

ATTENTION!!

MeetUp Class
Monday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m.
28561 Sunnyslope St.
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

Visiting Needs

Jesus Said...*"I was sick, and you visited Me..."*
Matthew 25:36

May God continue to bless us all.

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman

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Salvation Is Not A "Flip of The Coin"

By Jack Critchfield

Ever flipped a coin to make an important decision? What are the odds of making the right decision by doing so? Most would say it is 50/50. But research has proven that a coin has a 51 percent chance of landing on the side it started from. So, this means if you start with heads up, there's a slightly bigger chance that a coin will land with heads up. Therefore, the result is not totally random. Yet, some people seem to be "flipping a coin" regarding their eternal soul. These people go through life taking a chance by not making the proper preparation. They are gambling with their souls.

Consider, if there were a coin (which there isn't) with Heaven on one side, and Hell on the other. Would we be willing to "flip" this coin to determine our eternity? Some probably would try it and "hope" the coin landed with Heaven up. But this was not God's plan for the determination for the eternal home of the souls of humanity.

God never intended eternity to be a gamble or a "flip of a coin." It is God's desire for all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9). He has devised and delivered a plan whereby man can have the salvation of his soul. In Acts 11:13-14, as Peter was making his defense to the Jews, he said, "*And he (Cornelius, JC) reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'*" This means that Peter was bringing the Lord's "instruction" as to how Cornelius and those who heard those Words could be saved.

If one side on the coin is "saved" and leads to Heaven, the other side must be "lost" and leads to Hell. If action, (hear, believe, repent, confess Jesus as the Son of God, being baptized "into Christ", and then remaining faithful) leads ultimately to Heaven,

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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we can surely grasp that failure to obey, and inactivity (no action) is to be lost. Perhaps this is the idea being conveyed in 1 Peter 4:17-18 where he says, *“For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?”*

Could this be the reason the Apostles, on the day of Pentecost were given words to direct the lost into the kingdom? Acts 2:40 shows this to be the case. The following verse (2:41) shows how those that believed and received the words responded and what benefit they gained as a result. They were, according to verse 47, *“added to the church”*. They didn’t take a “chance.” They acted according to the word of God.

This requirement for action is not just applied to the lost. Those who have been saved by the blood of Christ in baptism, are also required to continue the “work” to remain ready for eternity. The Spirit had Paul remind the folks in Philippians 2:12 of this great need when he wrote, *“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”* Then, the Corinthian brethren in 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 are told, *“Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*

The parable of the lost sheep shows Jesus’ purpose for leaving Heaven and coming to live as a human. He said, *“For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost”* (Matthew 18:11). And all are aware of God’s great love in allowing His Son to die on Calvary’s cross (John 3:16). But some don’t seem to be understand that when Jesus died on that cross, He provided the means for salvation.

Jesus told Thomas, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me”* (John 14:6). In Matthew 11:28 we find Christ saying, *“Come to Me, all who are weary and*

heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” No, friend, salvation is not a coin toss, nor is it by happenstance. One of two outcomes will occur, and that outcome is up to us. We will be saved by doing what God teaches through His word. Or we will ignore God’s teachings and be lost for eternity. We must make our choice today and do what God requires. The salvation of our soul is not left to chance.

Words

By Joe Slater

Jesus and the inspired New Testament writers had far more to say about our speech (words, tongue) than about baptism or the Lord’s Supper. That takes nothing away from the importance of immersion or communion. It simply exposes the need to pay heed to what we say.

Is this a salvation issue? Listen to Jesus: *“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned”* (Matthew 12:36-37). “Idle” literally means “without work.” We speak idle words when we’re too lazy to do the work of thinking first. We carelessly “shoot from the lip!” We would do well to “start brain before engaging mouth.”

It’s hard work to control our speech. James observed that *“no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison”* (James 3:8). Though we can’t tame it, we must control that terrible tongue! *“If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless”* (1:26).

Paul exhorted, *“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers”* (Ephesians 4:29). Apply that to your keyboard too! Take a second look before you send that post on social media. Are you glorifying God when you post vulgar words? Surely your vocabulary isn’t so limited that you can’t make your point without using crude language!

“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (Colossians 4:6).