

DOCTRINAL SALVATION, REALLY?

Many years before the Spanish conquistadors invaded South America, the people of Machu Picchu¹ worshiped the sun god. False deity? Of course, that's all they knew. But on one bright day, the Inca King's devotions were interrupted by a little cloud that began to cover the sun.

The King thought to himself, "Sun, you can't really be God if a little cloud can cover you, and besides, you aren't even here at night."

Like a bolt out of the blue, the King suddenly realized he had been worshiping a false deity, so the King made a royal decree: He was not going to worship the sun anymore, instead, he was going to worship the God who made the sun.

That led to a great revival among the nobles of Machu Picchu, many of whom abandoned their sun worship and began to worship the God who made the sun. Perfect New Testament doctrine? Of course not, "but where there is no law, there is no transgression," *Romans 4:15*.

The almost impenetrable jungles of southern Venezuela belonged to a truly dangerous tribe of Indians known as the Motalones. Their forests had natural resources that could be developed, but the explorers who ventured in to find them discovered their's to be a one-way trip. Oh, they got into Motalone country all right, but they never got out alive.

However, the Motalone Indians did allow one 18 year old American boy they called, Bruchko to live with them. One day Bruchko heard some Indians out in the forest shouting. One was up a giant tree calling out over the forest and another was shouting down into a hole he had just dug.²

When Bruchko asked what that was all about, an Indian said, "We are looking for God. We used to know about Him, but we lost Him many generations ago."

¹ The hidden Inca city located high in the Andes Mountains of Peru.

² The exciting account of Bruce Owen's missionary efforts among the Motalone Indians of southern Venezuela is recorded in his autobiography, *Bruchko*, available from Amazon.com.

Bruchko pointed to an anthill and asked, "If God wanted to talk to those ants, what would He have to do?"

Indian: "He would have to become an ant."

Bruchko: "God wanted to talk to us, so many generations ago, He asked His Son to become a man. Then He sent His Son to us to tell us about Himself and to save us."

Indian: "Why can't we find Him? What happened to Him?"

Bruchko: "We killed Him."

And those Motalone Indians who never cry, started to weep. They were looking for the God they had lost, even shouting down holes to find Him and, "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved," *Acts 2:21*.

As I read e-mails or visit various forums, what I see are debates about doctrine, as if correct doctrine is what saves us. Well guess what? God doesn't care about yours or mine or anyone else's doctrine, God cares about a person's heart condition. God is looking for humble and contrite hearts, regardless of the Messianic, Greek Orthodox, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Pentecostal or Roman Catholic doctrinal "I" you may not have dotted, or doctrinal "T" you might not have crossed, *Isaiah 57:15*.

Most churches today teach a false gospel, a **doctrinal salvation**, that if you have the right belief structure you are going to heaven. It's a lie of the devil. Jesus didn't say, "Come unto my doctrine all ye who are weak and heavy laden and my doctrine will give you rest." He said, "Come unto me," because salvation is in the person of Jesus Christ, not in the doctrines about Him, *Matthew 11:28*.

Doesn't the church teach truth anymore? There's no place for doctrinal arrogance in a true Christian's walk, because that is a walk of continual repentance. True for me and true for every Christian who ever lived. Some teach that coming to the Cross and confessing one's sins is a one-time event, after which we grow on to maturity. Not so. We will always need to be under the Cross because the Holy Spirit makes us continually aware of how far our sinful flesh has fallen short of the holiness of God.