

Second Chance Faith

When engineers, scientists, and other mathematician types want to test or prove some equation they use a technique whereby a variable is taken to various limits such as zero or one or infinity or some other extreme.

Now scripture tells us that salvation is granted to whosoever would believe that Jesus is the Son of God and only Savior [Jn 3:16; Acts 4:12].

Applying the mathematical limit technique to scripture we could assign the number infinity to the number of people that believe in Jesus. The result would be that all would be saved and none would be lost. But what if we assigned the number zero to the number of people that believe in Jesus? In effect we would be asking, What if no one believes in Jesus? Would that mean that He died in vain? God forbid!

Back in the Garden, God gave a command to Adam to not eat of one forbidden fruit with the promise that he would die if he disobeyed [Gen 2:17]. In effect, God promised Adam, "If you turn away from Me, the One who breathed the breath of life into your nostrils [In Him was life-Jn 1:4], and don't believe what I'm telling you, of your own doing you will lose your source of life and become ungodly and without strength [Rom 5:6] and die [Gen 2:17]."

However, Adam didn't fully realize the seriousness of God's command and promise, and did disobey Him. And as a result he did die. In effect, Adam turned away from his source of life, and instead believed one who could not sustain him and ate the fruit anyway. Adam found out that it's not a good thing to turn away from God and not believe Him. But God, in his wisdom and love and mercy had a plan to give man a second chance to believe Him.

Fast forward to the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus [Jn 3]. Jesus promised Nicodemus that if he believed what He was telling him, he would be born again and live forever [Jn 3:16]. In effect, the First and Second promises were two sides of the same coin.

The First Promise, to Adam, emphasized the negative aspects of turning away and not believing God (ungodly death would result). The Second Promise, to Nicodemus, emphasized the positive aspects of turning toward and believing God (godly reward of everlasting life). The Second Promise was a second chance at getting it right, a second chance at correcting Adam's fatal error of not believing God.

Ah, but it's not so much the fact that God so loved the world that he offered His Perfect Son to pay for all our sins that gives us eternal life. No, God so loved the world that He gave us a second chance to believe Him, to believe that He offered His Perfect Son to be His Perfect Lamb that paid for Adam's sin of unbelief [Jn 1:29], and hence our sins and all sins. For if no one believed the Second Promise then Christ's death, however Perfect, would have been in vain, and all would still be damned [Jn 3:18].

Notice that in both commands and promises, no work was required. By definition, no work was required in the First Command to *not* do something [do not eat of the fruit]. Neither is any work required in the Second Command, that is, to believe in Jesus. Also common to both commands, believing in God or Jesus alone is the key requirement to the benefits of God's blessings.

When we add anything to the Second Command to simply believe in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation we are repeating the same sin that Adam committed in the Garden. How ironic! By attempting to earn righteousness and salvation we are actually condemning ourselves to God's abiding and everlasting wrath [Jn 3:36].

But by obeying God's Second Command a miraculous spiritual birth takes place. The Holy Spirit gives birth to our spirit [Jn 3:6] and we become children of God by faith in Jesus Christ [Gal 3:26]. Let us not be deceived by the simplicity of God's Second Promise [2 Cor 11:3], that is, everlasting life is ours simply by faith in Jesus Christ [Jn 3:16].

Some religions promote, even command that salvation must be earned through prescribed rituals. The bible teaches just the opposite, that salvation cannot be earned, but is a gift [Eph 2:8-9]. We must be willing to believe God [i.e. the bible] rather than men [Acts 5:29]. Eternity is a long time and there is no second chance to change our minds after we die. No, the second chance only exists now, while we are alive [Heb 9:27].

So how about you? God has given you a second chance to believe Him – a second chance to do what Adam failed to do. Are you willing to abandon your belief in your religion or rituals or good works, but believe and trust in Jesus alone for your salvation? Failure to take advantage of this second chance at believing exclusively in Jesus for your salvation results in the wrath of God abiding on you forever. But the reward of obeying God's Second Command is everlasting life [Jn 3:36]. I pray that you will take advantage of this second chance to believe God.

BELIEVE IN JESUS NOW!

DonDipascal@bellsouth.net

Questions?
Comments?
Rom 1:16; Ps 103

Concerns?

Criticisms?

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