



Volume 3, Issue 16

ZWTF

Sunday, April 20, 2014

Zapping-you Whenever Thoughts Flow

ROMANS Part 25

Chapter 3:21-23



Romans 3:21-24

Yet now, apart from law, a righteousness of God is manifest (being attested by the law and the prophets), yet a righteousness of God through Jesus Christ's faith, for all, and on all who are believ-

ing, for there is no distinction, for all sinned and are wanting of the glory of God. Being justified gratuitously in His grace, through the deliverance which is in Christ Jesus

Jesus Christ's faith is the channel of blessing for all. The Buddhists are wrong. The Hindus are wrong. The Muslims are wrong. None of these religions' deities bring a single member of their devotees—let alone all humanity—to God. Rather, they deliver their followers to eternal oblivion, via death. The gods are false, therefore the advertising is false. Devotees think they are getting eternal life, but instead receive condemnation for their sins. It is worse than worshipping a wall, because at least a wall does not actively trick you.

Could there be a more jarring, more errant deception?

Some will say this is unfair. People born inside these religions had no chance to hear anything else. This is true. When we finally realize that salvation is not a thing of chance but of choice—the choice of God—then we will stop using the word “chance.” When at last we realize that all will come to God in the end (Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Colossians 1:20), we will consider the present situation (most humans are unbelievers) and realize it is not yet the end. The interim plan of our Father includes millions of purposely (and perfectly) deceived people.

WHY?

Why would God do that? You can ask Him that when you see Him. In the meantime, I pose the following one-word explanation: CONTRAST. To highlight true belief, God arranges for the opposing force (unbelief.) To highlight and set Himself apart, He raises up false gods so that His grace and love may be contrasted,

and therefore made apparent. How is the snowflake to become apparent unless it is back-dropped by an opposing background? Is the snowflake apparent in a pile of its own kind? In an avalanche?

FALSE ASSUMPTIONS

The assumption of many is that those who fail to find Christ—for whatever reason—will be forever separated from Him.

Again, Jesus Christ, alone, is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one will ever come to the Father except through Him. *No one. Ever.* The common thinking on the heels of this revelation is that, because most of the world seeks God via other means besides Jesus Christ, then most of the world will spend an eternity separated from Him. Were this the case, upon whose shoulders would such a travesty lie? Upon none other than God's, the Sovereign of the universe, the only One able to do all things good and right. And yet this is the very One Who made the way so narrow, and Who introduced so few people—in this life—to His Son. *What if some do not hear?* Good question. According to the popular Christian creed, they are all damned for eternity.

MISSIONARY POSITION

This is why Christians send missionaries scurrying around the world with their pseudo-evangel. It is their desperate attempt to bring the message of Christ to all. At least they realize that Jesus Christ is the only path to God. What they fail to realize is that all will eventually come via that Path, and that it does not depend, ultimately, on the missionaries. (It depends on Christ, but the missionaries missed that PowerPoint presentation.) As just suggested, the missionaries deliver to no one the correct gospel anyway. (It's hard to do that when you don't know it yourself.) Their "gospel" is not an announcement of the accomplishment of Christ. Rather, it is a challenge to the poor seeker to believe in Christ—and he or she better hurry before it's too late. As if anyone would or could—with joy—believe in a Christ who would torture for eternity those failing to properly return His love. No one freely loves a Savior of so foul a disposition. They may "love" Him out of compulsion and fear, but this is not true love. Neither is it true faith.

"FOR ALL/ ON ALL"

This righteousness that is through Jesus Christ's faith is "for all and on all who are believing" (Romans



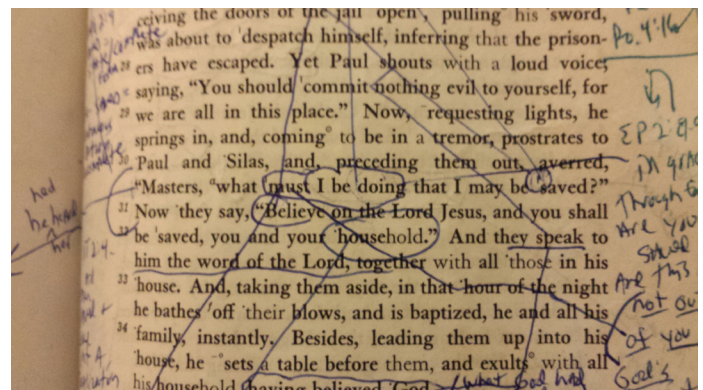
3:22). This beautifully instructive phrase answers to and aligns with 1 Timothy 4:10, "God is the Savior of all humanity, especially of believers." I will graphically demonstrate this shortly.

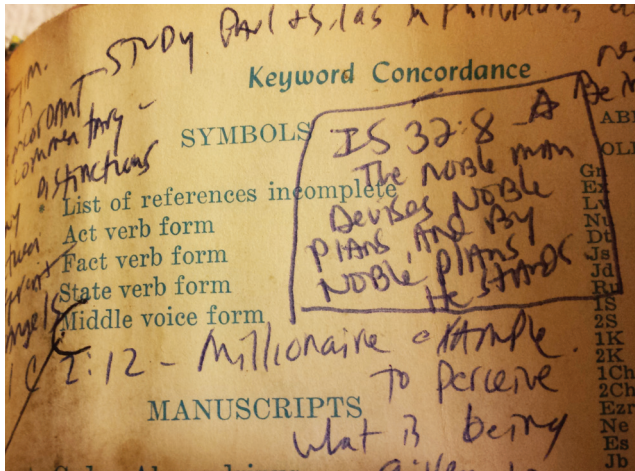
The faith of Jesus Christ is *for* all—eventually. But it is only *on* those who are now believing.

