culminating in glorification, provided of course that I hold fast to the gospel.

Isn't that what Paul is saying?

THE END