

CAN GOD BE TRUSTED?

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How can God allow salvation for a Nazi who committed atrocities in WWII, yet later repented and accepted Christ, but send the Jews he killed to hell? (If God is unfair, how can He be trusted?)

Jesus Christ did not come to condemn anyone, nor to send anyone to Hell. On the contrary, He *“came to seek and save those who are lost”* (Luke 19:10). Jesus is our Savior, not our Executioner.

John 3:16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.

¹⁸ “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in Him. But anyone who does not believe in Him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

Already Been Judged

“Already been judged.” Since the time of Adam, the entire human race has stood condemned before God because of sin—men, women, and children. Old and young. Rich and poor. Educated and illiterate. Republican and Democrat. Fascist and Communist. Religious and secular.

Being born in a Nazi household did not condemn any person to Hell. Being born in a Jewish home did not save any person from Hell. (For that matter, being born in a Christian home does not save anyone either.)

One Way

There is only ONE way to Heaven—not many. If there *could be* any other way to save humankind than the horrific agony that Jesus suffered on the cross, His sacrifice would have been unnecessary, and if it *was* unnecessary, then it was even more horrible than it first appeared, and we should flee the God who orchestrated it, not run to Him or promote Him.

You see, this is the fact: the whole world was already condemned before Jesus came. He didn’t create our sinful condition, nor did He create our condemnation. We *were already* condemned,

for God had declared, “The soul who sins shall die.” And into that bleak, dark night, came a light—the Light of the world. His light exposed our sin, but He did not create our sin (Have you ever turned on a flashlight in the attic or the basement, only to discover dust and cobwebs?). His truth revealed our condemnation, but He did not create our condemnation. We were already doomed, by our own choices.

Jesus *interrupted* our demise. He slowed the tide. He made a way of escape—for all people.

Hitler’s Nazis were not the first people to try to exterminate another group of people. Nor did they kill more than any other warring group. Stalin killed ten times as many during the same period. And there have been many brutal wars and genocides, both before and since.

If a Nazi died and went to Hell, it was for only one reason (*not* his brutal disregard for other humans, evil as that was): He disregarded the claims of Christ upon His soul, for Jesus Christ alone died to purchase his salvation, and there is salvation in no one else (Acts 4:12).

If a Jew died and went to Hell, it was for only one reason (in spite of his bloodline, his religious heritage, or his religious fastidiousness): He disregarded the claims of Christ upon His soul, for Jesus Christ alone died to purchase his salvation, and there is salvation in no one else.

Is God Unfair?

Is it unfair to save both Nazis and Jews?

If salvation comes as a result of people’s deeds of respect and kindness to others, then if you apply great diligence, you may have something to boast about, something to trade for your salvation. And to save both evil Nazi and kind Jew would be grossly unfair.

But *if* salvation only comes as a result of people’s repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, regardless of the nature or number of their past sins or kindnesses, then none of us have anything to boast about, and absolutely nothing to trade for our salvation. All of us have fallen upon the *sheer mercy* of Almighty God.

Nazi or Jew, savage or sophisticate, atheist or religionist, thief or philanthropist—all have but one hope (the same hope): Jesus Christ, the only Savior of the whole world.

How You Measure

The Bible says that using yourselves (and those like you) as the standard of measuring your personal value is not wise. And it cannot bring us any closer to salvation.

Measure yourself against the person of Jesus, and you will see clearly your need of the Savior. Measure others the same way, and you will see clearly their need for your compassion.

We have been sternly warned by the Lord not to judge others beyond our level of authority. The Father has committed all judgment to the Son, and the Son has *suspended* all judgment for the present time, so that every sinner might have the opportunity to repent and be saved. Every sinner... not every righteous person. Why would God choose sinners over righteous people? Because from where God stands, and how God measures, there is no one righteous, not even one. Paul, the apostle converted from Jewish zealotry, put it this way (Romans 3:9-12):

"I have already made the charge that all people, Jews and Gentiles alike, are controlled by sin. As the Tanakh puts it,

'There is no one righteous, not even one!

No one understands,

no one seeks God,

all have turned away

and at the same time become useless;

there is no one who shows kindness, not a single one!' "

Jesus came to justify the ungodly (*all* of them), by revealing their sin and condemnation, substituting His life for theirs, and graciously forgiving them their offenses against God.

Guilt—Temporal and Eternal

But note this: The mercies of God do not release people from their temporal guilt for their offenses against other people. That's why convicted criminals who are born again may yet be imprisoned or executed. The guilt that is removed by God's grace through their faith in Jesus Christ is their guilt before Almighty God. Their guilt before men is for men to deal with. We are accountable.

You may not like God's way of saving the world, but He is God and you are not. His way is your only hope; there is no other. Trust Him. But also remember, your hope is also another person's hope, even if you don't like what they have done.

This is what made Jesus' preaching so radical! He offered the Kingdom of God and eternal life to ALL people, even those who were despised, marginalized, or demonized, whether by pre-judgment or proper judgment.

To the lost, the least, and the last, He said, *"Come unto Me, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28).

What do you think of that?