



# ZWTF

Zapping You Whenever Thoughts Flow

Volume 8, Issue 27

## Dear Lots O' Questions.

A listener to a 2003 “ZenderTalk” show asks several questions relating to the absolute versus the relative perspective—and lots of other stuff.



**D**ear Martin, I enjoyed ZenderTalk this morning; that was my husband's letter you were answering. My dad started telling us about you over the past year. It is so hard as a “born again” person to let go of that hell fire! The big revelation came to me about a month ago when my dad gave me the Concordant translation and your book, *Martin Zender Goes to Hell*, for my birthday. I hit myself on the forehead after reading the book and said “Duh!” When I realized Jesus was talking to the Jews, everything started making sense.

I've only really been studying this hard now for about a month, so you may have already addressed this in some of your tapes, but from what I am understanding, you and I and other believers will be raptured out of here before the

tribulation and the millennium and will go directly into the celestials. Does that mean we will stay in the heavens with God until the consummation?

I've talked to a few people about this and the first reaction seems to be, “well, if nobody goes to hell, then we might as well go out and do what we feel like doing. Why shouldn't we just get the party started?”

So now that we know the truth, what is our purpose here on earth? Do you believe missionaries are wasting their time?

Also, I agree with us not having free will, but do we actually make any choices? Am I fat because God wants me to be or did I choose to eat too much ice cream? Is it my choice to stay faithful to my husband or if I have an affair, did God cause me to do that? We protect our children when they are young, but as they get older we let them start making their own choices. Do I choose to read the Bible and seek out the truth, or is God causing me to do this?

Another guy that I talked to said he believes a lot of what you say, but he's not going to change how he approaches people because if he is wrong that's okay because we'll all end up in heaven anyway.

One of the comments I made to my dad a few months ago was that my husband and I are in sales and sometimes you have to use scare tactics to get people to buy, so maybe pastors have to use scare tactics to get people into church. I would venture to say that a very large majority of people that go to church never even pick up their Bibles to study and just believe what their pastor is telling them. Do you believe that the “born again” Christian will not be raptured even though they love Christ and believe He is their Savior? Is there a price to be paid if people hang onto that eternal torment idea?

God bless, and I know I asked a lot of questions here.

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Dear Lots O' Questions,

**Y**es, you asked lots o' questions, but fortunately I have lots o' answers. I hope you will forgive me if I seemed a little hard on your husband

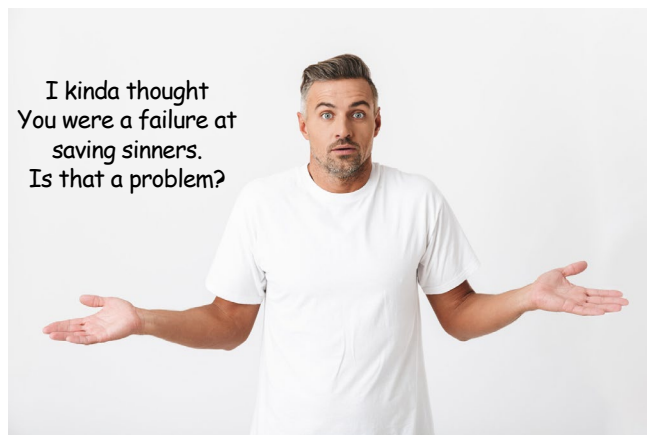
on the show. Perhaps he is playing devil's advocate, but I treat his concerns and questions as if they are his own.

It may be tough for you to hear Friday's show, because I answer the famous objection (I've heard it many times before): "If I'm right but you're wrong..." Your husband says, "My traditional way of thinking covers me," which is a terrible mistake. This touches on your last question: "Is there a price to be paid for hanging onto the eternal torment idea?" Yes. But Free Will is the killer false teaching.

