

A Question about UR

Commentary for December 1, 2012 — Whereas UR = Universal Salvation

This month we have two (2) articles. Dr. Martin's article "How to Worship God" gives evidence as to what kind of Worship God wants from us today. Physical ritual and rote liturgy are not what God wants today. He wants something better and more from us.

The second article, "Questions and Answers," is comprised of answers that I replied to people who have asked questions from ASK. Most answers are contained in ASK material and I most often refer people to books or articles. At times people have not read the articles carefully, read them years or decades ago, or they mistakenly remember what Dr. Martin or I have written. The question below is similar to those in this article. See the "[December 2012 Newsletter](#)" for more information on these two articles.

A Question

This question and my answer deal with basic questions of all life: what is the plan of God, why is there evil, and what is the responsibility to God of each individual human being?

As you read this Q&A, keep in mind this question also: would you — should you — worship a God who is a monster? a God who tortures people for eternity?

Again, keep in mind that UR = Universal Reconciliation.

UR QUESTION: *In the finality — according to the UR, one could worship whatever they wanted to and eventually they will be reconciled to God ... right?*

ANSWER: Where did such a ridiculous idea come from? Certainly not from the Scriptures.

All salvation will come through belief in Christ. What is to be believed for salvation?

- That He is the Messiah,
- that He is the Savior of all men,
- that He was born of flesh,
- that He lived and fulfilled all God's requirements of righteousness for all mankind,
- that He died on the tree of crucifixion,
- and that He was resurrected from the dead as the captain of your salvation.

All those things you MUST believe to be saved. And by the way, God gives you the knowledge and the faith so you can believe those things. That has not happened, is not happening, and will not happen, for the vast majority of mankind — until later.

"And has given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the

graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

• *John 5:27–29*

See the words "judgment" and "damnation"? They are the same Greek word, from *krisis*.¹ The word "damnation" simply means judgment, not condemnation to an eternal hell. The concept of "eternal" and "everlasting" does not exist in either Hebrew or Greek. The concept is theologically inserted into most (but not all) English translations.

"... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

Again, the Greek term used is *krisis*. This judgment will occur after a resurrection to judgment. Judgment is an educative process during which those who do not know Christ and His works will be educated and learn about God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and their plan of salvation for all mankind.

Most know John 3:16 (a wonderful passage), but most forget to read the next verse: "**For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved**" (John 3:17). The world shall be saved. It is God's will for all to be saved.

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: [1] Christ the firstfruits; [2] afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. [3] Then comes the end [the *telos*, meaning the end resurrection]."

• *1 Corinthians 15:22–24*

"For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment [this word is not in the Greek] came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men [for what end?] unto justification of life.

For as by one man's disobedience [the] many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall [the] many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin has reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal [*eonian*] life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

• *Romans 5:17–21*

Yes, it will be as you say "eventually they will be reconciled to God." God is in fact the savior of all men. This is what Paul instructed Timothy to command and teach:

"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*

God does everything in accord with the counsel of His will:

"That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ [not some things, but all things], both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance,

¹ Our English word "crisis" comes from the Greek *krisis* which means to decide, separate, judge.

being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."

• *Ephesians 1:10–12*

What is God's will?

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and [all men] 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, to be testified in due time."

• *1 Timothy 2:3–6*

Did you notice the last clause: **"to be testified in due time"**? Not all human beings will come to learn in this life about Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. They will learn it **"in due time,"** in the resurrection to judgment — a time of education, and yes, of punishment also, punishment for evil done in their life of ignorance.

If you are not a believer now, after your physical resurrection to judgment how long do you think you can thwart God's will on the most important issue, your life with God and Christ? You will know the truth and the truth shall make you free to make an "informed decision" to accept Christ as your savior. At present, most people are unwillingly ignorant about God and the salvation He has given to man. The Gospel is not about HOW you will be saved. The Gospel is about the fact that YOU ARE SAVED ALREADY in Christ.

