

Salvation

Humans have long asked, "What must I do to be saved?" (see TUB 150:5 and my reflections entitled "Cosmic Morality, Divine Righteousness, and Eternal Salvation") Yes, one's salvation is through faith--belief in God's promises and unquestioning loyalty to service in the kingdom of righteousness; but must one fully prove one's wholehearted consecration before the end of the often very confusing mortal life in the flesh?

"Though the cosmic circles of personality growth must eventually be attained, if, through no fault of your own, the accidents of time and the handicaps of material existence prevent your mastering these levels on your native planet, if your intentions and desires are of survival value, there are issued the decrees of probation extension. You will be afforded additional time in which to prove yourself." (TUB 112:5.6)

These "accidents of time" and "handicaps of material existence" are primarily corrected and cured on the first two mansion worlds: "The training of the first two mansion worlds is mostly of a deficiency nature--negative--in that it has to do with supplementing the experience of the life in the flesh." (TUB 47:5.3) Therefore, in general, mortals will prove the truth of their righteousness before the third mansion world; or, their defects of creature character will be shown to be the fruits of wholehearted consecration to the paths of sin and death. With both possibilities--creativity and destructivity--in play, nevertheless:

"If ever there is doubt as to the advisability of advancing a human identity to the mansion worlds, the universe governments invariably rule in the personal interests of that individual; they unhesitatingly advance such a soul to the status of a transitional being, while they continue their observations of the emerging morontia intent and spiritual purpose. Thus divine justice is certain of achievement, and divine mercy is accorded further opportunity for extending its ministry." "The governments of Orvonton and Nebadon do not claim absolute perfection for the detail working of the universal plan of mortal repersonalization, but they do claim to, and actually do, manifest patience, tolerance, understanding, and merciful sympathy. We had rather assume the risk of a system rebellion than to court the hazard of depriving one struggling mortal from any evolutionary world of the eternal joy of pursuing the ascending career." (TUB 112:5.7-8)

Endless mercy, yes, though: "This does not mean that human beings are to enjoy a second opportunity in the face of the rejection of a first, not

at all. But it does signify that all will creatures are to experience one true opportunity to make one undoubted, self-conscious, and final choice. The sovereign Judges of the universes will not deprive any being of personality status who has not finally and fully made the eternal choice; the soul of man must and will be given full and ample opportunity to reveal its true intent and real purpose." (TUB 112:5.9)

No second opportunity--and, if there are no "accidents of time" nor "handicaps of material existence", such as in the probationary nursery, then there is not even a probation extension. "When material life has run its course, if no choice has been made for the ascendant life, or if these children of time definitely decide against the Havona adventure, death automatically terminates their probationary careers. There is no adjudication of such cases; there is no resurrection from such a second death. They simply become as though they had not been." (TUB 47:2.7)

If you merely make "no choice", you do not survive. One must, in truth, absolutely accept the Father's way; "with mortal man, only that mind which freely submits itself to the spirit direction can hope to survive the mortal time-space existence" (TUB 42:12.8 [paragraph, not item]).

Consider the truth of the parable of the Pharisee and the publican, in Jesus' lesson on the "Terms of Salvation": "Devotion, to [many readers of The Urantia Book], [is] a means of inducing self-righteous inactivity and the assurance of false spiritual security; devotion, to [those with God's approval], [is] a means of stirring up [their] soul[s] to the realization of the need for repentance, confession, and the acceptance, by faith, of merciful forgiveness." (TUB 167:5.2, and see 167:5.1)

If, in the context of truth, you have had nearly countless opportunities to choose God, but instead have chosen death; upon which path do you walk? To which you ask: What do you mean, "I have chosen death"? You have chosen the material; you have chosen mankind; you have chosen the temporal; you have ultimately chosen yourself. You are on the path of sin and death--even if you believe it to be the path of light and life.

Said Jesus: "If we had not taught them the truth, they might do many strange things without falling under condemnation, but now, since they have known the light and presumed to reject it, they have no excuse for their attitude. ... the light which would save you if accepted can only condemn you if it is knowingly rejected." (TUB 180:3.2)

(reflections by Chris Halvorson)