

Abundant Mercy

A Devotional For Biblical Universalism

Wendy Burnfield



Abundant Mercy Devotional

By Wendy Burnfield

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A devotional dedicated to the
amazing love and mercy God
provides the world.

Intro

Does God send people to hell that reject Him? The answer might surprise you, and maybe you never thought about it on a Biblical scale. Maybe the matter is settled for many. But, for Martin Luther, and many like him, the status quo isn't free from error. The Reformers didn't hesitate to question long held institutional dogmas, and nor should we.

“For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all [Jew and Gentile alike].”

-Romans 11:32

What Does Universalism Teach?

Biblically based universalism teaches all mankind will be judged, and even those who profess faith can face the purifying fires of hell. No one escapes discipline by their Heavenly Father. Hell is reforming and medicinal. Painful in the sense of removing the dross and purifying all the diseased elements that prevent anyone from their true self. Hell should be avoided by all

costs, turn to Christ today and walk daily with Him to transform your heart, mind and soul.

"For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness." Hebrews 12:10

Biblical Universalism warns both non-believers as well as believers that they must prepare for the Kingdom of God is at hand and all must turn to God in repentance.

"From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." Matthew 4:14

Always keep in mind Christ warned the clergy numerous times in the gospels that they could face severe judgement in Gehenna (hell). Many Christians today ignore these warnings Christ gave to all believers. Universalism doesn't lower the bar; it actually raises the bar. **See Matthew 25:31-46**

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Devotional 1

Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God

"God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength. It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume. It is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever."¹

God does not look for perfect people, but He can transform imperfect people. It is a work in progress, never be discouraged or fear that God will give up on you or anyone!

King David was an adulterer and murderer. King David commanded the husband of his mistress to be murdered. Yet

¹ Vance Havner

David was a man after God's own heart. Moses murdered a man out of anger but God still chose Moses to deliver the Jewish nation from slavery. The Apostle Paul was a blasphemer who hunted down Christians to murder yet God still used Paul to bring both the Jewish and Gentile nations to the truth of the Gospel. Peter was hot-tempered and denied Christ three times, yet God still used Peter to build His Church. In God's great wisdom, He chose Peter and re-named him "Peter the Rock".

God is not afraid to transform imperfect humans into mighty warriors for truth and light. God chose an adulterer, a murderer, a blasphemer, and a denier of Christ. All are in the hall of fame in scripture, yet they all were human with imperfections. This is the Gospel and the good news! We can all take heart, and never fear that God will forsake imperfect people. Christ came to rescue the world, and He will purify us all from our imperfections. God can transform our

weaknesses into strengths. God doesn't give up on us, and nor should we.

“I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]” Philippians 4:13

Devotional 2

The Old Covenant

Paul, who persecuted the church has a revelation on the road to Damascus. He didn't seek out Christ willingly and had no intention of coming to Faith in Christ. Paul discloses to the Galatian Church that Christ's *faithfulness is more powerful than the faith of mankind*. Paul is indicating that the *Faithfulness* of Christ saved him! Imagine the transformation of Paul who was a teacher of the law. Paul was accustomed to living under the sacrificial rituals of the old covenant. In the old covenant, daily intercession was required; *"Every priest stands [at his altar of service] ministering daily, offering the same sacrifices over and*

over, which are never able to strip away sins [that envelop and cover us]." (Heb 10:11)

Paul discovers a new revelation on the road to Damascus; the new covenant of Grace.

And Paul writes to Timothy:

" ... even though I was formerly a blasphemer [of our Lord] and a persecutor [of His church] and a shameful and outrageous and violent aggressor [toward believers]. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted out of ignorance in unbelief."

(1 Timothy 1:13)

Many have been taught that redemption is limited to those who seek it...and Christ only intercedes for those who accept Him, but Paul did not fit into any of these categories.

*"I let Myself be sought by those who did not ask for Me;
I let Myself be found by those who did not*

seek Me.

I said, 'Here am I, here am I am... (Isaiah 65:1)

Paul teaches that it is Christ's faithfulness, not ours that redeems.

Then what is the advantage of the Jew? Or what is the benefit circumcision? ² Great in every respect. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God [His very words] what then? If some did not believe or were unfaithful [to God], their lack of belief will not nullify and make invalid the faithfulness of God and His word, will it? ⁴ Certainly not! Let God be found true [as He will be], though every person be found a liar, just as it is written [in Scripture],

"... if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself."

(2 Timothy 2:13)

Isn't Grace amazing? The Persecutor of the Church, Paul, who was not looking for Christ, was found by the *faithfulness* of Christ ... "He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself".

You have heard of my career and former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to hunt down and persecute the church of God extensively and [with fanatical zeal] tried [my best] to destroy it."(Galatians 1:13)

Paul discovers that Christ and His *faithfulness* will help us, because only God can understand our weakness, and He intercedes on our behalf.

"So, then God's choice is not dependent on human will, nor on human effort [the totality of human striving], but on God who shows mercy [to whomever He chooses—it is His sovereign gift]." (Romans 9:16)

Devotional 3

The New Covenant

What did the New Covenant accomplish for all people?

No longer is it a "work" of men to intercede on our behalf. It is God who is the Lord of all creation who intercedes on our behalf. *"In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. "* (Hebrews 8:13) (NLT)

The old covenant brought death to all, but the new covenant shall bring life to all. It is a process." *Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? (2 Corinthians 3:8) (NLT)*

Can we expect anything less from God? The blood of goats and bulls year after year did not take away the stain of sin and death. But the Savior of the Universe brought peace

through His own blood to take away death for all time for all people!" He *did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus securing eternal redemption forever.*" (Hebrews 9:12) (NLT)

Christ intercedes for all people for all time there is no set deadline. King David knew God is everywhere; in the Grave, in the depths of Sheol. He is the God of the living and the dead. "I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!

"If I ascend to heaven, you are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, you are there." (Psalm 139:7-8)

Devotional 4

The Restorative Fire

The majority of religions teach some form of punishment. Christianity is unique; the creator of the universe became a man to redeem His beloved creation.

When Martin Luther wrote his 95-page Theses, one of the major complaints he confronted in the Catholic Church, was the practice of selling indulgences (payment to lessen the time in purgatory). Luther did a great service to everyone by establishing the freedom to examine and question institutional traditions. It was 502 years ago but the reformation isn't finished, the nature of hell is one that should be discussed and examined. Catholics teach purgatory for the righteous, protestant do not, and the Eastern Orthodox teach a medicinal form of punishment, protestants do not. Judaism

teaches temporal punishments or annihilation.

Many believe that 'Universalism' or rather the Greek term *apokatastasis* is an old heresy that was condemned at the Fifth Ecumenical Council (A.D. 553) but much of this assertion is up for debate.

One of the first questions those of faith should ask is:

If our justice system has in place the prevention of cruel and unusual punishment and the virtue of mercy during the sentencing of a

criminal, wouldn't God do the same for all fallen creation or is God less merciful than human courts?

"The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation."(Ps 145:9) (NLT)

Scripture points out many major promises;

-The gates of hell shall not prevail.

-Every knee will bow and praise Him.

-Every tongue will willingly confess Jesus is Lord.

-Every tongue will swear allegiance to me.

-All will know the Lord.

-Death will no longer reign.

-Sorrow will come to an end.

-Wickedness will no longer exist.

-Christ will rescue everyone.

-Everyone will be restored and purified by the refiner's fire.

Like Paul, there will be those who come to know Christ *not by their will or desire, but by the will and desire of God.*

*"I have sworn [an oath] by Myself, The word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness
And shall not return,
That to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear [allegiance]." -Isa 45:23*

The refining fire will restore and transform everyone. Even Sodom and her daughters will be restored to their original glory (Ezekiel 16:53-55). The Bible indicates that some may even be angry over the generosity of Christ.

"... Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?"

(Matt 20:15-16) (NLT)

Devotional 5

Fullness of Time

Among Christian theology, there are two extremes concerning salvation security.

There is no security in Calvinism or Arminianism.

- In *Calvinism*, God will choose a few.

-In *Arminianism*, a few will choose God.

The Calvinist needs to answer why God would create so many people knowing He's 'elected' them for hell.

Arminianism needs to answer why God would create so many people knowing that so many of them would reject Him and thus spend eternity in hell.

In *Restorative justice (universalism)*, God chooses everyone and everyone will ultimately choose God.

Salvation is secured by the Blood of Christ, and sanctification is made complete through the restorative fire.

It is a process. But God will complete restoration, from start to finish. Ultimate security is knowing Christ accomplished redemption for all people through His wisdom, not the wisdom of fallible men.

And He has made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together in Christ.”

-Ephesians. 1:1(NLT)

Devotional 6

Advantages of Faith

Christ conquered death, "for the wages of sin is death", those who have faith in Him have a new life and God is available to help us anytime we allow. For those who have rejected the new birth of restoration, the Father will do what is necessary within the fullness of time to bring ALL sheep into His fold. The fact that Christ is searching for all lost sheep and prodigals is amazing grace!

Regardless if we acknowledge His Grace, the Savior of the world loves everyone, we are His pride and joy and we are all connected to Him. He desires a relationship with all the people on earth, and even after we leave earth.

Every soul is joined to the soul of God. How could God destroy and annihilate a part of Himself? Male and female, all people are created in His image. In marriage the “two become one “our heavenly Father” is joined to us as one. The Bible uses marriage and the union of marriage in a similar fashion. In earthly marriage when a spouse dies it is like losing a part of yourself. It is heartbreaking for our creator to lose any of us to the evil one so much so *He Became a man to save His beloved family*. It would bring far more glory to God to transform the most notorious wayward son or daughter to wholeness and peace. Why would God create billions of people knowing they will spend eternity in hell? He paved the way long before the human race fell into disarray "... so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Eph 2:7 (NLT)

"The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works [the entirety of things created]." ~Psalm 145:9

Pure divine love has lasting effects. Let us hold out for more hope, that all souls will respond to the love of God. Many are familiar with a popular TV series 'Extreme Makeover,' Ty Pennington, who can remodel an imperfect house in a matter of a few days. If Ty can restore a house in a few days, why would God not be able to restore people in a blink of an eye? Do we have more faith in a TV personality than the Father of the universe?

"And He who is seated on the throne said, See! I make all things new. Also, He said, Record this, for these sayings are faithful (accurate, incorruptible, and trustworthy) and true (genuine). " ~Revelation 21:5

Devotional 7

Biblical Support for Universalism

From the first book in the Bible, Genesis we see the pattern of Man falling away from God's perfect design and God bringing reconciliation. *"In the beginning God created man and woman in His image."* Because God is rich in Mercy, He created a Savior to reconcile everyone. Not by the will of all fallible creation, but by the will of the infallible creator. It is God's will that prevails. Genesis one is contrasted with the Gospel of John. The same world God created is the same 'world 'God came to restore. Nothing is impossible for God.

"And I have multiplied thy seed as stars of the heavens, and I have given to thy seed all these lands; and blessed themselves in thy seed have all nations of the earth;" Gen 26:4

God's pattern will always be Savior and redeemer who restores our relationship. Nothing can change who God is and no amount of rebellion or ignorance can stop His divine plan. In Exodus we see that God's people are lead astray, but as a loving Father God extends the olive branch that leads to reconciliation. Time and time again, God takes the action to restore and reconcile our relationship with Him. God's love has no conditions His love is truly unconditional. The only thing that separates us is our own ignorance and rebellion. The theme from Genesis is the first sin and God actively works to bring all creation back into a restored relationship with Him.

"But in Your great compassion, You did not put an end to them; nor did You forsake them, for You are a gracious and compassionate God. " Nehemiah 9:19

Devotional 8

Jesus is Victorious

Christ had complete victory over the devil, who deceived Adam and Eve. Regardless if you believe or do not believe in the literal account of Genesis, the moral of the story is... humanity has been deceived for generations. If God is a Savior, wouldn't He defeat the devil and his schemes? Christ and His apostles spoke about the devil in terms of being a murderer, and a thief, who came to steal, kill and destroy. But what did Christ accomplish? He brought life, He won back our full inheritance, and He is going to restore all things! A typology is foretold in the book of Job. Job lost everything, but in the end, everything the devil destroyed, God restored!

Does God reside in Heaven hoping human evangelism will reach enough people? Christ told us our burden was light. If saving people is up to us that is a huge burden!

Evangelism is a great opportunity to tell people the good news. God isn't hoping we get the job done by our efforts of evangelism, He saved the world without our consent, just as we did not consent to the decision Adam and Eve made to have knowledge of good and evil. The devil is a defeated foe, and nothing can separate us from the love of God. (Romans 8:38)

We all like happy endings. In universalism the story ends with God having victory, not the devil. How sad it would be if the story ended with the devil having the victory? God, who created everything restores all creation to its former glory, and God gets all the praise and glory.

It is safe to assume that God wouldn't sacrifice His son to win only a few. And He doesn't just leave it up to human will or choice, but through His infallible wisdom.

We should assume God's ways are higher than our ways, His wisdom reaches higher than our thoughts.

Traditions of men have always been more focused on human effort. God's grace covers us all, so no man can boast. God accomplished the goal of redemption, and indicated all will know me, from the least to the greatest, *all* men will draw near to me. The same *all* Adam condemned, are the same *all* Christ justified and redeemed! No man can take credit for Salvation! It was finished at the cross.

“When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross.”

Colossians 2:15

Devotional 9

The Limited Atonement

Mainline denominations have a common theme, Christ will lose the majority of the world to sin, death and the devil. Christ was defeated, and it is up to fallible human beings to find the truth in order to attain salvation. And if they do not have the luxury of finding Christ, either through meeting a missionary or having a bible translated into their language, they are without hope. Currently, there are 3,969 languages without a bible translated in their language. Does this sound like good news for those who have no bible read or missionary to tell them the good news?

The unlimited atonement supports a victorious savior, who provides hope and good news for all people! The unlimited atonement is based on the work of Christ, not on the works of men. The unlimited atonement is based on the will of God, not on the will of men, and it is based on the

faithfulness of God! God does not depend on men to accomplish redemption. He sent a Savior!

“And through [the intervention of] the Son to reconcile all things to Himself, making peace [with believers] through the blood of His cross; through Him, [I say,] whether things on earth or things in heaven.”

-Colossians 1:20

Devotional 10

The Unlimited Atonement

The Christus Victor View

The Christus Victor (Christ is victorious) view supports the biblical theme of Christ conquering Satanic authorities, removing their authority over any part of creation. What the devil destroyed is restored through the death and resurrection of Christ. Christ conquered and defeated death and in doing so provided the redemption of all people. (Other views held are the Penal Substitution View, the Moral Government View, and the Kaleidoscope View).

Why believe in the “Christ Victorious” view? From the Old Testament to the New Testament, from Moses to Christ, intercession has been made to bring all of creation to the promised land. In the Old Testament Moses intercedes on behalf of the

Israelite's'. In the New Testament Christ intercedes on behalf of the world. If God is for us, in whom shall we fear?

-Moses performed signs and wonders, Jesus performed signs and wonders.

-Moses struck a rock to give people water. Jesus is the Rock and is life-giving water.

-Moses ended the bondage of Israel to Pharaoh. Christ ended the bondage of sin and death.

-The Israelite's wandered around the wilderness due to their own rebellious spirit and Moses interceded on their behalf.

Christ intercedes on the behalf of the rebellious world.

-Moses told the Israelite's to place the blood of the lamb on their door. Christ is the lamb who shed His blood that takes away the sins of the world.

-Moses brought the law to mankind. Jesus fulfilled the law for mankind.

The Christus Victor view was one of the earliest views of the atonement until the 11th century. Over time, different theories became popular. The Christus Victor view is supported by both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Christ wins and the devil suffers defeat.

"Therefore, since [these His] children share in flesh and blood [the physical nature of mankind], He Himself in a similar manner also shared in the same [physical nature, but without sin], so that through [experiencing] death He might make powerless (ineffective, impotent) him who had the power of death—that is, the devil—and [that He] might free all those who through [the haunting] fear of death was held in slavery throughout their lives.

-Hebrew 2:14-15 Amp

Devotional 11

Ages and Dispensations

Scripture foretells seven ages. After the end of the seventh age, Eden will be restored, death and sorrow will come to an end!

-Evil Age (Galatians 1:4)

-Present Age (Ephesians 1:21)

-Future Age (Ephesians 1:21)

-Worldly Age (Ephesians 2:2)

-Coming Age (Ephesians 2:7)

-Age of punishment (Matthew 25:46)

-End of the age (Matthew 13:49)

In dispensation theology seven ages occur to usher in the Kingdom of God:

-The Age of Innocence (Adam and Eve).

-The age of Conscience (knowledge of good and evil)

- The age of Human Government (Loss of perfection, harmony and peace)
- The age of the promise (God's promise of a new covenant, the covenant of Grace)
- The age of the Law (God gave the law to show sin, and the penalty of sin requires a sacrifice)
- The age of Grace (God offered Himself as a sacrifice, to take away the sins of the world)
- The Kingdom Age (All things are made new, death, sin, sorrow comes to an end).

God deals with mankind through distinctive periods (ages); these distinct periods, are unfolding to accomplish the salvation of each and every person. Galatians 1:4 teaches that Christ came to redeem the world from the present 'evil age'.

Ephesians 1:21 teaches that in God's great power He came to rescue not only those in the present age, but in the age to come. His greatness surpasses any other power or authority. The universe is in the process of growth. In the age to come (the future), all of creation will be reconciled to their Creator. This is the great mystery revealed to our generation, but...have we missed it entirely? "

"...We speak of the mysterious and hidden wisdom of God, which He destined for our glory before time began."

-1 Cor 2:7 (NLT)

Devotional 12
The Book of Life

The book of life. Does It Exclude the
Unrighteous?

"Erase their names from the Book of Life;
don't let them be counted among the
righteous."

-Psalm 69:28

Are those whose names are not found in the
book of life destined to eternal damnation?
If so, then why did Moses ask to have his
name removed?

'But I beg you to forgive them. If you don't,
please wipe my name out of your book."
Exodus 32:32 (CEV)

According to Christ; "I came not for the righteous, but for the unrighteous". The Lord of Lords came to rescue the unrighteous. The unrighteous are not created to remain apart from their heavenly father forever. He is continuously searching for the lost sheep. The Father is unwilling to give up on the wayward prodigals; when they return home, He throws a party. The pattern of grace is; patience, love, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, peace. All of these attributes are from our Lord and Savior, who is unwilling that any perish, but all come to repentance. And who can say that what the Lord desires is impossible? For we know what is impossible with men, is possible with God (Luke 18:27).

“But the free gift [of God] is not like the trespass [because the gift of grace overwhelms the fall of man]. For if many died by one man’s trespass [Adam’s sin], much more [abundantly] did God’s grace

and the gift [that comes] by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to [benefit] the many.”

-Romans 5:15 AMP

The book of life, and those who do not have their name in it does not express God's unwillingness to redeem the unrighteous. Like Paul, there will be those who come to Christ through a new understanding of their own foolishness. Paul gained new understanding when He encountered the light of Christ, not by the will of Paul but by the will of His creator.

When Christ descended into hell, He did so to proclaim the good news to those in prison.

See 1 Peter 3:19

His intention was to rescue the unrighteous.
The unrighteous are not without an
advocate. Christ intercedes for all creation.

*“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the
unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him
return unto the LORD, and He will have
mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will
abundantly pardon.”*

- Isaiah 55:7

Devotional 13

The Problem of Evil

Lucifer is the first created creature known to have sinned. Original sin was found in Lucifer who was both jealous of God and of the human race. His attempt to destroy creation was an act of murder, as Jesus confirmed, that Lucifer was a murderer from the beginning. Death entered the world through the deception and malice of Satan. Notice that in the account of the fall in the book of Genesis God never mentioned to Adam or Eve that if they eat from the tree of knowledge they will suffer for all eternity, God warned Adam that they will die. The wages of sin are death. The death and resurrection of Christ enabled God to bring life to everyone, and in doing such we no longer need to fear death.

"Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying."

Hebrew 2:14-15

Traditional Christianity teaches that one must choose God (Arminianism), or that God has chosen only a few (Calvinism). Universalism Theology teaches that God has chosen all, and all will choose God. God's power to redeem is greater than Lucifer's power to destroy. God's love outweighs the evil of a fallen angel. God did not create suffering or death, but God allowed mankind's freedom to have knowledge of good (a world ruled by love) or evil (the absence of love). This fallen state of death, pain, and suffering is only a temporary condition that we experience on

this side of life. God has promised us a new world, where death and suffering will no longer have any power. So, while, death entered into the world through one man Adam, the restoration will be given to all humanity through one man, Jesus Christ. Universalism theology teaches that God's Mercy always prevails. His Mercy is the dominant factor.

"For if by the trespass of the one (Adam), death reigned through the one (Adam), much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in [eternal] life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then as through one trespass [Adam's sin], there resulted in condemnation for all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted in the justification of life to all men." - Romans 5:17-18 Amp

Devotional 14

Four Spiritual Stages

As human beings we grow and experience life through many stages. When we are children, we learn to walk, as teenagers we learn to drive, as a young adult we may attend College and later marry, etc. Throughout each stage we experience many things that shape and form us.

According to Psychiatrist Dr. M. Scott Peck there are four spiritual stages of growth.

According to Dr. Peck stage one involves the “pretenders”, they often appear to be loving but are actually very self-serving. According to Dr. Peck stage two are the legalistic and dogmatic, who think of themselves as being superior to others as the bearers of truth. Stage three are the skeptics and non-theists, the scientifically minded. And lastly according to Dr. Peck stage four

is the “mystic”, those who are open to the mystery of God.

See source: (People of the Lie (The Hope for Healing Human Evil) By M. Scott Peck, M.D.)

The following is my theory of the four spiritual stages.

Stage one: The Atheist

Indifference to religion in general. Has no interest in dogmatic allegiance to any one faith. The atheist feels comfortable with a scientific world view rather than a religious world view.

Stage two: The Churchgoers

Those dedicated and involved in a traditional organized religion with a clearly defined theology. Is comfortable with how the group interpret their faith and religion. They are dogmatic, and will not stray from the group’s doctrine. Many remain

convinced at this stage that all answers can be provided by the group's clearly defined script of truth. Includes those who have generational adherence to a particular sect (Christian, Judaism, Islam, Hindu, Buddhism). Most will remain in this stage throughout their lifetime.

Stage three: The Thinker

Is willing to accept that it is okay to have a certain amount of mystery and paradox about who God is and what the purpose is of the universe. Is at peace with the journey of life. Perhaps the rarest of all stages. Is not afraid to think independently within the Christian faith. Is open to other Christian views. Is not adamantly against other faithful Christians who have a different interpretation.

Stage Four:

The Apostle Paul would describe this group as the “mature” of faith, those who have left the spiritual milk stage, and have moved

onto solid food. Hebrews 5:14 describes this group able to have discernment of good and evil, they are able to teach others and have trained themselves to walk in the principles of Christ. Paul describes those on spiritual milk as being “worldly” and of the world. The main focus of the spiritually mature is to love God with all their heart, mind and soul, and to love their neighbor as themselves. They walk in love without a self-righteous attitude as the dogmatic pharisee. They are able to walk in spirit and truth, and are focused on taming fleshly pride. They do not have a superiority complex. Understanding all are loved by their creator and creation is not without and advocate. No one will be left in their poor estate, but will be restored and into a relationship with their heavenly Father.

*“May you experience the love of Christ,
though it is too great to understand fully.
Then you will be made complete with all the
fullness of life and power that comes from
God.” Ephesians 3:19*

Devotional 15

World Religions

Multiple world religions have taught the necessity of hell as being eternal.

In ancient Buddhism, hell is a place of eternal torment but reformed this view with the belief that hell was emptied by a victorious Savior.

In Judaism some believe hell is temporary and the amount of time spent is limited to twelve months, if someone is extremely wicked, they will be annihilated.

In Islam hell is reserved for non-believers of Allah and their torment and suffering will last for eternity.

In mainstream Protestant, Christianity hell will last for all eternity and is reserved for those who never turn to Jesus by faith for redemption.

In Pentecostal theology hell and the eternal fire is reserved for those who are 'believers' but fail to live without 'sinning', as well as those who never 'accept' Jesus by faith.

In Catholic circles, those who are believers, but are not yet purified will be sent to purgatory, but non-believers and the unbaptized will be sent to the eternal fires of hell without end.

In Orthodox theology purgatory is rejected, but they do believe it is possibility for a restoration for all creation.

In the tradition of Hinduism, there is no eternal hell or devil, but there are karmic payments and multiple lifetimes.

Early patristic Christian's view of hell was more based on their region rather than their infallible interpretation of scripture. The Eastern church had an advantage based on their native language being Greek. The Eastern Church believed hell was medicinal and restorative. The Western Church taught

that an unbeliever would never be redeemed from their unfortunate condition and thus would spend eternity in endless suffering. And lastly, a minority view of early Christians taught the finality of Annihilationism, after an undetermined amount of suffering in hell. Among these three views, only one supports the ultimate victory of Christ (Universalism). In the restorative view, everyone, from the least to the greatest will have a place at the Great Feast and this is only possible through the abundant mercy of God. He is both our intercessor and Savior, who is "the lamb of God who took away the sins of the world." It is our Lord and Savior who intercedes on behalf of not just one group of people, but of all people, for all time.

“There is no fear in love [dread does not exist]. But perfect (complete, full-grown) love drives out fear, because fear involves [the expectation of divine] punishment, so the one who is afraid [of God’s judgment] is not perfected in love [has not grown into a sufficient understanding of God’s love].” 1 John 4:18

Devotional 16

Systems of Theology

Christian denominations who all read the same book, come away with a multitude of different interpretations (all claim to be an authority on biblical interpretation).

Catholics, Protestants alike are devoted to helping others gain insight into Divine revelation and principles.

-To a Roman Catholic Saving Grace is communicated through the seven sacraments.

-To the Lutheran Grace is through faith alone.

-For an Anabaptist Sacraments are only symbols and do not provide saving grace.

-Those of a Reformed Baptist view see Salvation as determined by God, and not by human will.

-To a Methodist or those with an Arminian view Salvation is determined by human free will.

Beginning in the early church there have always been varied and differing opinions on almost every theological topic; there has never been a consensus. If salvation is dependent on getting it right in this lifetime, we have a problem because scripture is not as clear as we would like it to be. We tend to apply our western cultural ideals and concepts to interpret the Bible. The Bible is an ancient manuscript written by ancient people, living in an ancient culture. The Bible requires more consideration than an ordinary book or novel. It takes a lifetime of study. And each time we study, we will always learn something new, because unlike a novel, the bible is life-giving water (John 7:38).

Fortunately, the fallibility of men is covered under grace. Christianity is unique. The Creator comes to rescue those who are unable to redeem themselves; our God is full of love and compassion and will never let anyone be lost forever. We can rest in His love and peace that surpasses understanding. We only need to trust in His faithfulness. If we fall, He will catch us, if we run, He will search for us, if we leave, He will patiently wait until all prodigals return home!

“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part [for our knowledge is fragmentary and incomplete]”. 1 Cor 13:9

Devotional 17

The lake of Fire

Does the Lake of Fire Refute Restoration and Redemption for All Creation?

"When death approaches life, and darkness to light, and the corruptible to the incorruptible, the inferior is done away with and reduced to non-existence, and the thing purged is benefited, just as the dross is purged from gold by fire."

-Gregory of Nyssa

Fire in Scripture describes God Himself, Judgement, and the refining fire. All people will be subjected to a lesser or more severe purging, depending on the number of impurities that need to be removed. For many Protestants this is an unacceptable interpretation. But Scripture is full of verses that warn the righteous, and unrighteous

alike. According to Christ, our deeds, attitudes, and motives matter on judgment day. Those on the left are bewildered and ask Christ why they are not included. They plead that they have cast out demons in His name, but Christ replied that they failed to have compassion for the helpless and vulnerable. Those on the right were surprised that they were included. Christ informed them that they had practiced love, kindness, and compassion, while those on the left were too preoccupied with themselves to help the less fortunate. A similar story is told about a rich man who finds himself "punished" after his death. He is denied a drink of water because of his refusal to help the less fortunate during his lifetime on earth.

Some speculate that the lake of fire annihilates the entire (wicked) person, but if this is the case, Christ was not victorious over sin and death. Many examples can be found in scripture that indicate that the

refiner's fire removes all impurities and purifies. In Zechariah chapter 13, the Lord is cleansing Jerusalem from their idolatry and is going to purify them with the refiner's fire vs.1-2.... "On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the people of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity...." continued Verse 9..."This third I will bring through the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'" (NLT)

Our God is a consuming fire and will purge all impurities as radiation kills cancer. Sodom's great sin was having indifference to the less fortunate. The refining fire of God will purify all wickedness. Simply put wickedness is lack of love for God and neighbor. The outcome will be the end of wickedness and death itself. The second

death is the end of wickedness (they are restored to wholeness). Christ Jesus has victory! The prince of darkness is defeated forever!

“God does not make mistakes or create unredeemable trash good only to be thrown away. Though God respects human choice and free will, even when the choice is to reject Him, His love and mercy can forgive literally without exception without any blame.”

-Russian Orthodox Bishop Hilarion

“He will swallow up death [and abolish it] for all time.

And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,

And He will take away the disgrace of His people from all the earth;

For the Lord has spoken.”

Isa 25:8 AMP

Devotional 18

Assurance of God's Grace

God knows and loves each of us personally and individually. He understands our struggles, and our sorrows. He is the Great Physician; He came to heal and restore everyone back to wholeness and peace. This is a universal truth that is trustworthy and true. Please share this message with those who have lost hope, and need a word of encouragement.

Law 1

The first Adam brought condemnation to all people, but the second Adam brought justification to all people.

-Romans 5:18

Law 2

For God has consigned all men to disobedience so that He may have mercy on them all.

-Romans 11:32

Law 3

No man can boast (Eph 2:9), for it is not dependent on man's effort or desire, but on God's Mercy!

-Romans 9:16

Law 4

God is unwilling that any perish...

-2 Peter 3:9

Law 5

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

- Romans 8:38 (NLT)

Law 6

He canceled all charges held against us, nailing them to the Cross.

- Colossians 2:14

Law 7

All will come and all will know the Lord.
From the least to the greatest.

"I will put my laws in their heart and in their mind".

No one will say; "Know the Lord", for they will all know me" I will be their God, and they will be my people.

- Hebrews 8:11 (NLT)

What it means

God came for everyone, redemption is for the righteous, those who have faith and the unrighteous, those who have yet to come to faith. Mark 2:17

How to rest in Christ

Nothing can prevent anyone from the love of God. He is with us at our best and our worst. Life is a journey, full of trials and tribulations. We can rest in Christ, who will never leave us or forsake us. Hebrews 13:5

Share with others

Let others know that we can rest in the love of God.

Grow in Christ

“For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but one who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as we are, yet without [committing any] sin.

-Hebrews 4:15

Devotional 19

Seven Cries from the Cross

What They Mean for The World.

1. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

God forgives us all, and will never give up on anyone. He will never leave or forsake us and is never willing that anyone be snatched from His hand. He decided before we were born that He would never let us perish.

2. "You will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

We will join our Heavenly Father in Paradise. He does not want us to fear death. He is for us, and with us. Do not fear, we are loved by our Father, who knows everything about us and loves unconditionally.

3. "Woman, behold your son!" (John 19:26-27).

Born to a virgin, Jesus never sinned, God became a man to walk with us and show us His love, taking death upon Himself and being raised to life to intercede on behalf of all mankind. The penalty of eternal death was defeated by the blood of the lamb!

4. "I thirst!" (John 19:28).

God understands our weakness, and we no longer need to thirst again! He brings us life through the living water He provides through His faithfulness.

5. "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

There is nothing we need to do to earn His love or forgiveness. We are securely saved by His Grace.

6. "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit'" (Luke 23:46)

When we physically die, we will be in loving arms that will transform us into glorified bodies!

7. "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46).

"And I give them eternal life, and they will never, ever [by any means] perish; and no one will ever snatch them out of My hand."
-John 10:28 (NLT)

Devotional 20

The Priesthood of Believers

The first great awakening in the 1730's brought revival. May we challenge and hope that the next great revival will proclaim Christ ended the need for intermediaries. Christ, along with Peter and Paul emphasized the priesthood of all believers. Yet, many Christian denominations rely on the old covenant system.

"...You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Pet. 2:5) NLT

Like the reformation before, a revival would allow for believers from all around the world to read scripture for themselves, and become aware of the inconsistency in many denominational teachings. Every believer

has the capacity to learn directly from the Spirit of Christ.

The spirit will teach us all things”

1 John 2:27

Devotional 21

Sodom and Gomorrah

The debate among conservative and liberal scholars concerning Sodom and Gomorrah.

Conservative scholars emphasize the greatest sin of Sodom was their sexual activity. The verses used to support their view are:

Jude 1:7, Luke 17:29, Genesis 19:24.

Liberal scholarship argues the greatest sin of Sodom was their lack of love and compassion for their neighbor. This view is consistent with the message of the parable of the sheep and the goats) Matthew 25:46). How does this compare to the sin of Sodom? They lacked love and compassion for their fellow man, and community. It is stated that Sodom's great sin was lack of love for others, and we know the ten commandments are all summed up in one, "love God and one another".

“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, “excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.

-Ezekiel 16:49 (NLT)

Christ sacrificed Himself; He lavished His love on the world, in order to display *Agape love*. We could not save ourselves, so God became one of us, to take upon Himself the sins of the world. And according to the prophet Ezekiel, even Sodom will be restored to health of love and compassion. All that God creates is good.

“Nevertheless, I will restore them [again] from their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters (outlying cities), the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, and along with them [I will restore you from] your own captivity [in the day of the Lord God].”

Ezekiel 16:53 AMP

Devotional 22

We Are All One with Our Creator

When we lose our connection to God and to those around us, we have lost the most precious gift... Love. Only when love is restored in our life can we be connected to God and to others. It is only when we allow ourselves the ability to connect to each other through love, that we will bring healing to one another and to our planet.

So often in our society, in the past and in the present, we have been sold into the slavery of fear, only to be controlled and manipulated. But God came to liberate us from fear, He came to give us life in abundance. He adopted us as His sons and daughters. The spirit of fear comes from the (Satan) enemy. Our battle is not made of

flesh and blood but of authorities and principalities of the air.

Fear is an energy that destroys who we are, children of the King. Nothing in all the universe can remove or take away all that God has bestowed upon us... the inheritance of liberty and peace to all creation. May we meditate and pray this daily to bring real change to the world, and allow the sacrifice of Christ Jesus to reset the world to abundant assurance.

“It was for this freedom that Christ set us free [completely liberating us]; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery [which you once removed].”

-Galatians 5:1 AMP

Devotional 23

The Restoration of Job

Is the book of Job historical or allegorical? Like most Christian theological views, there are two extremes, but perhaps both are correct. Correct in the sense that Job was a historical person, and his biography supports the biblical theme of the fall in Eden, and the final restoration of Eden (paradise). Why would the creator allow the pain and sorrows of Job? Was there a greater purpose for Job and the entire world?

