



## Still Drawing Pictures by Rocky Hails

A couple weeks after Christmas, my dear little mom decided that as a 92 year old widow it was time to change from living by herself to not living alone. It was great to have one last Christmas in the house on Prairie Lane humming with family, food and fun; but in the quiet of the days following, she made the call. We had talked these last few years that when the house brought more concern than peace, she should look at what's next. Decision was made, and she would be living with my sister.

The decision was made, but with it came other decisions. This place of so many wonderful memories couldn't sit empty. The life that spilled out of the kitchen and dining room would end up in the den with the rustic cedar and stone fireplace that had warmed so many gatherings. Some family, even if it wasn't ours, should know the joy we've known.

We ought to begin getting the house ready to sell. Absolutely. So how do you box up the 65 years of life and stuff and life and stuff and ....? We came up with a plan.

We called for a "Family Boxing Day" and started emptying cabinets and drawers into banker boxes. It could seem overwhelming, but rather than pepper her with a hundred questions and decisions as to what to keep or throw, we would box the non-essentials and store them. She could take from now till the cows came home to go through them one at a time, no pressure. All the furniture and collectibles that she wasn't taking, she wanted the family to have. So we had the "kids" go through and tag items, then the "grandkids" go through and tag items, then she identified what would go to others, and the rest that she wasn't sure about, would be joining the boxes waiting on the cows.

You see, efficiency isn't the real goal. The real goal is blessing her with the respect and gentleness that she has showered on her clan and so many others all their lives. It is seeking to live out the fruit of the Spirit that she constantly displayed, that of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." It is honoring my dad also, by honoring her.

Rather than looking at what we were losing as a family, we began anticipating the peacefulness and care that all this would bring Mom, Grandma, GiGi, truly one of the Lord's most precious, selfless, and loving daughters that this world has seen.

It seems that if we will look for those around us for those who need to see the fruit of His Spirit, He will show us. He will be exalted and enjoyed by it. Of course, we may have to lay down a bit of efficiency to gain gentleness, but don't you think that might be a good trade?

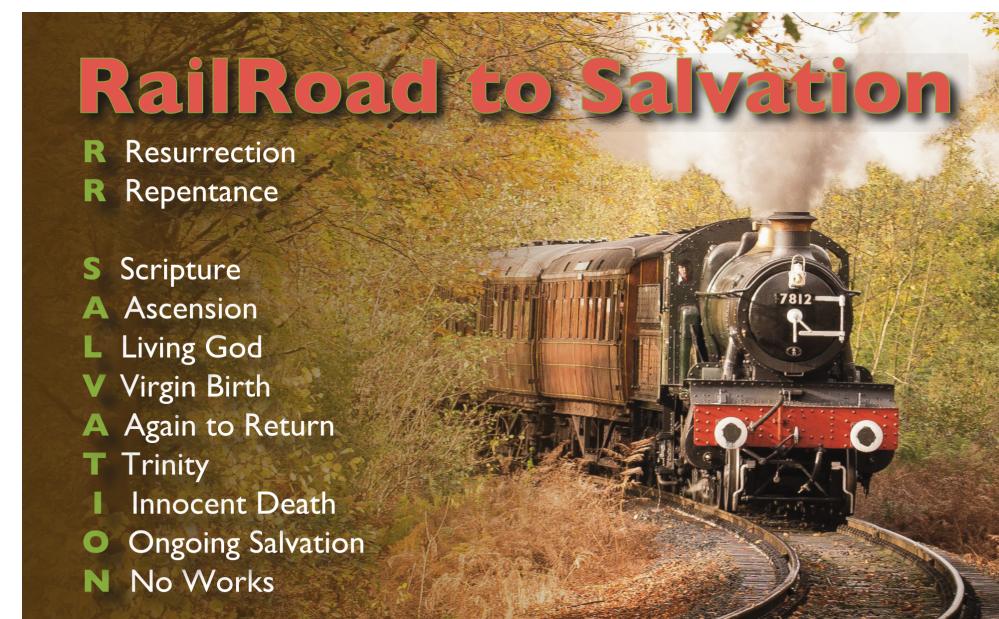


**A Path for the Next Generation**

## Absolutes of Christianity Part 3

by Jon Peterson

Last fall, I agreed to cover Christian Absolutes using the mnemonic "Rail Road to Salvation" in three installments. I got too wordy in the first two installments, so I must now squeeze 7 of the 11 essentials into a single message. The fifth absolute is the letter "L" for a "Living God." I am going to combine the "L" with the "I" (Innocent Death) as well as the "T" ("Trinity").



