

Salvation Is Not A "Flip of The Coin"

By Jack Critchfield

Ever flipped a coin to make an important decision? What are the odds of making the right decision by doing so? Most would say it is 50/50. But research has proven that a coin has a 51 percent chance of landing on the side it started from. So, this means if you start with heads up, there's a slightly bigger chance that a coin will land with heads up. Therefore, the result is not totally random. Yet, some people seem to be "flipping a coin" regarding their eternal soul. These people go through life taking a chance by not making the proper preparation. They are gambling with their souls.

Consider, if there were a coin (which there isn't) with Heaven on one side, and Hell on the other. Would we be willing to "flip" this coin to determine our eternity? Some probably would try it and "hope" the coin landed with Heaven up. But this was not God's plan for the determination for the eternal home of the souls of humanity.

God never intended eternity to be a gamble or a "flip of a coin." It is God's desire for all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9). He has devised and delivered a plan whereby man can have the salvation of his soul. In Acts 11:13-14, as Peter was making his defense to the Jews, he said, "And he (Cornelius, JC) reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'" This means that Peter was bringing the Lord's "instruction" as to how Cornelius and those who heard those Words could be saved.

If one side on the coin is "saved" and leads to Heaven, the other side must be "lost" and leads to Hell. If action, (hear, believe, repent, confess Jesus as the Son of God, being baptized "into Christ", and then remaining faithful) leads ultimately to Heaven, we can surely grasp that failure to obey, and inactivity (no action) is to be lost. Perhaps this is the idea being conveyed in 1 Peter 4:17-18 where he says, "For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?"

Could this be the reason the Apostles, on the day of Pentecost were given words to direct the lost into the kingdom? Acts 2:40 shows this to be the case. The following verse (2:41) shows how those that believed and received the words responded and what benefit they gained as a result. They were, according to verse 47, "added to the church". They didn't take a "chance." They acted according to the word of God.

This requirement for action is not just applied to the lost. Those who have been saved by the blood of Christ in baptism, are also required to continue the "work" to remain ready for eternity. The Spirit had Paul remind the folks in Philippians 2:12 of this great need when he wrote, "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling." Then, the Corinthian brethren in 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 are told, "Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

The parable of the lost sheep shows Jesus' purpose for leaving Heaven and coming to live as a human. He said, "For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost" (Matthew 18:11). And all are aware of God's great love in allowing His Son to die on Calvary's cross (John 3:16). But some don't seem to be understand that when Jesus died on that cross, He provided the means for salvation.

Jesus told Thomas, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). In Matthew 11:28 we find Christ saying, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." No, friend, salvation is not a coin toss, nor is it by happenstance. One of two outcomes will occur, and that outcome is up to us. We will be saved by doing what God teaches through His word. Or we will ignore God's teachings and be lost for eternity. We must make our choice today and do what God requires. The salvation of our soul is not left to chance.

Things you should know about!

We would like to send donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you want to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Linda Whittington 11/14
 Duane Kemp 11/15
 Nellie Hoff 11/24

Heather Fourman 11/26
 Viola Schultz 11/28 (100th!)

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Happy Anniversary!

Jason & Stephanie Bang 11/23 Doug & Nellie Hoff 11/27

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Annual Chili Cook off is TODAY!

If you would like to be a judge, please let Stephanie know.

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A brief men's meeting will also be held prior to lunch.

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We will be giving food boxes to families in the community for Thanksgiving.

There is a list to sign up for what items you can provide.

The boxes will be delivered on November 23rd.

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You're invited to celebrate Viola's 100th birthday!! Please join us after PM Service on November 27th for cake and ice cream!

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Our congregation Holiday Party will be on Saturday, December 17th @ 6pm

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Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	November 13, 2022 AM	November 13, 22 PM	November 20, 2022 AM
Greeter	Jerry Thompson	Jason Bang	Rick Ferris
Announcements	Tim Bang	John McGiffin	Tom Muter
Song Leading	Jason Bang	Owen Whittington	Owen Whittington
Opening Prayer/Usher (left)	Tim Bang	Brennan Arrell	Chris McGiffin
Lord's Supper Comments	Tom Muter	Tim Bang	Jerry Thompson
Scripture Reading	Owen Whittington	Rick Ferris	Chris McGiffin
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher (right)	Chris McGiffin	Seth Arrell	Jason Bang

Bible Verse of the Week

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you^l shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” Joshua 1:8

Lord’s Supper Reflection

He is our High Priest

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.” Hebrews 4:14

Offering Meditation

Giving is an expression of God’s Love

“But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?” 1 John 3:17

Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
- *Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- *Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- *Larry Bey - Parkinson’s
- *Tom Cruze (Phyllis Caldwell’s nephew) - health
- *Sarah (Caroline Stine’s niece) - having surgery because of a brain tumor
- *Carrie (employee at The Oakley Place) - has had spots found on her breasts, more tests to come
- *Caroline Stine - has had a spot found on her breasts, more tests to come
- *Clyde (Linda Whittington’s brother-in-law) - has cellulitis on his face
- *Katie (Duane & Carol Kemp’s granddaughter) - healing of her fractured arm

- *Mark McGiffin (John McGiffin’s brother) - is recovering from heart surgery to put in two stints
- *Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson’s dad) - is home recovering from having a heart stint put in to repair collapsed arteries. He is needing to heal from this before he can have his hip surgery
- *Sharon Thompson (Jerry Thompson’s mom) is recovering from knee surgery
- *Viola Schultz - healing for her broken arm
- *Laura McGiffin - recovering from being sick
- *Marjorie Seiber—having surgery on 11/23

How can we be praying for YOU?

Please call John or email him at jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com with any prayer requests or announcements you may have for the congregation.

Attendance and Contribution Record

Sunday, November 6		Wednesday, November 9	
Bible Classes	31	Bible Classes	21
AM Attendance	41		
PM Attendance	32	Contribution	\$1,083.00

Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



November 13, 2022

Worship Times:

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children’s Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us today!
If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card and let us get to know you.