

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. **Isaiah 41:10**

Store In My Heart Revelation 20:14-15

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

What a sobering thought to consider. The fate of all who are not prepared to enter Heaven is to be cast into the lake of fire with all the wicked and their leader. It should impress each of us with a desire to make certain that we are prepared for that last day. Only those who obey the will of the Lord will have their names written in the book of life. It is the one "roll book" where everyone should want their name to be found.

No matter why your name is missing from the book, you will suffer the same fate as all the wicked. Make God's Word a daily part of your life. Apply it carefully to make sure you are doing what is needed to be listed in the book of life.



Resisting God's Grace

Zeke Flores

As we consider the fallacy of the Calvinistic doctrine of "Irresistible Grace" it's not difficult to refute the error. The concepts of God's sovereign will be exercised in His wonderful grace and mercy and the free will of man are not mutually exclusive. They both exist and can exist side by side and even intertwined, each one working together in the salvation of the sinner. God has exercised His will in offering grace to anyone and everyone who will respond to it on His terms. This doesn't make God some cosmic dictator nor does He have to exert undue force on the sinner in order to save his soul.

It is true that Deity has done what we could not. The plan that was conceived "*before the foundation of the world*" (**Ephesians 1:4**) is unmatched both in its wisdom and in its efficacy. That God would humble Himself by becoming as one of His creatures in order to be a sacrifice "*once for all*" (**1Peter 3:18**) is nothing short of mind-boggling! What a plan! It offers a way to identify with God and He with us as well as being so effective that the single offering of the Son of God was enough to reach to sinners both before His appearance on earth and forward until His return in the sky at the end of time.

Yet, knowing that the grace of God manifested in the offering of His Son for our sins is not forced on us, why do so many reject it? Surely, it's not hard to see that people are looking for meaning and significance in their lives. They heap upon themselves money, prestige, and power and yet still exist empty and unfulfilled. Christians, while working to persuade sinners to accept God's grace, can sometimes only shake their heads sadly at the continued rebelliousness of others.

Sadder still is the resistance of God's grace by those who have already experienced it. Yes, it's true that Jesus' sacrifice is powerful and effective, but it will only affect us as much as we let it. We've seen all too often those who fulfill the words written in **Hebrews 6:4-6** "*For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted*

of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame."

Astonishingly, Christians are becoming more like the ones that need to be saved instead of being lighthouses of salvation for others. Too many are being influenced by the materialist, humanistic culture we're surrounded by instead of impacting those within their circle of influence. True holiness and purity evades too many Christians while the morals and values of ungodly popular entertainers are being entrenched in them.

Also, Christians resist God's grace by being nonchalant about their Christianity. God's goodness has made it possible for unworthy people to enter His presence and worship Him offering songs of devotion, prayers of petition and remembrance of His Son's sacrifice. He's made it possible for us to know His will by studying His word together which He lovingly preserved through the centuries and is now assembled in a convenient Book. Yet in spite of all this, Christians continue to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25) favoring instead some other activity or no activity at all. Why would one redeemed by the blood of the lamb of God consider that something, anything other than worship and study is preferable? About them the Hebrew writer reminds, "*if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment*" (**Hebrews 10:26-27**). And again, God's grace is resisted.

Let us stand firm against the errors of Calvinism while at the same time recognizing that our salvation and spiritual health is a product of God's grace and our own efforts to work it out (**Philippians 2:12**). "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*" (**1Corinthians 15:58**)

(God wants to save us from our sins. Justice demands that we pay the price. God provides a way for us to be redeemed, but we must take advantage of what He has provided. God's grace is available to anyone who is willing to submit and obey His plan for redemption. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

1512 Tanner Street

Malvern, AR 72104

(501) 332-8806

preacher@tannerst.com

tannerst.com

FB @TannerStCoC

For Our Information

Jim Soliday's doctor adjusted dosage on BP meds.

Stanley Hurst has knee replacement surgery August 13th.

Sue Soliday continues physical therapy for her lymphedema.

Vickie McNees has a referral appointment with an arthritis Dr.

John LaValla has follow-up tests to his doctor appointment.

Shannon Soliday is working this weekend.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler are cruising for a couple of weeks.

Stanley & Gloria Hurst will be traveling Friday.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 22** Wednesday – **1John 4:17**

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study