

High Moral Ground? Socialist Salvation?
By Brad Harrub

Everyone wants the high moral ground. People want to come across as more loving, more compassionate, and more intelligent than their "opponent." Gone are the days when people valued humility and recognized that they did not know everything. No, today we paint our opponents as callous hatemongers, and we honestly believe we are intellectually elite.

Lately, the push has been in the realm of forgiveness and student loans. While I do have an opinion in this arena, I refuse to be sucked into that quagmire of continuous bickering. (And...I realize that everyone has an opinion.)

Instead, I want to focus on something far more important. Salvation. How has the current worldview altered our understanding of salvation? There has been a major push, especially in university settings, to embrace and promote socialism.

Socialism is a political and economic system where wealth and private property are assumed by the state and transferred to everyone to make a more equal society. While this equality sounds good in theory, socialism has failed in every country where it has been tried. (And in several cases it has led to communism and dictatorship).

But the idea of socialism has really tickled the ears of many young people. They love the idea of abolishing capitalism and sharing the wealth with those who have less material goods. They love this utopian idea of equality.

It has even caused many to claim that this is the more Christian thing to do.

But is it really? Is salvation and reconciliation to God all about equality? Are we all going to be equal on Judgement Day? Are we really going to be able to spread salvation to everyone? Are we going to be able to take the obedience of some people and magically transfer it to the masses because we think that system is more compassionate? Or is it possible that salvation is about sin and the blood of Christ?

The simple answer is no--when it comes to salvation we cannot count on a socialistic approach.

I don't say that to be mean, controversial, or judgmental. I say that because Jesus Christ clearly taught that we would all give an account for our own actions. We all have an independent responsibility. We have all been given free will and we will be judged by what we do--not what our neighbor does. I can't transfer some of my salvation to someone who is lost just because I think that is more compassionate or equal. Who am I to think that I can tell a righteous God what He should do on Judgement Day?

Consider the Truth in the following verses:

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10).

"So then each of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12)

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work." (Revelation 22:12)

"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:36-37)

"For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." (Matthew 12:36)

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left." (Matthew 25:31-33)

"And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15)

"For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

Notice in Matthew 16:27 Jesus says, "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

Each according to his works. Not their works.

Socialism does not work for salvation. And while it may feel like you are taking the high moral ground by supporting it, you are ultimately condemning people to an eternity in hell by making them think they will be okay. Actions have consequences.

If you really want to help people, then help them learn how to take responsibility for their own actions. You can't transfer the obedience of a few to the disobedience of many. You can't transfer the cleansing blood of Christ to those who have previously rejected it. You can't cry out "This is unfair!" to the Judge of the universe. At that point it will be too late.

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.



- Laura McGiffin 9/29
- Jackson Allen 10/5
- Ady Bang 10/21
- Tom Muter 9/29
- Tim Bang 10/5
- Dianna Bang 10/27

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Door Knocking Campaign
September 24th - 10am-12pm

Please let John know if you are willing to help.

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Ladies Bible Study will meet at the church building on
Thursday, September 29th @ 7pm

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Gospel Meeting ~ October 2-5
with Bob Vincent from the Tipp City Church of Christ

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Mark your calendar's for our Fall Gathering at the Thompson's!
October 14th - 5pm (weather permitting)
More information to come.

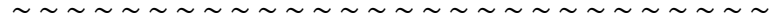
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Men's meeting - October 15th @ 9am

Serving today and next Sunday:

Sunday AM Rotation	September 18, 2022	September 25, 2022
Announcements	Tom Muter	Tom Muter
Song Leading	Owen Whittington	Jason Bang
Opening Prayer/Greeter/Usher	Tim Bang (L)	Duane Kemp (L)
Lord's Supper Comments	Duane Kemp	Tim Bang
Scripture Reading	Chris McGiffin	Jerry Thompson
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher	Jerry Thompson (R)	Owen Whittington (R)

Bible Verse of the Week

“...bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.” Colossians 3:13



Lord’s Supper Reflection

“And they all cried out at once, saying, “Away with this *Man*, and release to us Barabbas...” Luke 23:18

Offering Meditation

God expected people to give their best

“The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.” Exodus 23:19



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 - asked for prayers for his Parkinson’s
- *Evelyn Lam - recovering from surgery to remove a skin cancer spot on her nose
- *Tom Cruze (Phyllis Caldwell’s nephew) - dealing with health issues
- *Debbie Brayfield (Alena Brown’s aunt) - is in a Rehab facility recovering from surgery for kidney stones and a lengthy hospital stay
- *Family and friends of Judy Haguewood (Steven Haguewood’s mom) grieving her passing this past week
- *Pamela Knapke (Sherrill Butt’s daughter) - is recovering from extensive injuries from being involved in a motorcycle accident
- *Eric, a gentleman from the fair booth that is doing a Bible study.
- *Diane Perry (Michelle Gasper’s grandma) - is recovering from hip surgery
- *Carrie Fannin (Michelle Gasper’s mom) - prayer for her mental health

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, September 11

Bible Classes 38
 AM Attendance 57
 PM Attendance 27

Wednesday, September 7

Bible Classes 18
 Contribution \$1,731.51

Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



September 18, 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.