

Will God Force Some to be Saved?

Commentary for December 15, 2013 — Will He Force Anyone?

Question: I have been asked this statement and need to know how to answer it. In general: show me where the unsaved are forced into salvation. I know this is a multi-level statement and even answer, but I need a reply so, what would be your choice?

Answer: The ASK website provides marvelous resources to answer your questions — either in the "[ASK SITE SEARCH](#)" or the "[ASK Topical Index](#)." See 1 Corinthians chapter 15:

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then comes the end [order], ..."

• *1 Corinthians 15:19–24*

Do you believe that all children of Adam shall die? God says so through Paul. Then believe the next clause, that **"in Christ shall ALL be made alive."** Paul is talking about salvation and resurrection. Colossians chapter 1 has another passage that answers your question.

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is ... the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

For it pleased the Father that in him [Christ] should all fullness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him [Christ] to reconcile ALL things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."

• *Colossians 1:16–20*

The apostle Paul could not have expressed the totality of creation any better. No one will be "forced" to be saved. Were you "forced" to be saved? Was the person asking the question forced to be saved? Was Paul forced to be saved? No. Paul was saved and He was happy to be so, through the blood of Christ. As a result of this action by God through Christ, what eventually will happen to all of us is told in Philippians chapter 2:

"Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus EVERY knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that EVERY tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

• *Philippians 2:9–11*

I defy you — or anyone — to find in Scripture one instance that confession to God is involuntary or forced. A "forced" confession of Jesus as Lord could never be to God's glory.

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of ALL men, specially of those that believe. These things command and teach.”

• **1 Timothy 4:9–11**

Judgment is not just destruction. Judgment can be punishment, and in many cases, the judgment will be painful and severe.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror [fear] of the Lord, ...”

• **2 Corinthians 5:10–11 (also Ecclesiastes 12:14)**

Judgment is also education. This is the purpose of the great white throne judgment. All from Adam will receive salvation through Christ’s blood, and attain immortality to be like Christ (1 John 3:2) through His righteousness. First comes instruction and then comes praise:

“I will praise you [God] with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned your righteous judgments.”

• **Psalm 119:7 (also Isaiah 26:9)**

“It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that has heard, and has learned of the Father, comes unto me.”

• **John 6:45**

The purpose of God’s judgments is to make unbelievers take notice of God’s justice. Judgment cannot give righteousness. That can only come through Christ. The idea that God will “force” anyone to be saved implies that He will OVERWHELM a fictitious “free will.” Salvation is too important to leave to the ignorant. Children must be educated to truth, and God’s truth will make them free (John 8:32). Then they shall freely choose to accept God, and Christ as their Savior, confess Jesus as Lord, and God will be glorified. We sometimes forget that our status before we believed is the same as those who have unbelief now.

“For as YOU in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your [God’s] mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God has concluded them all in unbelief [why?], that he might have mercy upon all. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

• **Romans 11:30–33**

God’s will is expressed in 1 Timothy chapter 2. Whose will is supreme, God’s will or your will? We can know God’s will regarding salvation! The apostle Paul tells us what God’s will is:

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have ALL men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for ALL, [when will this be learned?] to be testified in due time.”

• **1 Timothy 2:3–6**