

Sign Up for Salvation ?

This bible tract you gave me from the *Christian Faith Fellowship*, reproduces the *New International Version* of the **Gospel of John** and then they add an extra doctrine sheet ending with their bottom line: *I do believe ! I have decided to accept God's offer of eternal life through Jesus Christ.*
Name _____ Date _____

So all you have to do is **sign up for salvation**. That's it. That's what the Gospel of John teaches. My relationship with Jesus is 1. I was a sinner. 2. Jesus Saved me. 3. Now I am Saved. Instant Salvation for signing a piece of paper.

So how do they understand John 20.21-22 ? Jesus, just risen from the dead, comes into the room where his apostles are holed up and says: *I have just saved you from your sins ! All you have to do now is sign this piece of paper and date it . . . [checks his watch] It is 10:00 a.m. first Easter Sunday.*

What actually turns up in John 20.21-22 is that Jesus tells them: *As my Father has sent me, even so I send you* Then He **breathes** on them and says: *Receive the Holy Spirit.* So they don't have to sign anything, they are already signed up for a very tough assignment. Jesus has passed on to them his mission to establish the Kingdom of God on earth and made them spiritual clones of himself to enable them to do it. cf. John 14.12 *the works that I do shall he do also.*

You can attend one of these silly churches on Easter Sunday the rest of your life and never hear a sermon based on this primary Easter Sunday verse. Because they have no understanding of the real challenge of living the Christian life as it is set forth in the gospel of John and the other gospels.

When you look at the first **SAVED** verses in the gospel, they describe a challenge which has little in common with the modern sports arena revival doctrine-- Matthew 10.22: *you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.* (cf. 24.13) and 16.24-27: *If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.* A modern **SAVED** Christian might very well ask: *Why do I have to carry a cross ? Didn't Jesus do all that ? Didn't I sign the card: I accept Jesus Christ as My Personal Savior ? That takes care of it, doesn't it ?*

In Luke 10.25 the lawyer asks Jesus *what shall I **DO** to inherit eternal life ?* Jesus says *Love thy neighbor as thyself* and then he tells the story of the Good Samaritan who goes to a lot of trouble and expense to help an injured stranger. Paul says the same: Romans 2.7 **WELL DOING** leads to **ETERNAL LIFE**. 2.6 *Who will render to every man according to his deeds.* In Matthew 25.31-46 Jesus teaches that you will wind up with the goats on Judgment Day if you neglect to Love Your Neighbor by performing the works of mercy. Signing a sheet of paper won't get it.

In John 15.18-20 he warns them that *the world* will hate them and persecute them if they are his true followers. And thousands of them were put to death when they refused to worship Caesar or join the army. Unlike today's *worldly christians* who conform to *the world* and gather around the flag pole to pray. John 6.15 says that Jesus withdrew because the Jewish people were going to make him their king. Why ? In 18.36 He explains to Pilate that: *My kingdom is not of this world. If it were my followers would fight.* In many other places He explains what He means by *The Kingdom of God* and why it is incompatible with restoring the Kingdom of Israel. See: *Turning the Other Cheek* on my www.radicalchristianpress.org. web site for more about it. See also: *The New Covenant versus the Old Covenant, Not Saved by Faith Alone* and *Luther's Distortion of Paul's Teaching*.