### RailRoad to Salvation

- R** Resurrection
- R** Repentance
- S** Scripture
- A** Ascension
- L** Living God
- V** Virgin Birth
- A** Again to Return
- T** Trinity
- I** Innocent Death
- O** Ongoing Salvation
- N** No Works

### LIVING GOD, INNOCENT DEATH, & TRINITY

Clearly, we do not worship three Gods. We worship one God who is infinite and able to function as three "persons." Indeed, the word "Trinity" is not found in Scripture, but the Scriptures do define God as TRIUNE. It takes faith to acknowledge this reality. Consider the fourth word in Genesis 1: 4. The word used here for God is Elohim. In the Hebrew language, Elohim is a plural noun form. Then in Gen. 1: 26, God says to Himself, "Let US make man in OUR image." Note also in verse 2 God reveals the "Spirit hovering over the face of the waters." Paul tells believers in Thessalonica that God made man in triune fashion, bearing a body, a soul, and a spirit. Our "body" can be thought of as our *world* consciousness; "soul" is our *self* consciousness; and "spirit" is our *God* consciousness.

The Life Adult Ministry at Heritage is dedicated to being a path for the next generation to follow in delighting in God and declaring His glory! Our aim is to 1) continue to invest our lives in deepening our intimacy with Christ Jesus, our Savior and 2) enhance our ability to minister to others through Gospel-centered lives that embrace God's Word. We pray our lifetime of experiences and gifting blesses our families, our church and the world around us.

### Upcoming Events

**The Lord's Supper, March 27**

**OK Aquarium Trip, April 9**

**Good Friday Service, April 15**

**Easter Brunch & Service, April 17**

**Widow & Widower Luncheon April 24**

**Women's Coffee, April 30**

**Mother's Day, May 8**

**Life Adult Luncheon, May 15**

**Church-Wide Picnic, May 29**



**HERITAGE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Father God has never died and never will, but His Son Jesus came to earth from Heaven to be “the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the World.” Jesus is our perfect sacrifice, and His blood was shed for you and for me for the forgiveness of our sins.

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, then they tried to cover their rebellious decision by sewing fig leaves together to make tunics (Gen. 3: 7). God sought them out, then told them the fig aprons would never do. Then He fashioned tunics of skin with which to cover them. The Bible is silent as to what type of animal skin God used, but clearly some form of blood sacrifice was needed (Gen. 3: 21). Further investigation tells the reader that there must be blood-letting to forgive sins (“at-one-ment,” a word initially coined by William Tyndale when he translated the Bible into English). Scripture says, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement for your soul” (Lev. 17: 11; Heb. 9: 22).

The First Person of the Trinity is God the Father; the second is God the Son; and the third is God the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit is NOT an “it.” The Holy Spirit is the third person of the God-Head. He is *Ruach* in Hebrew; *Pneuma* in Greek; and *Spiro* in Latin. Holy Spirit is found 88 times in the Old Testament; 56 times in the Gospels; 57 times in the Book of Acts; 113 times in Paul’s letters and 36 times in the other epistles, all N.T. Books except Philemon, 2nd John, and 3rd John. For an Old Testament perspective, read Jeremiah 31:31-34, where Spirit is said to be “in their minds.” Then read Joel 2: 28-32 where we are told by God, “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.” Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and to the Son—not merely a puff of smoke, nor just a power, nor only a force.

**ALERT:** The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament gathers near to certain people for certain purposes (e.g. Bezalel crafted the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus 37). In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit indwells believers—He doesn’t come and go, nor does he force anyone to believe in Him. Our bodies are His temple. At Pentecost, He descended to those in the upper room. He did NOT, however, bring forth any new revelation. He is Witness to the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Read John 14:26 and 16:13. He thinks (Acts 15: 28); He speaks; (Acts 1: 16); He leads (Rom 8: 14); He grieves (Eph. 4: 30), and He dwells within believers (1 Cor. 3: 16, 17).

### VIRGIN BIRTH

Next on the Salvation Train is the letter “V” for the “**Virgin Birth**” (Isaiah 7:14). The Hebrew word for virgin is “Almah.” The English translation in this particular version of Scripture is “maiden,” one that is betrothed to be married, but NOT “virgin.” Thus, the 21st century Jews to this day refuse to acknowledge that Jesus is of a miracle birth, because they are wrongly taught that Jesus is NOT the Anointed One, the Messiah. Even though there are greater than 300 messianic prophesies fulfilled by Jesus in the Old Testament, our Jewish friends just don’t get it! If a Jew had a daughter in Old Testament times, especially one betrothed, you can bank on it—that “maiden” was a virgin! I must add to this the fact that there are now thousands of “Messianic Jews” who know the Lord as Savior, and many of these Jews are themselves rabbis/teachers.

