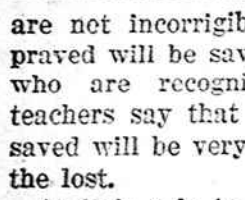


### What Are the Chances of Being Saved?

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TEXT—Are there few that be saved?—Matt. 13:23.

Some would say that the chances of being saved are not to be considered, for all are saved. Such a view is universalistic, out of which there will be a terrible awakening some day. Some say that the vast majority of the human race will be saved. These claim that all infants and all persons not morally responsible will be saved anyway, and that all persons who are not incorrigibly wicked and depraved will be saved also. Even some who are recognized as evangelical teachers say that the number of the saved will be very much greater than the lost.



As it is only in the Scriptures that we have any information about the subject of salvation, it is the part of good judgment and common sense to inquire what the Bible teaches as to the number of the saved.

1. In the first place with some salvation depends in their view upon meeting certain moral obligations. If there is any moral obligation at all, it is enjoined in a book that says there is none that doeth good, no not one. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. All have gone astray and every man has turned to his own way. If a man says he has no sin, he deceives himself and the truth is not in him.

2. The conditions of salvation as outlined in the Scriptures are so difficult of fulfillment that man does not love them. It being accepted that there is none that doeth good, there is none excepted from the conditions laid down in the Word of God, the leaving of all to follow Jesus, the renouncing of the world and the acceptance to meet these conditions, which imply also the recognition of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the only Savior of man. If confessing Christians were polled and each examined as to his personal relationship to Jesus Christ, it would be found that a large number, possibly the majority, could not stand the test.

3. Let us note carefully the statements of Scripture as to the relative number of the saved. In the Old Testament the prophet asks, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good that are accustomed to do evil." Jesus said on one occasion, "Many are called but few chosen." On another occasion he said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." This prompted the question of his disciples, "Who then can be saved?"

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "Straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it." In answer to the question, "Are there few that be saved?" Jesus replied, "Strive to enter in at the straight gate, for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter and shall not be able." There is an echo of this teaching in the words of Peter, "If the righteous scarcely can be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?" This was to say, if it is with the greatest difficulty that the righteous are saved, the chances of the ungodly are very few. We have also the teaching of the Lord as to some who will come before him at the great day of judgment and say, "We have eaten and drunk in thy presence and in thy name done many wonderful works," but he will say, "I never knew you." Taking these conditions together, there is more than an intimation that a man falling short of the conditions should look upon his chances of being saved as comparatively small. If it is true, as Jesus said that he that believeth not on the Son of God shall not see life and that a man must believe on Jesus Christ in order to have everlasting life, it is likely that the vast majority of the people among us are not saved.

Jesus not only taught us that the gate is straight and the way narrow that leadeth to everlasting life, but he also taught that the way leading to death is wide and many as compared to the few on the narrow way are in it. Drift into salvation is impossible. The will of man needs to be exercised in order to escape eternal perdition. To be saved a man must use his will definitely, immediately flee to Jesus Christ and accept him as Saviour.

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Commander Nicholas, stationed at the Rouge Yard, said he knew of no

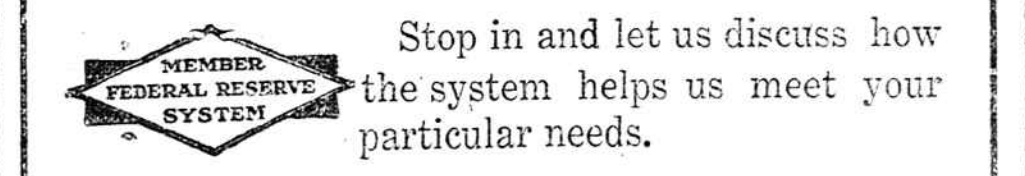
statement or report issued by the Navy Department relative to the merits of the "Eagles," but that they have performed remarkably well on their trial trips and all tests given them just before leaving the Ford Yard. And that had they been called into actual service, they would have proven a very formidable enemy to the submarines.

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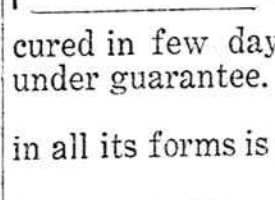


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