



## Lessons from a Gallon of Milk

A little story may help resolve a debate that has raged within the Christian Church for many years:

A boy's mother gave him a \$10 bill to go to the store and buy a gallon of milk. On the way he stopped at the arcade to play video games, spending several dollars. When he arrived at the store he purchased the milk, while also buying some snacks. And then he stopped off at the arcade on his walk back home and, except for 42¢ (since the games cost 50¢ each), he spent the rest of the money and proudly returned to his mother with the milk and change. Since he purchased the milk, as requested, it never dawned on him that this was awful expensive milk!

He also did not think about the food, clothes, shelter and other things his mother bought for him every day – he was just proud he had done his duty. Understandable for a child, but. . . in

the debate of how much of the “responsibility” for a person's salvation is God's and how much is the individual's? Some say:

- ✿ God does 100%.
- ✿ While others say God does most, but we must exercise our faith to accept his salvation – he won't force it on a person.

Both are wrong!

Like the mother having to pay 300% of what the gallon of milk cost, God has to “do” 1,000% of our salvation. The “point” of salvation is less being saved than Jesus Christ “becoming our salvation.” Many people claim to be saved while living like (and for) the devil. The evidence of salvation is that Jesus Christ has BECOME our salvation, nothing less!

God doesn't do 99% or even 100% of our salvation ONE TIME and then leave us to make it to the finish line (death – eternity) ourselves. By becoming our salvation, He saves us **time after time after time**. We may truthfully say: “I do believe . . .” but even so we will find ourselves, at later times, crying “. . . help me overcome my unbelief!” Mk 9:24

Paul had to get on the Galatians because they got uppity, thinking they were OK because they had been saved:

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ . . . You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?” Gal 1:6 – 3:3

Learn at least as much as a gallon of milk can teach you – make sure Jesus Christ has become and remains your salvation!