### "SAFE" DOCTRINE?

While I don't go ballistic over this point on Friday, I do address it strongly. Again, I ask your forgiveness if I seem heavy-handed. It's just that I'm a black and white type of teacher. The eternal torment and free will doctrines are so sinister that I make a strong stand. The idea that believing these satanic doctrines could possibly "cover" a person, gets me riled up. To think that denying the success of Christ's work is a "safe belief" is like...well...I don't know what it's like because I have never heard anything so absurd. Not a single analogy is coming to me, and I'm usually pretty good at analogies.

I would much rather stand before Christ and say, "Wow. Hey. I'm sorry I overestimated the cross. I really thought it was going to be better than it turned out to



be. When You said that You came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), I actually believed that You meant it. My bad. And I also thought that the will of God was stronger than the will of man, and that the love of Your Father was actually *superior* to sin and death. I promise not to make these mistakes again."

I would rather have to say *that* than what your husband will have to say, which is—

"Hi, Jesus. I kinda thought that You were a failure at saving sinners. That's not *too* bad of a thing, is it? I mean, how was I to know that Your six hours of torture on the cross would be more powerful than the first man eating a piece of fruit? Yikes! My bad. But I'm sure You understand. *Right?* I mean, I just thought that You and Your Father were basically *losers* and that Satan had pretty much outsmarted the both of You. This isn't *that* bad of a belief, is it? To imagine that you couldn't quite undo the works of the devil? Gee, Jesus. Why are You looking at me like that? These are safe doctrines—*aren't they?*"

### FREE WILL

The free will doctrine, I believe, actually keeps people from being true believers. Why? Because this doctrine makes belief in Jesus the thing that saves, rather than the sacrifice of Jesus alone. Free will assumes that a person's sin still remains on him or her. Isn't that the way the orthodox preachers begin their "message of salvation"? They say, "You are a sinner, dangling over the fires of hell!" (Gee. What happened to Jesus Christ dying 2,000 years ago for the sake of sin?) Then they tell a person that he or she has to somehow work up the faith to believe. Unless that faith can be manufactured, the cross of Christ will not help. Is this faith in Jesus? Not at all. It is faith in one's faith in Jesus. The difference between these two things is the difference between eonian life and eonian death.

Free Will is rank humanism dressed in religious garb.

The guy you talked to who is not going to change his approach is making a serious mistake, and his conception of Calvary is flawed, probably fatally so. Try to give him the truth one more time. If he refuses, do what I do and say, "See you at the Great White Throne." This will either inspire a further question or get you a black eye.

### OMISSION-ARIES (they leave out the gospel)

Yes, I do believe missionaries are wasting their time. Worse, they are teaching people about the God of conditional love, Who is poised to torment people for eternity. The heathen are much better off without Christians teaching them that they better obey this fictitious God or He will send them to hell for eternity, where it is hot and very humid. The heathen are much better off living their lives of peace in their little huts than being told that they have to 1) say the sinner's prayer, 2) obey the Ten Commandments, 3) get baptized, 4) go to church at least once a week, and 5) stop looking at the naked breasts of the

native jungle women. If there were suddenly a missionary strike, the planet would be a happier place. Missionaries invented a particular sexual position, but this is about the extent of their usefulness.

I wish that someone would remove the spark plugs from all missionary airplanes. You know? Like the nuns did to the Nazis in *The Sound of Music*. The world would be a better place.

Scare tactics are scary. Nobody “converted” by a scare tactic stays converted—thank God. Because who wants to be converted to a lie? This is conversion based on fear, not Christ. It is founded on nothing and yields nothing.

#### CHRIST ON THE CROSS VS. NOT HAVING A PARTY

I deal with the “let’s get the party started” mentality in either tomorrow or the next day’s show. I would want to ask your friends: what does “going to hell” or not going to hell have to do with people whose sole desire in life is apparently to “get the party started”? The only reason that these people are not starting the party is that they think they will go to hell if they do. I would have to ask these people: “Do you want to have a party or don’t you? If you do, then have a party. What does your idea of hell have to do with it?” But of course I know the answer.

