

I. DON'T ALL PEOPLE WANT TO BE SAVED?

To begin with, I think we must frankly admit that not everyone wants to be saved. Let's try to break these down into classes.

Some people don't want to be saved because they don't believe in God. Perhaps they view themselves as agnostics or as atheists. Although they do not believe in God, gods, or a god, some of these people nevertheless see themselves as "spiritual" persons, interested in the "spiritual" side of life, instead of merely the physical or earthly side.

Some people don't want to be saved because they have bought into the New Age philosophy, and believe themselves to be gods. They conceive of themselves as growing, developing, in touch with influences and forces outside of and greater than themselves, and achieving their own immortality.

And some people don't want to be saved because they believe that all religions have some good in them and that no one religion has a corner on the truth. They feel that what counts is being sincere in whatever you believe, and that God will simply accept such well-meaning, sincere persons.

These classes have a common denominator:

**THEY DON'T WANT TO BE SAVED BECAUSE THEY DON'T VIEW
THEMSELVES AS SINFUL OR LOST. THEY DON'T FEEL THEY
NEED TO BE SAVED!**

On the other hand a good many people, especially those who have experienced some Christian influences, do want to be saved. These also break down into classes.

Some people who want to be saved believe that they are basically good, decent persons, and on that basis God should let them into His heaven. They've never done anything that they consider to be seriously bad, they've tried to live moral lives, they've tried to be good children, spouses, and parents; and they believe that after all that, God would be less than fair if He didn't accept them on that basis!