For those familiar with the story of Job, he was a man of great wealth and righteousness. What was the purpose of allowing the adversary (Satan) to take away all of the blessings of Job?

For the universalist, the story of Job follows the theme of the entire Gospel. Suffering is limited and serves a greater purpose. In the end the entire world will be restored. Not just the righteous, but the unrighteous as well. Job is an example of the principles of restoration. While the enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy, the Savior of the world came to bring restoration and defeat the enemy (Satan).

Restoration in Scriptures:

- After the oppression of Israel God brought restoration.
- Sodom and Gomorrah will be restored.
- The Garden of Eden will be restored.
- All things will be restored.
- From the least to the greatest will be restored.

- The blind, deaf and lame (spiritually-physically speaking) will be restored.
- The unrighteous will be restored.

“At that time, I will bring you in, yes, at the time I gather you together; For I will make you a name and a praise. Among all the peoples of the earth. When I restore your fortunes [and freedom] before your eyes. Says the Lord.”

-Zephaniah 3:20

Devotional 24

Knowing God's Peace

Knowing the peace of God, transcends all understanding. Philippians 4:7

There is only one way to the Father (Jesus Christ), His sacrifice was inclusive for everyone. (John 3:16, John 14:6, Ephesians 2:18 1 John 4:11)

Salvation can never be revoked or lost. Christ's blood secured salvation forever, but it is mankind's responsibility to prepare and work towards sanctification. Prepare for the Kingdom of God is at hand. (Romans 5:19, Matthew 3:2-3, Luke 13:24, 1 Peter 4:18)

Gehenna (hell) is a temporary place to restore and transform souls to prepare them to live in the Kingdom of God, and this is only possible through the Grace, Compassion, and Mercy of God. (Luke 12:58-59, 1 Peter 3:19, 1 Peter 4:6, Romans 8:38-39)

God is literally Love and Compassion and is not willing for any to perish. (Matthew 18:14, 2 Peter 3:9, Palms 86:15, Isaiah 38:18)

God is going to grant full knowledge to everyone, with an outcome of celebration. (Hosea 4:6, Jeremiah 31:34, Romans 14:11, Isaiah 45:23)

Every knee and every tongue are going to WILLINGLY confess Jesus is Lord and will be saved from an eternity without Him. (Isaiah 45:43, Philippians 2:11, Hebrews 14:11)

Christ defeated Satan and death, and nothing can separate anyone from God's Grace. (Job 33:24, Colossians 2:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:24, 1 Corinthians 15:55)

No demonic authority can prevent anyone from receiving their full inheritance. (2 Timothy 2:13, John 10:29, Romans 5:18, Hebrews 9:12)

There will be a future new world where there will no longer be death or suffering. God will restore His beautiful creation to peace and wholeness. (Acts 3:21, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Isaiah 60:20, Revelations 21:4)

God is omniscient. His love will reign and no soul can be left in their fallen condition. For they will be cured by the Great Physician.

“And Jesus replied to them, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but [only] those who are sick.”

Luke 5:31

Devotional 25

The Unforgivable Sin

*” ...But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit and His power [by attributing the miracles done by Me to Satan] never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin [a sin which is **unforgivable** in this present age as well as in the age to come]”—*

-Mark 3:29

Most have a great fear that they have or will commit the unforgiveable sin. But most commentaries are not consistent in their understanding of this type of sin.

When we compare scripture with scripture, we have several principles God provides for assurance. He has commanded us to forgive seven times seventy. If we are always to forgive, Would God not do the same?

Matthew 18:35 Encourages us to forgive from our heart. The Lord knows there are many situations where reconciliation is not possible, but we are still commanded to forgive from our heart.

With passages such as these, we can conclude that the Lord always forgives. As He cannot contradict Himself. Nor does He command mere sinners to forgive while He does not. Could anyone commit such a grievous sin that is unforgivable? Thomas Talbott writes that the “unforgivable sin” is not an act for which there is no forgiveness, but rather an act that cannot be pardoned.

He states that some forms of punishment are necessary, and when the punishment is complete the sinner is forgiven.²

² See Talbot, Thomas, *The Inescapable Love of God* (Salem, OR: Universal Publishers, 1999), p. 104.

Grace covers a multitude of sin. God does not withhold His Grace due to our failure; He will never leave or forsake anyone.

And Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34 (NLT)

Devotional 26

Restorative Justice

God's love is His justice. We equate justice with punishment, but justice is an act of love. Justice trains and restores us to God. God is interested in restoring us to our true self, our pre-fallen condition before the evil one destroyed creation. Our heavenly father desires *the created* to have a clearer understanding of how our actions affect those around us. God aims to heal all of creation. Our theology tends to be influenced by our culture, and unfortunately, our culture is full of abuse and violence. We have a heavenly father who understands our predicament.

“For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.”

-Acts 3:21 (NLT)

Restorative justice in our court systems aim to heal all parties. In God's court system, Christ is our advocate and He will heal all worldly sorrows caused by mankind's ignorance and selfishness. Most if not all sin is selfishness.

The eighth amendment in our constitution is one of the most important, because it prevents our justice system from inflicting cruel and unusual punishment. Another aspect of our justice system is the virtue of mercy. The virtue of mercy allows the judge to take into account any aspect of a criminal's past that may have caused unlawful behavior. Many criminals in our prison have had a less than ideal environment. Charles Manson was said to have suffered extreme rejection from his birth mother and was placed in a boy's home, while the boy's home he was subjected to multiple molestations from those in the clergy. He ran away multiple

times to escape the abuse. Jody Arias, who murdered her ex-boyfriend was speculated as having being sexually abused by her own father as a child. Serial killer, Aileen Wuornos was raped and abused by multiple family members. Wouldn't these types of environments cause someone to become mentally incapacitated and damaged? The effect of sin has had a ripple effect on the world since the beginning. Cain murdered his own brother, and it has only continued to become worse. Sin has caused all our relationships to become twisted and yes, in the above instances evil.

