

Cultural challenge #1



**The apparent injustice of God in the Gospel's conditions for salvation.**

**Christian universalism.**

**Isaiah 45:23** "I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me **every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.**"

**John 12:32** "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw **all men** to Myself."

**Phil.2:10-11** "**every** knee should bow, and . . . **every** tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord"

**Rom.11:32** "God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them **all**"

**Acts 10:34-35**

"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but **accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.**"

**2 Corinthians 5**

"18 Now all these things are from God, who **reconciled us** to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ **reconciling the world** to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

**Who is Paul talking about?**

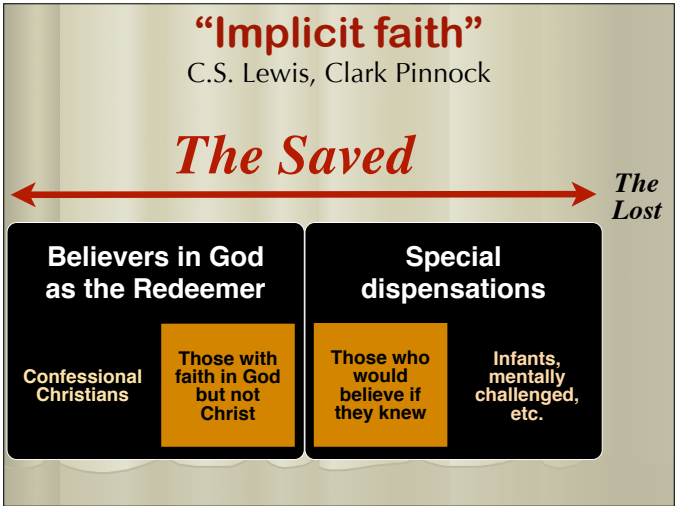
1. **all people,** (Origen, Barth)
2. **all who fear God,** (John Wesley, C.S. Lewis)
3. **all who confess faith in Christ,** (Luther)
4. **only the elect?** (Puritans)

"and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of **the whole world.**" 1 John 2:2

"God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation **who fear him and do what is right.**" Acts 10:34-35

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

"no one can come to Me, **unless it has been granted him from the Father.**" John 6:65

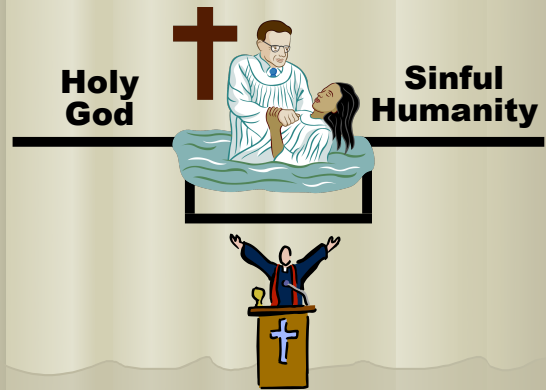


## “anonymous Christianity”

Karl Barth, Lesslie Newbigin

- “Father **forgive them for they know not what they do**” (those who have not heard).
- The issue is “**what best glorifies God** who seeks to reconcile all.”

The **conditional** gospel message is that all who have faith in Christ are reconciled (saved).



**Universalism's** gospel message is that all people have been reconciled (saved) even if they are not professing faith in Christ.



1. **Universal provision and application** – Christ saved every one, we just need to tell them.
2. **Limited provision and application** – Christ died only for the elect who are all saved and identified by faith.
3. **Universal provision with conditional application** – Christ provided reconciliation for the world but only those who believe receive.

### 2 Corinthians 5

“<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg {you} on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled** to God.”

**Reconciliation is offered but must be accepted by faith.**

## Three related words in the “Vocabulary of Salvation.”

### Romans 3

“<sup>24</sup> being **justified** (*declared righteous*) as a gift by His grace through the **redemption** (*purchased with a price*) which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** (*satisfying the holy wrath of God*) in His blood through faith.”

**John 12:32** “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw **all men** to Myself.”

**Phil.2:10-11** “**every** knee should bow, and . . . **every** tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”

**Rom.11:32** “God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them **all**”

“**all**” and “**every**”  
may refer to “**all kinds (nations, races)**”  
rather than “**every single person.**”

**1 Tim.4:10** “is the Savior of **all men**, especially of those who believe”

“**Especially**” may have the sense of  
“**specifically**”

**2 Tim.4:13** “When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, **especially** the parchments.”

**Acts 20:38** Jesus “grieving **especially** over the word which he had spoken,”

**1 Corinthians 15:22**

“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.”

**In Adam**

**all died**

“all” = all people in Adam

**1 Corinthians 15:22**

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**In Adam**

**all died**  
**In Christ**

**all made alive**  
“all” = all in Christ

**Romans 10**

“<sup>1</sup> Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is **for their salvation**. <sup>2</sup> For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God**, but not in accordance with knowledge. <sup>3</sup> For not knowing about God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.”

“<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart man **believes**, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Whoever **believes** in Him will not be disappointed.””

*The Gospel*

- is not universal salvation.  
- is not limited provision.

*- is universal provision  
with  
application by faith.*