

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XVII

January 13, 2008

No.2

An Open Letter To Our Muslim Friends

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Respecting a person is more than an attitude. I respectfully approach you by taking the time to examine your beliefs and reflecting upon them. As a Christian, I notice that not much in your belief system reflects the concept of “salvation”, a central theme of the Bible.

Much about “salvation” in your Holy Book, the Qur’an, is repeating the history of salvation among the Jews(Noah, being saved from the flood, Moses and Israel being saved from Pharaoh, and Lot being saved from the town which practiced abomination.). But as far as your Muslim belief, I believe it is fair to say that your idea of salvation is the escape from the future punishment in hell. A closer look at what your scholars say about the escape from Hell, reveals different concepts.

The Judgment Day Involves Merit and Reckoning. This is a concept where our good (merit) is weighed and hopefully out weighs any bad (reckoning) our record. The belief is that the Lord of strict justice will not overlook “an atom” when reckoning human deeds for reward and

punishment on the Judgment Day.

The Judgment Day is all about the Will of Allah. Some of your scholars do not see the salvation on the Judgment Day as a matter of Law—deeds weighed by some revealed standard. They see it totally up to the will of Allah. He will do what He wants, for He is Allah. His will is supreme and therefore there can be no certainty about the way things will unfold, regardless of the faith and works of the individual. Hopefully God will forgive sins on the Judgment Day, but it will be totally up to Him and his will then, not of any previously revealed promise.

The Judgement Day will see Mohammad Intercede. Did you know there is a popular theory among some of you that on the Judgment Day people will ask about “who will intercede with us before the Lord”? According to some of your scholars, intercession will not come from Adam, Moses Abraham or Jesus(because he is afraid of Allah’s wrath because people have called him Allah’s son). But Mohammad, on the Judgment Day, will be allowed to intercede for his people, and Allah will grant his request.

Salvation is from a Just God, Demanding the Death of Jesus. The Christian’s confidence in his or her salvation is based upon the just character of God and the death of Christ. Because of his “just” character, he can not overlook sin (*Rom. 3:25-26*). A price had to be paid. Jesus paid that price for our forgiveness through his blood shed in his death (*Eph. 1:7, I Pet. 1:18-19*). We do not go to the Judgment Day wondering the basis for our salvation. It will not be whatever God wants it to be on that day, but upon what He and His just character has clearly already revealed—the sacrificial death of Christ.

Jesus is the Only Confident Intercessor. An intercessor stands on equal ground between two parties. Jesus is the only one who could intercede for man because He is God who became also man (*Jn. 1:1, 14, I Tim. 1:5*). His resurrection from the dead allows Him to continue His intercessory work until the end of time (*Heb. 7:25*). We invite you to consider faith in Christ. He and the word He has already spoken will judge us in the last day (*2 Cor. 5:17, Jn. 12:48*). Face the Judgement Day with confidence, not with contradictory doubts!