

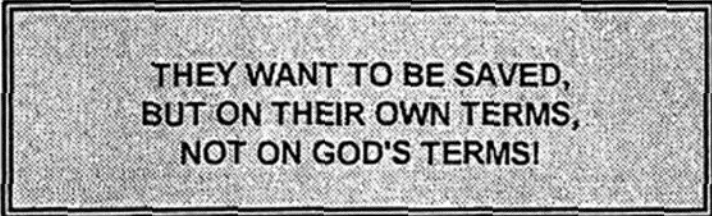
Some people who want to be saved have experienced more than their share of sickness or sorrow or poverty or persecution or abuse or deprivation or loss, and feel that God really owes them a fair shake. They believe they deserve to be saved!

Some people who want to be saved live the major portion of their lives in *horrible black fear of death and what lies beyond*. They cannot accept the idea of an ending to this earthly life, and they see salvation as a gateway to continued existence, perhaps in another life or perhaps in another somewhat similar realm. They are willing to be generally cooperative about whatever God requires for salvation, as long as those requirements are not too stringent.

Still other people who want to be saved are terrified of even the possibility of hell, and wish to escape from it even if they have to give up some things to do so. They are willing to negotiate with God regarding the terms of salvation.

And still other people who want to be saved are intrigued by the biblical representations of heaven, and believe it would be a neat place to live, in spite of some serious drawbacks. They are willing to make some large concessions in order to get in.

These classes also have a common denominator:



THEY WANT TO BE SAVED,
BUT ON THEIR OWN TERMS,
NOT ON GOD'S TERMS!

Here, then, we have two large groups of people. One group includes people who 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. A second group includes people who want to be saved, but on their own terms, not on God's terms.

This brings us to our second question of this study:

II. WHAT ARE GOD'S TERMS OF SALVATION? WHAT YARDSTICK DOES GOD USE TO MEASURE PEOPLE FOR SALVATION?