Paul writing to strong believers says:

"That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are you saved through faith [Christ's faith, not yours]; and that not of yourselves: it [faith to believe] is the gift of God: Not of works [not even your "decision" for Christ], lest any man should boast."

• *Ephesians 2:7–9*

Again, note what Paul wrote to Timothy: **"... our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death [for all, not just for a few], and has brought life [for all] and immortality [for all] to light through the gospel"** (2 Timothy 1:10). He has not revealed or given that life to all YET!

As a believer now, you are a "babe" in Christ (Hebrews 5:12–14), which means you are largely ignorant of God and His ways and His love. Yet before you were saved you supposedly were "mature" enough and had enough information to make a decision with a supposed eternal significance of either blissful life with God and Christ, or **ETERNAL** torture and pain — of every second — forever. Have you ever burned yourself? Imagine that pain all over your body (and inside also) for eternity. Why? Because you did not "respond" (which is salvation by your works, by the way) to God's calling.

If God forces such an uninformed decision on people, then He is crazy. And He is not worthy of worship. I hope this is helpful.

QUESTIONER'S FOLLOW-UP STATEMENT: The ridiculous idea came from talking to a UR [a believer in universal reconciliation].

FOLLOW-UP ANSWER: Forgive my testy answer. It is borne of frustration.

The quick answer is, yes, God allows the vast majority to worship and believe anything they want NOW. Yes, YHWH is an absentee Father, and has not yet revealed Himself through Christ and His written word to most people. Who can deny this is reality? In reality, there is no Calvinist / Arminian enigma.²

Most of humanity will be saved and reconciled to God through Christ when He will do so in the judgment period. After the eons are completed there will be no distinction between people. Indeed, all were saved "in Christ" from before the foundation of the world. *Sheol* and *hades* are not the hell of theology. Neither is *gehenna*. *Olam* and *aion* do not mean "eternity," nor does the adjective *aionios* mean "eternal" or "everlasting." This is shown by simple word studies of your own,³ by ancient Christian works, and by modern scholarly studies.

God and Worship

God is worthy of worship because He loves everyone, even sinners. He loves them so much that He gave His Son to pay the price for our sins, collective and individual. If one sinner is not saved, God will have failed, and His son's sacrifice will have been in vain, in other words, for nothing. A lost sheep could not be redeemed (Luke 15:2–7). Read John 10:1–21. John's Gospel was written after the revelation of the Mystery, and it incorporates the teachings of the Mystery. God's justice will only be served when all are saved by Christ's righteousness.

Universal salvation (or UR, universal reconciliation) is easy to understand from the Bible. But when theology is inserted into biblical texts, then things get utterly confused. How do I know that I do not insert "my" theology into the meaning of the texts? Good question. First of all, I am aware of that possibility, so I try not to do so. Second, the great discussions in the Old and New Testaments tell us what is important to God. Hell is not the central issue of the Bible. As creations in the image of God, destiny of mankind is the core issue of Scripture.

If eternal damnation was in the Bible as Christian orthodoxy claims, then there would be far more discussion and explanation in Scripture than there is. Yet there is relatively no discussion in the Old Testament and little in the New Testament. Why would a Creator and loving Father bother to feed and care for those who do not know of God's grace through Christ, then turn around and condemn most all of them to an eternal torment? Yet we know God's will is to save all (1 Timothy 2:4). This makes no sense. Contradictions such as this are causing millions to leave Christian churches worldwide. They are not being fed the Word of God and He is having them leave. This is an opportunity to tell truth to a world starving for spiritual food. **"Let every thing that has breath praise YHWH!"** (Psalm 150:6).

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com

² The Calvinist / Arminian enigma is an evangelical argument whether God predetermines who is saved and who is damned, and the extent of man's free will in response to God's offer of salvation.

³ For a simple explanation see Dr. Martin's article "[The Doctrine of the Ages in the Bible](#)" and three other articles by Dr. Martin: "[The Time Periods for Salvation, Part 1](#)," "[The Time Periods for Salvation, Part 2](#)" and "[The Time Periods for the Resurrections](#)."