

CHURCH AGE SALVATION

FIVE THEORIES

- The origin of salvation is God; men are the objects (or recipients) of God's salvation.
- Ex.15:2; 2 Sam.22:47; 1 Cor.10:4; Ps.18:2,46, 25:5, 62:2,6, 89:26, 118:14,21; Isa.12:2, 49:6; Hab.3:18
- Man's sinfulness before God causes the need for salvation. - Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:10-12, 23; Job. 22:5; Isa. 53:6, 59:1-3, 64:6 **Why?** Ps. 5:4, 51:1-4; Hab. 1:13

I. Self-Salvation (LOST)

- A. These people believe they can save themselves by self-righteousness and their own good works: e.g. church membership, water baptism, praying, honesty, ethics, moral character, etc.
- B. These people believe they were born innocent and deserve to go to Heaven.
- C. These people believe their "good lives" outweigh their "bad deeds".
- D. These people believe they are a "good person" and believe God will also judge them to be a "good person" and take them to Heaven when they die.
- E. While they believe "nobody is perfect," they believe God will judge them using the same criteria (or scale) they use to judge themselves. - Ps. 51:5, 58:3

II. Jesus Plus Good Works (LOST)

- A. These people trust in Jesus PLUS their own good works.

III. Sacramentalism (LOST)

- A. The term "sacrament" is not in the Bible (in any form) nor the doctrinal teaching.
- B. These people believe there are "holy obligations" (which the RCC calls sacraments) which are required in order to obtain "sanctifying grace."
- C. The RCC believes their "seven sacraments" are the means Jesus Christ instituted to effect salvation and gain eternal life. (That is clearly "works for salvation")

IV. Universalism (LOST)

- A. These people believe God is 100% love and all people will eventually be saved.
- B. These people do not believe that a "loving God" would punish anybody eternally in a Lake of Fire (Hell). - Ps. 140:8-10; Matt. 10:28, 13:40-42, 49-50; Rev. 20:15
- C. They believe man's sin is correctable and someday all people will be reconciled to God because of God's great love for mankind and His divine mercy.

V. Gospel of the Grace of God (SAVED) - Isa. 52:7, 61:6; Rom. 10:15

- A. These people believe all men (except Jesus Christ) are natural born sinners, sin on a regular basis, and can only be saved by the **free gift** of God's grace.
- B. These people believe nobody can save themselves. - Isa. 53:6, Titus 3:5-6; Rom. 3:19-28; 4:5; 11:6, 1 Cor. 1:27-31; Gal. 2:16
- C. These people believe salvation is a **one-time event**, not a long process.
- D. In the Church Age today, we receive the Holy Spirit and eternal life upon trusting in the D/B/R of Jesus Christ **by faith alone**. - Rom. 5:1; 10:9-10, 13; Eph. 1:13; Gal. 3:26
- E. These people believe **individuals** are saved by trusting the finished work (D/B/R) of Jesus Christ and simply calling on the Lord **by faith alone**. - Eph. 2:8-9