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Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month's article will probably be the most controversial writing I have done as Director of the Associates for Scriptural Knowledge. The article this month is, "[Losing Your Salvation](#)." While it is clear that all humanity, all children of Adam, will be saved and will become children of God, yet believers can miss the salvation that you are given at this time. You can exercise your will to do so, but the apostle Paul and others make it clear that the loss to you personally will be beyond measure and greatly regretted.

While most everything I write in the article is covered in Dr. Ernest Martin's book *The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*, the information is scattered throughout his book. In Scripture the information is spread out in portions of the New Testament in the form of warnings occurring after verses about how we are personally saved. Then there are Scriptures that give insights of our personal and collective futures with God and Christ. That information is also of interest to us as individuals.

Only then come the passages warning us not to lose our salvation. These are of less interest to us. We do not want to think about such things because, of course, they will not apply to us. I want to make you consider these verses because they are important to you and to others. I want nothing to prevent us from being part of the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Heaven, or the Kingdom of Christ (all the same Kingdom) for the first 2000+ years after the Kingdom on earth begins when Christ returns.

Let me give you an example. The work God and Christ are doing to bring all of the tens of billions who will ever live to salvation is being done so that they will become glorified children of God who will personally relate to God our Father and Christ. This means (1) we will become like Christ is at the present moment (1 John 3:2), and (2) we will deal with God our Father face to face. We will have been justified, sanctified, and glorified to be in front of our God and Father.

John in the epistle of First John follows the same pattern. He presents information about a glorious truth, then gives a warning against opposing or ignoring that truth, and a further warning against those who pervert the truth. John's statement is directly relevant to what is presented in the article. Here is a positive teaching:

"But the anointing [of God's Spirit] which you have received of him abides in you, and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it has taught you, you shall abide in him."

1 John 2:27

Then John gives a warning.

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that does righteousness is righteous, even as He [Christ] is righteous. He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil sins from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin; for his seed remains in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: [1] whosoever does not righteousness is [not of God], [2] neither [is] he that loves not his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

• 1 John 3:7-11

Not doing righteous acts and not loving one another are two problems to be avoided. John is encouraging his readers/listeners to do the opposite.

This month's article will receive criticism from those who are enamored by the biblical truth of universal salvation,¹ but do not want to consider how they should live after receiving that knowledge of God's truth about the full scope of salvation, there might be a great loss of reward or even severe judgment from God.

Criticism may also involve accusations that I support a form of human "free will." Well, as I explain in the article, no human being has a scintilla of being free until you begin to learn the manifold truths of the word of God, which give us insight into God's mind and thoughts.² Some believers think that people have no will at all, even though the apostle Paul taught differently. We have negative will and some positive will, as Paul shows us in Romans chapter 7. We have no free will in the matter of how and when God gives us knowledge about His gift of salvation we have already received from before the foundation of the world:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will."

• *Ephesians 1:3-5*

Read or review the November 2019 Commentary, "[Faith and Prayer](#)" that Dr. Ernest Martin wrote in 1976. It gives you the information you need to remain in God's grace so you will have no doubt as to whether you will be in the first resurrection when Christ returns (1 Corinthians 15:19-24).

The loss of reward in the resurrection to glory is another subject to be concerned with regarding your salvation. After you learn and understand about Christ's work of salvation on our behalf (that every human being is "already saved" and will become a believer), THEN good works become tremendously important for you and for those you are helping. You become a beacon not only in this life, but in the lives of those your works help, will be remembered by others when they are resurrected to the physical in the Great White Throne judgment. Yes, they will remember and you will be able to counsel them and be an example how God worked through you to benefit them even when they knew nothing about God, Christ, or any salvation.

Reminder

This is your first reminder. If you wish a receipt for your 2019 contributions for your tax records, you must request them. We will not automatically send them to you. You must ask us to do so. I will remind you again in the January 2020 Newsletter.

Thank You

By the time you read this, in the United States we will have celebrated Thanksgiving Day on November 28, 2019. We at ASK are regularly reminded of the blessings given by those who support the work and research of Dr. Ernest Martin so we can continue his legacy of biblical teaching on doctrine, prophecy, and history. In all three areas, Dr. Martin produced controversial information that was uncomfortable to many, so it is scorned and attacked in spite of the solid biblical and historical evidence his work is based upon. The biblical truth of universal salvation is one of many such teachings. Of course, Dr. Martin changed his mind when his research found better information, and he was criticized for changing. We are thankful to God for you all, for your prayers, and for your hearty encouragements we regularly receive from so many.

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¹ Psalm 98:2-3; Isaiah 40:5, 49:6, 52:10; Mark 16:15; Luke 2:10; Romans 10:18; 1 Timothy 2:4-6, 4:10.

² Only God our Father has total free will. The will of all God's created beings is limited to the extent they have knowledge of and follow God's will. See some of my Commentaries on free will. "[Universal Salvation and Free Will](#)," "[Truth and the Human Will](#)," and "[Free Will and Salvation](#)."