### ONGOING SALVATION

Next let’s consider the letter “O” for “**Ongoing Salvation**.” God’s work is infinite and eternal. He makes no mistakes AND “The Lord is the One who goes before you; He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you” (Dt 31: 6).

There are THREE TENSES to our Salvation (there’s that number three again). Past tense; present tense; and future tense. In many churches, the order of worship states: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. In the past, we have already been saved from the penalty of sin by Jesus having taken the nails on our behalf. In the present (meaning right now, on Earth) we are being saved from the power of sin. We still sin, BUT we are getting more and more like Jesus even though we are not capable of being completely like Him right now. Every time an artist cuts away the clay from a figure that doesn’t look like Jesus, the figure starts looking more and more like Jesus. So, we HAVE BEEN SAVED from the penalty of sin (justification); WE ARE BEING SAVED from the power of sin (sanctification). And last, but not least, we WILL BE Saved from the very presence of sin in our new glorified bodies (glorification).

### AGAIN TO RETURN

In our last issue, I touched upon Christ’s returning to Earth. I encourage you to read and to re-read John 14:1-3. What a hope. The Lord will come twice—once to rapture the saints and again to defeat Satan once and for all, sending Satan and his followers to the second death.

The song “Blessed Assurance” really strikes home at this short passage. Read Acts 1:9 to get the

enhanced view of the day discussed in Acts 1. “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.” In the book of Revelation, each of the seven letters for the churches tells us that those who “overcome” are given divine promises. First John 5:5 states that he who overcomes the world is only those who truly know that Jesus is the Son of God and thus is Lord, Savior and King. In other words, we are here for the long haul—from eternity past to eternity future.

### NO WORKS

Now to the the “N” for “**No Works**.” In a prior lesson, I discussed How Martin Luther phrased the Path to Salvation. In a nutshell, Luther wrote “Grace Alone, Through Faith Alone, In Christ Alone, through Scripture alone.” We are NOT saved by works we do. We can cook and iron for an elderly friend and read our Bible daily, but what we do is not going to usher us into Heaven. Read Ephesians 2:8, 9; then, if you have not already memorized it, do so now! Consider this: Grace is God’s acceptance of me; Faith is my acceptance of God’s acceptance of me. Dr. Adrian Rogers taught that “GRACE IS God’s Righteousness at Christ’s Expense” and then he said; “FAITH is Forsaking All Others, I Trust Him.” Grace, you see, is God’s ability while Faith is Man’s Responsibility. Put

another way, Grace is God’s ability and Faith is man’s response to God’s ability.

Let me take another step by saying that salvation is not BY our works but rather our salvation works are FOR the Lord. Ephesians 2:10, “For we are His workmanship FOR good works; and good works in the name of Jesus should never be shunned or criticized, so long as we are not trying to do something to put a star in our own crown. Salvation is not a goal to be achieved by the righteous, but a gift to be received by the unrighteous. Paul told Titus, “God who did purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14). As for faith—nothing more required; nothing less will do. In John 6:29 Jesus Himself says, “This is the Work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” (Nothing more is required; Nothing less will do.)

One Last short READ—Romans 11:5, 6.

*Jon retired from medical practice in January 2020. For 23 years he had a Family Medicine practice in Houston, then in Colorado for another 13 years.*



## Marvin’s Lesson

*Marvin shared a story that has a lesson for all of us. Take a look and then pencil in your application at the bottom of this box.*

My friend, Marilyn, was home one Saturday, and needed to reach something up high in a cabinet. She grabbed a step stool, and proceeded to reach up high to grab what she needed. She lost her balance and fell, and later would find out she broke her hip in the fall. She was in a lot of pain and badly injured, and was unable to reach her cell phone, or even move. She lay on her kitchen floor all night, and into the next morning, which was Sunday. She was a faithful member of her Sunday School Class, so when she didn’t show up at church that morning, her teacher became concerned. This teacher went by Marilyn’s home after church, and when no one came to the door, she looked in the window, and saw Marilyn lying on the floor. She called 911, and thankfully they got there in time to get her to the hospital.