Because God is a Father to all He is going to rectify His entire family.

“Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close.” -Psalm 27:10 (NLT)

We might ask ourselves, does God have less mercy than human judges? Manson, Wuornos, and Arias were all abandoned and abused by their biological parents.

Will God literally do the same? As Paul reminds us, Grace doesn't give anyone the license to sin, but where sin increases God's grace abounds!

“But the Law came to increase and expand [the awareness of] the trespass [by defining and unmasking sin]. But where sin increased, [God’s remarkable, gracious gift of] grace [His unmerited favor] has surpassed it and increased all the more.

Romans 5:20 AMP

Devotional 27

Why Did God Allow Evil?

How do we define evil? Einstein once said that without light you have darkness. We can conclude that the absence of love is evil. The good news is God made a provision long before the fall of Adam and Eve.

We often wonder why does God allow evil to continue? The Gospels teach that at the appointed time earthly sorrows will come to an end, and a new world will begin, a world where love will rule the universe. During this age we are learning the “knowledge of evil.”

A new world will exist where the universe will be filled with the love of God and one another.

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be death; there will no longer be sorrow and anguish, or crying, or pain; for the former order of things has passed away.” Rev 21:4

Devotional 28

Abundant Mercy Questions

Abundant Mercy adheres to the restorative version of God's Grace.

The Early Church and scripture teach; that we are all judged and are held accountable for our lives. Christ redeemed humanity from death. Thus, God is not willing that any perish. Therefore, death does not end God's Mercy, He continues to reach out to those who have been separated from Him through their own deceptions.

Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 Corinthians 13:7 NLT

Can you lose Salvation if you fall back into unbelief or sin?

No one can lose salvation; Christ secured it with His own blood. We are not without hope.

“Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people’s sins.” Hebrews 7:27

Devotional 29

The Great Commission

Sharing the news of God's unconditional love:

Without question God's love is unlimited and the theme should never be about fear or dread, but of peace that surpasses understanding. (Philippians 4:7). NLT

God never changes, His Love, Grace and Mercy override our sins.

"For I am convinced [and continue to be convinced—beyond any doubt] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present and threatening, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the

[unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

-Romans 8:38-39

God loves us all and will transform us all. "*When Jesus heard this, he told them, "The Healthy don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are unrighteous (sinners)."* Mark 2:17

If we have lost the way, we will find the way to Grace. "*All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.*"

-Psalm 22:27 NLT

We will all be healed of all our sorrows and trauma here in earth. *"Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed; save me, and I will be saved, for You are my praise."*

-Jeremiah 17:14 NLT

All are invited and all are welcome! *"The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Let the one who hears say, "Come!" And let the one who is thirsty come, and the one who desires the water of life drink freely."*

-Revelation 22:17 NLT

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

-Psalm 103:8 NLT

... "The LORD, the LORD God, is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in loving devotion and faithfulness."

-Exodus 34:6 NLT

The LORD is merciful and good; our God is compassionate.

-Psalm 116:5 NLT

God, our Redemer is Unconditional love....

"It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...."

-1 Corinthians 13:6 NLT

Devotional 30

Perfect Love

We hear it all the time through traditional models of who God does and does not redeem from their unrighteous condition. Calvinism is a traditional view and an acceptable teaching within Christian theology whereby God has predetermined only a few people will be redeemed. This, of course, means many people will never make it to the promise land (heaven).

Arminianism teaches that while God loves everyone enough to save them, it is up to each person to accept His offer of salvation and thus “seal the deal.” But once again, a large majority of the population will end up in hell rather than heaven. Both Calvinism and Arminianism display an imperfect love which was not strong enough to redeem everyone.

Universalism is consistent with the scriptures that God's love has victory. We are not redeemed by our strength but only through God's strength. God will redeem all of creation that the devil destroyed.

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

-1 John 4:10 NLT

Two widely held views fall short. Universalism does not fall short it supports the victory of Christ Jesus, who provides grace for everyone. God's plan and redemptive act bring Glory to Him alone. All humanity will be reconciled to their creator; all of humanity was harmed by the murderous act of Satan. God's perfect plan is to reunite His perfect creation to peace and wholeness. Isn't this great news? This

is divine intervention (Christ's Redemptive act). As much as we like to take credit for 'coming to faith,' it isn't up to us. We couldn't salvage or redeem ourselves from our estrangement from our creator, so He came down to earth as the Savior to remove the curse of death and restore a broken relationship with all His family.

"...And the Word (Christ) became flesh, and lived among us; and we [actually] saw His glory, glory as belongs to the [One and] only begotten Son of the Father, [the Son who is truly unique, the only One of His kind, who is] full of grace and truth (absolutely free of deception)."

-John 1:14

It has been engrained in our culture that eternal punishment awaits those with unbelief and that our creator is prevented from reaching anyone who is ‘not willing.’ But scripture makes a good case that this is not the final outcome. Why? God is not ‘willing’ that any perish.

“The Lord does not delay [as though He were unable to act] and is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is [extraordinarily] patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9 Amp

From the Author:

It is my passion to share the Abundant Mercy of our Savior! The best Rx in the world is the Great Physician, Christ our Lord. The sacrifice Christ made is truly a gift to all creation and it is an honor to share the good news. Let us celebrate His Love and Grace! Thank you for reading.

Blessings and Peace,

-Wendy Burnfield

www.patristicuniversalism.com

“It is for this that we labor and strive [often called to account], because we have fixed our [confident] hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe [in Him, recognize Him as the Son of God, and accept Him as Savior and Lord].”

-1 Timothy 4:10 Amp

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Would a loving parent allow suffering for all eternity for their beloved family? Would a Savior? To allow suffering for all eternity is not consistent with love, mercy or grace. The picture we have been taught of God is completely flawed and is in need of a reformation.

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease.

-Lamentations 3:22



It is my passion to share the Abundant Mercy of our Savior! The best Rx in the world is the Great Physician, Christ our Lord.



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