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In Trust With The Gospel

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Don't Forget

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 1 Cor 15:1-2

Does anyone besides me see all the conditions in this text which would force us to consider that this is not speaking of eternal salvation? If all these ingredients are necessary to get to heaven, then what about the finished work of Christ and His free grace?

In this recipe first , THE gospel, not another gospel is a necessary ingredient. With the hundreds of different versions being propagated, how is someone to know, which one is THE gospel?

Secondly, there must be a preacher involved. So, if eternal life only comes about with a preacher having THE gospel, and I am lost otherwise, then in reality that preacher becomes my savior, not Jesus.

Thirdly I must receive the preaching of THE gospel. If I am a natural man there is absolutely no chance of this happening, at least according to 1 Cor 2:14. If I am able to receive it, I must be something other than a natural man alone.

Fourthly, I have to stand or remain faithful if I want to experience this salvation. If eternal salvation is under consideration here, the burden has just gotten much heavier. The apostles could not even watch and stay awake for an hour after being warned 3 times, and I am expected to keep watch for my soul with all eternity being the consequence?

Fifth. There is a big IF in the text. If I keep in memory everything that has ever preached to me. Wow. I can't remember what I had for supper 3 nights ago and

now my eternal salvation depends on me remembering? And what about our dear loved ones who have contracted Alzheimer's? Do they go to hell now?

No friends, I rather think this text has implications in our gospel walk here in time and that the salvation or deliverance which is so heavily conditioned is not eternal salvation by grace which is wrought through the finished work of Jesus Christ. This is gospel or time salvation.