



Universalism: Is Everyone Saved? **Luke 13:22-29** by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus' Teaching was understood to be narrow. The question was not: "Will all be saved?"
2. Jesus' mere presence on earth was not enough to save them **Luke 13:26-27**, why should we be any different?
3. Universalism is the prevailing doctrine of the so-called "Christendom" (I call the "denominational world").
4. The doctrine states that no one will be lost eternally, or suffer for his/her sins.
5. **If all are saved, then IT DOESN'T make any difference about: worship, church, baptism, Christian life, cross, Bible, or God!**

DISCUSSION:

I. INCEPTION (Doctrine Starts)

A. Beginnings

1. **Genesis 2:16-17** - law given to man regarding forbidden tree;
2. **Genesis 3:4** - Serpent denies there will be the penalty God stated;
3. **John 8:44** - Jesus termed this a "lie" and the Devil is the father of all lies (**Cf I John 3:8**);
4. Therefore, all today who deny punishment to the disobedient prove to be children of their father, for he lies as the Devil did!!

B. Since then --

1. The doctrine has been taught over the centuries:
 - a. The more prominent Gnostic sects (Basilidians, Carpocratians, and Valentinians - A.D.130);
 - b. Sibylline Oracles (A.D.150), Clemens Alexandrinus (A.D.195); Origen, et.al. which have been echoed for centuries;
 - c. Some Anabaptists (early 16th century), John William Peterson, Everlasting Gospel by George Klien-Nicolai (early 17th century);
 - d. In America: Dr. Charles Chauncy published The Salvation of All Men in 1787;
2. Most denominational people believe it;
3. So, unfortunately, do Christians!

II. Instruction (Scripture Misused)

A. Wrested Scriptures:

1. **Genesis 22:18** —
 - a. assumes it to be unconditional, when condition of Abraham's blessing is stated in the very same verse ("obeyed") **cf Hebrews 11:8,17**
 - b. Who is Abraham's seed today? **Galatians 3:26-29**
2. **Romans 6:23** —
 - a. "free" is not even in this verse and would not be equal to saying "unconditional" anyway **cf Galatians 6:7,8**;
 - b. **Romans 6:22** - "you have your fruit"; **Romans 6:16-18** - "obedience"; **Romans 6:4-6** - united with Christ in baptism to "walk"
3. **I Corinthians 15:22** —
 - a. **v. 23** - if some are Christ's at His Coming, then some are NOT **cf John 5:28,29**;
 - b. IS EVERY HUMAN CHRIST'S? NO. **Galatians 3:27,29**; **2:20**; **5:24**; **Acts 18:8**; **Colossians 2:12**
4. **I Timothy 2:3-4** —
 - a. God Wills Repentance **2 Peter 3:9**; **Acts 17:30** but All Are Not Repentant **Romans 10:16**
 - b. If "all" includes the entire of humanity, then who is the "all" of **Jude 14-15**??

B. Restful Scriptures

1. **Luke 13:23,24** —
 - a. Ignore it? Only word Jesus used for few (**Greek oligos** - "light, slight") **cf Matthew 7:14**
 - b. **Matthew 7:13,14** - contrasts many with few who will be saved ("many" + "few" = "all")
 - c. **Ephesians 3:3** - "briefly"/"few words"; **I Peter 3:20** - "few" = 8
2. **Matthew 26:28** —
 - a. A great number, but not "all"; few saved excluded from many who will be lost
 - b. Though Christ died for all, it applies only to those who use it **Matthew 20:28**; **Hebrews 9:28**
 - c. **Matthew 7:22** - definitely not everyone in human family, for then all would be lost **Matthew 7:23**

III. INFLUENCE (Doctrinal Excuse)

A. Begins

1. "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere — we're all trying to go to the same place!"
 - a. The trouble is, maybe we **all will go** to the same place! **Matthew 7:13,14**
 - b. Denominational TV panel show from Memphis, called "What Is Your Faith"
 - 1) Moderator said of a Jewish rabbi on the program — "We're all under the great Fatherhood of God" and thus brothers;
 - 2) Lutheran pastor on that same show — "I cannot say Hindus will be lost just because they don't use English word for "God" I do. They may believe some things I do about God." [*jtpII*: That may be, but you might be in error, also: **Cf Acts 17:30,31**, and "Baal" in the **Old Testament** (OT)]
2. Any concession of doctrine slides into Universalism:

- a. **Matthew 16:18** — more than one church?
 - b. **Mark 16:16** — no baptism required?
 - c. **Acts 20:7** — no day or elements **I Corinthians 11:23-24** for the Lord's Supper?
 - d. **Ephesians 5:19** — mechanical instruments approved?
 - e. **Ephesians 4:4-6** — are any of these optional?
3. If men will be judged by the teachings of Christ (**Cf John 12:48; 14:25-26**), then we need to conform to the doctrine NOW **Romans 6:16-17; 12:1,2; Acts 2:38; Titus 2:11-12**

B. Continues (among members of the churches of Christ, also)

1. "You preach your doctrine, and I'll preach mine," OR "You preach to your followers and we'll preach to ours." Parallel preaching is not perpendicular **New Testament** (NT) preaching!
2. "Debate doesn't do any good," OR "Debate is Un-Christian". IS IT WRONG TO:
 - a. **Jude 3** — "contend earnestly for the faith"?
 - b. **Philippians 1:17** — "be appointed" for gospel's defense?
 - c. **2 Corinthians 10:3-4** — engage in spiritual warfare?
 - d. **2 Timothy 4:7** — fight a good fight?
 - e. **Ephesians 4:15** — speak the truth in love?
3. Those who will not publicly defend their religious beliefs and practices prove themselves to have no love for the truth of God, be unbelievers, false teachers, blind guides, prostitutes of pure doctrine among virgins of simplicity **2 Corinthians 11:2-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:10**
4. I'm on the Lord's Side — where do you stand? **Exodus 32:26**

C. Concludes

1. That there is no Hell (Materialists, JW's, etc.)
 - a. **Matthew 10:28** — the Lord Said there was
 - b. **Matthew 25:46** — it lasts as long as Heaven
2. Second Coming occurred in A.D.70 when Jerusalem was destroyed
 - a. Max R. King, Warren, Ohio, proponent among us
 - b. Who was caught up in the air? **I Thessalonians 4:16-17**
 - c. Did the earth burn up then? **2 Peter 3:10**
3. There will be no judgment — common today — **2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31-46**

CONCLUSION:

1. Universalism renders Jesus' charge to the disciples meaningless **Mark 16:15,16** and that God Sent Jesus on a useless mission **Luke 19:10**
2. Universalism ignores the "won't" of man, Calvinism ignores the "will" of man **John 5:40; Matthew 23:27; John 7:17**
- 3. IN ANY FORM, THE DOCTRINE IS OF THE DEVIL!**
4. Will you, now, renounce this false doctrine and become a valiant, obedient soldier of the cross of Jesus Christ? Brethren, throw off every vestige of influence of this doctrine of the Devil, that we be not again entangled **Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Peter 2:19-20**
5. Jesus said, "He who is not with Me is against Me" **Matthew 12:30**

— John T. Polk II