



Article Title— "Rescue the Perishing!"

Article Category— Pragmatic Evangelism



The title of this article may elicit nostalgia for readers who'll recall the hymn of the same title by Frances J. Crosby (1869). That nostalgia may even push warm crocodile tears down their cheeks. I respond similarly. Doesn't ring a bell for you? Google it. You can find the poignant lyrics and even videos that feature some really gifted singers performing it.

"The perishing" of the First Century included all those who either hadn't heard or hadn't believed the Gospel message. Today, it includes another group that is as large or maybe even larger. They're the good folk who've bought-in to a sugar-coated or otherwise contaminated version of the Gospel message. Judgment Day will be even more traumatic for them—

☛ "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven...And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." —Jesus, at Matthew 7:21-23

Which of those two groups do **you** think is more deserving of our compassionate, intelligent evangelism?



"Sugar-coated?" "Otherwise contaminated?" Yes. Please make a note: The Gospel Message has "evolved." This link will take you to full comprehension of that phenomenon: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_6917ad96a63b4f63b0d08044b3a297bd.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_6917ad96a63b4f63b0d08044b3a297bd.pdf). Paul clearly anticipated it—

☛ "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." —2 Timothy 4:3-5

I know a few marvelous Christian people whose enormous passion for rescuing the perishing is focused on that classic first group...those who don't believe the Gospel message or who've been unwilling or unable to apply it to their personal lives. For each of the perishing they reach in that group, there'll be yet another star added to their respective crowns. I am personally compelled to focus passionately on that second, often overlooked group. Not sure which is the more difficult assignment, but this I know: We each have a different assignment: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_44a8cc5b9f9b4935821779f0806411ac.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_44a8cc5b9f9b4935821779f0806411ac.pdf).

My personal assignment is to rescue a few of the good folk who believe the Gospel message, but have invested almost all of their *Faith Equity*<sup>SM</sup> in religious institutions and people they can see. Many (maybe even most) of them honestly think their believing will be enough to get them a free pass. Jesus' concern for them is documented at Matthew 7:21-23, quoted above.

Why is it so difficult to rescue them? Because what they've come to believe about the Bible and Christianity has been dutifully instilled in them by people they love! How hard is it for them to depart from things people they LOVE have taught them? It's like tearing flesh from one's own arm! I know that pain, too...intimately. So why keep trying? You may recall the rationale:

☛ "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." —Galatians 6:9

—T. C. Newsome

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! [www.Link1.info/contact-us](http://www.Link1.info/contact-us).

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.  
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.  
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.   
"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens

