

Struggling with “Universal Reconciliation”

Commentary for March 22, 2008 — Life’s Major Question

Inquiry: Dear Sir, I just listened to your interview with George Ann Hughes on the “[Forgiving God](#)” tape. I’m very sure I’ll be listening to it again and again to try to be able to digest your comments on this subject of evil, as we humans attempt to reconcile it with our notions of the loving God who permits it. Frankly, the whole subject gives me a headache, trying to figure it out, and has been at the root of what I’d call my existential depression for a number of years. I could glean from your comments and the sobriety of your manner that you, as well, have likely been engaged on a deep level, with this topic.

Your biography on the site states you “**learned the truths of God regarding the Universal Reconciliation of all to God and the deification of man through the redemptive work of Christ Jesus.**” My purpose in writing to you is to tell you that I hope with all my heart that this position is true, and that it helped me to hear someone like yourself speak so thoughtfully to George Ann during the interview, because I know your struggle with these questions is an ongoing and earnest one.

Sincerely, ...

Response: Thank you for your comments and compliments. Your questioning these matters shows that you are well on your way to understand God’s plan of creation as finally given to the apostle Paul and the other apostles by the revelation of the Mystery.

Regarding Universal Reconciliation, let me ask a question. Is it not true that after you accept Christ (with the Father’s and Christ’s calling, leading, and grace) you become, as the apostle John calls us, one of God’s “**little children**” (1 John 2:1, 12–13, 18, 28, 3:7, 18, 4:4, and 5:21)?

Little children are ignorant. Think of a 2-year-old toddler running around, bouncing into walls. That is the concept John is using. This is the level of understanding new Christians have.

If AFTER you become a believer and have the meager knowledge of a “little child” in the faith, how much LESS understanding did you have before you were saved through belief in Christ (again, all through the Father’s and Christ’s action, power, and grace)? Of course, the answer is you were a great deal more ignorant BEFORE you were saved than after!

Think about it, would you leave a life and death decision up to a 2 year old child? Of course not. That would be absurd. Yet false Christian theology would have us believe that an eternity-lasting life and death decision (with eternal suffering if you decide wrong) MUST be made by people now, while they are more ignorant than little children. And remember that most people throughout history never heard the Gospel of Christ! Yet we are told by “orthodox” Christian doctrine that this is what the Bible teaches. This is madness!¹

Salvation is too important for little children with supposed “free will” to make supposedly rational decisions where, if they decide wrong with their “free will,” they will be tortured for a supposed eternity ... an eternity without change, repentance, or hope — ever.

1. It is no wonder why atheists attack Christianity. They are not attacking biblical theology; they are attacking a non-biblical, false theology of a corrupt “churchianity” with a gloss of Christianity.

I repeat, such a non-biblical "tradition-of-men" teaching is madness!

And further, this supposed rational decision comes from a false concept of "free will." If it were true that your salvation was based on your "accepting Christ," by the agency of your free will, then your exercise of free will would most definitely be a "work" (by every theological definition). That makes your salvation ultimately possible only through your decision and action. That is a theology of man, of ecclesiastical tradition, a theology of control.

The apostle Paul makes it plain; God is the source of every possible factor relating to salvation. It is God's gift to you (Ephesians 2:5–10).

"For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

• *Ephesians 2:8–9*

"Who has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works [any works or will of our own], but according to his [God's] own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

• *2 Timothy 1:9*

Belief in Universal Reconciliation is totally biblical. The words for "eternity" and "forever" in most English translations simply do not reflect the meanings of the original Hebrew and Greek words, despite what most theologians say. (ASK has several studies on these matters. See my Commentary "[Free Will and Salvation](#).")

God is in the business of creation. He is creating and expanding His family through Christ. He is the Potter. The results of His creation plan will conform to His will; there can be no exceptions. He does not damn some and save others by choice. The Father is God ...

"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

• *1 Timothy 2:4*

and He is the

"... living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe."

• *1 Timothy 4:10*

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

• *1 Timothy 2:5–6*

"For God so loved the world [the whole world], that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world [the entire world] through him might be saved."

• *John 3:16–17*

Someday all who have lived in the world (past, present, and future) shall believe "**in Him**" and God's love shall be fulfilled (Philippians 2:10–11) just as you are reconciled to God now (Colossians 1:20–21). Read Dr. Ernest L. Martin's small book [ABCs of the Gospel](#), free online. For a more complete explanation, see Dr. Martin's book: [The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#). It too is free online at <http://www.askelm.com/essentials/index.asp>. It may be more convenient for you to purchase *Essentials* and read it as bound book, after perusing it online.

Have a great day. Indeed, have a great life from here on out, comforted and secure in the knowledge of your salvation and the salvation of all people in God's own timetable, "**to be testified in due time**" (1 Timothy 2:6).

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