

ERROR OF SANTA-CLAUS THEOLOGY

Unfortunately many people have ideas that do not conform to Scripture. Even more disturbing, those ideas are about one's eternal destiny — *how* a person is saved. Our cultural conditioning is that we must earn the things we receive. Yet God tells us that salvation is a free gift that cannot be earned by anything we do to gain or retain it (Eph 2:8-10). Even though God did everything for us regarding salvation, a *Pew Forum* survey tells us that 81 percent of Protestants believe that salvation is not through faith alone.

Our conditioning is impacted even when we were young by our view of Santa Claus. You remember the chorus of *Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town*:

You better watch out, you better not cry
Better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is comin' to town
He's making a list and checking it twice
Gonna find out who's naughty and nice
Santa Claus is comin' to town

**Santa-Claus
Theology**

**NO
SANTA-CLAUS
THEOLOGY**



He sees you when you're sleepin'
He knows when you're a wake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake
Oh! You better watch out, you better not cry
Better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is comin' to town

Like Santa, God not only knows when you are awake, He certainly also knows if you have been naughty or nice. If very naughty, well, you will get what you deserve. "So be good for goodness' sake!" Doesn't this teach that gifts are withheld from those who are *naughty*? The church has adopted this idea and needs to correct its thinking or the gift and freeness of salvation is lost—at least on 81 percent of Protestants.

As a result of our cultural conditioning, most people believe that God grades on the curve, weighing the good against the bad. So if you are good enough or if you have not done "too many" bad things, He will let you into heaven when you die. That is only fair! Yet fairness has nothing to do with God's free gift.

In fact, unfairness takes us back to God's love that was demonstrated in sending Jesus to die for us (John 3:16). It was unfair for Christ, who lived a perfect life, to die in our place so that we could have eternal life through faith alone. If we actually got what we deserve, none of us would ever receive eternal life. That's the point. Christ did it all to provide the only way to ever receive eternal life. We are all spiritually dead from birth and desperately need new life, spiritual life, which only He provides as a gift if we believe in His Son—eternal life is through faith alone, really alone.

**Scales-of-Justice
Theology**

**NO
SCALES-OF-
JUSTICE
THEOLOGY**