Jesus Christ died for the sake of all. I am thinking of 2 Corinthians 5:14, "One died for the sake of all, consequently all died." So, in a sense, the world is now saved for eternity. Eternal salvation is "for" all, that is, it is guaranteed for every human being. It is held in reserve, however, until the day God gives each of those particular human beings the faith to believe it. Only to those who are made aware of the blessed fact of salvation—*now*—can feel the joy and happiness "on" them. Salvation, therefore, is *for* all (even present unbelievers), but it is only *on* those who are presently believing.

JAILHOUSE ROCK

In Acts 16:30, the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas, "Masters, what must I be doing that I may be saved?" This is not what he said, exactly. In the *Concordant Version*, there is a vertical stroke in front of the "saved," in-





dicating the incomplete verb form. The incomplete verb form describes on-going action (for instance, “I am writing”; as opposed to “I have written”). It is not describing a fact (which would be the complete verb form, “I have written”), but an ongoing act. So what the jailer actually said was, “Masters, what must I be doing that I may be *being* saved.” In other words, “What must I be doing that I may be experiencing this salvation you have told me about?” In other words, “You have said this salvation is *for* me. What must I be doing to make it *on* me?”

The incomplete verb form—the “on all” of Romans 3:22—is about personally experiencing what God has already accomplished, through Christ.

My favorite analogy is the million dollars deposited, without your knowledge, into your savings account. The money is yours; you’re a millionaire. It is *for* you, but not yet *on* you, that is, it is not yet *in* your wallet, at your disposal. It is not “on” you because you are not yet experiencing it, living it, enjoying it. Well, no one has told you about it.

Paul’s answer to the Philippian jailer is, “Believe on the Lord, and you shall be being saved” (Acts 16:31). Belief is the divine gift that transfers salvation from fact-hood, into act-hood. It transforms a fact wrought by God (salvation 2,000 years ago at Calvary) into act (an experience) to be enjoyed today.

“Yet a righteousness of God through Jesus Christ’s faith, for all, and on all who are believing” (Romans 3:22).

THE PARALLEL

Watch how Romans 3:22 aligns with 1 Timothy 4:10—

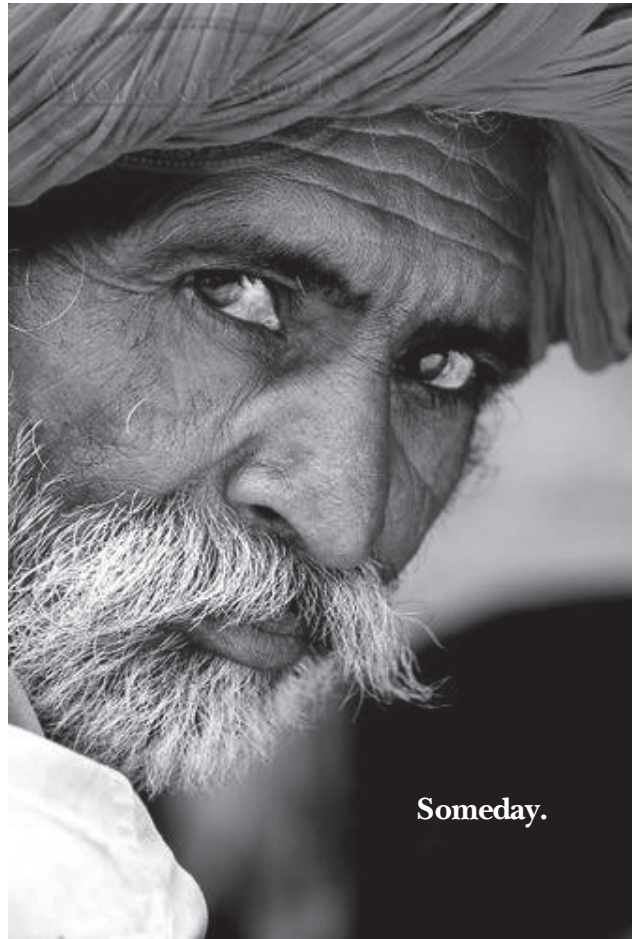
Salvation via Jesus Christ’s faith is:

For all ...

1 Timothy 4:10a:
“God is the Savior
of all humanity ...”

... yet on all
who are believing

1 Timothy 4:10b:
“... especially
of believers.”



Someday.

GOD’S APPOINTED DOOR

Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims—and members of all other religions—will eventually be saved for eternity, not because their present way of worshipping will suddenly be made acceptable to God, but because they will eventually come through the Way—through God’s appointed Door: Jesus Christ. All will come through Christ—eventually.

The faith of Jesus Christ is for all, yet only on those who have been gifted by Him, in this life, with necessary faith. —MZ