People who make this kind of statement give themselves away. They are those who imagine that they are keeping their salvation alive by behaving themselves. The terrible irony of this is that imagining that one’s human flesh can

initiate and then maintain one’s salvation (no need for grace, thank you very much—or Christ for that matter) is a worse sin than anything these people could possibly do at a party. The best thing that could happen to these grace-deniers is to give them the book that impressed you so much, *Martin Zender Goes to Hell* (see link below). There, they will discover that salvation is of Christ and *not* of refusing to have parties. I know it’s a tough call: 1) Christ, 2) refusing to have a party. *Which one saves?* As things stand, these misguided friends of yours actually believe that not having a party saves them. So my advice is: give them my book, and then invite me to the party when the truth finally dawns on them.

#### FREE WILL

The damning word in the phrase “free will” is not the word “will” but the word “free.” We do have wills and we do make hundreds of decisions every day, but none of these decisions are made without outside influence. What is God except the biggest outside influence imaginable? I mean, through Him and His Christ all things cohere (Colossians 1:17). How’s *that* for an outside influence? In other words, not one single human decision is free. Since people don’t feel this divine coercion, however, they assume it’s not there. This is commonly referred to as “stupidity” (See Romans 1:22).

#### ABSOLUTE VS. RELATIVE

A person does get fat when he or she eats ice cream. This would happen to you as well. But yes, it is ultimately God Who is responsible for it. When I turn on a fan that blows out a candle, who or what blew out the candle? It all depends on whether you want to take a relative or absolute viewpoint. Relatively, the fan blew out the candle; relatively again, I did it. But absolutely, God did it because I can do nothing outside of God (“In Him we live, and move, and are”—Acts 17:28). All bucks stop at God’s desk.

Who crucified Christ? Was it the Jews? The Romans? Satan? God? Every answer is correct, but only one answer is *absolutely* correct: God. All these others are intermediaries God used to effect His will. Scripture clearly states: “All is of God” (2 Corinthians 5:18).

#### THE SNATCHING AWAY

The body of Christ is snatched away either before or during the coming tribulation. (I am leaning toward





“before.”) Kingdom saints remain on earth, for this is their realm of ministry. I don’t think the body of Christ needs to stay in heaven; the whole universe is their playground. I believe the body of Christ does return to earth with Christ when He sets His feet upon the Mount of Olives to set up His kingdom.

Thank you for what you said in your first paragraph about my book, *Martin Zender Goes to Hell*. I’m happy that God used me to bring home this important topic for you. Here, by the way, is another example of relative vs. absolute truth: Did I acquaint you with these facts about hell? Yes, I did. But God did it absolutely, using me as a herald. You are more than welcome to thank me for writing the book; I accept all the thanks that people wish to give. After all, it is my name on the cover as the author. But I also recognize that ultimate thanks goes to God, for He is the One animating me, causing me to will and work for the sake of His delight (Philippians 2:13).

Read Philippians 2:12-13 for a beautiful view of the relative and the absolute working together in one verse. The relative is true, but the absolute is truer. The mistake is to look at the relative and call it absolute, as with the free willers. That’s the mistake most Christians make. People on *our* side tend to make the opposite mistake. They camp in the absolute viewpoint and criticize people who participate “too much” in life. Over-focusing on the absolute viewpoint at the expense of the relative makes a person pretty much useless for any sort of evangelism—or anything else. “Hey, Bill, should I rob a bank?” “It don’t matter, Henry. All is of God.” In the realm of evangelism, such people tend to say, “Well, if God wants to give someone faith, then He’ll give them faith. If they’re not chosen, then they simple won’t believe.” You can see why such people would suck as evangelists. And yet they’re inconsistent in other areas of life. I don’t hear them saying, “Well, it’s up to God if I stop at that stop light up ahead, so I’ll just keep going and see what He does.” Oops. A little confusion there between the absolute and the relative viewpoint.

Not that it’s even possible to live in the absolute. I had a fellow-believer once tell me, “I never live in the relative. I live in the absolute.” I pointed out to him that his very use of the pronoun “I” proved that he lived in the relative. He didn’t like hearing that very much. What he meant to say was, “I think about the absolute a lot.” Absolutely, no one *lives* in the absolute. Only God does that and no one can figure out how.

Am I sure about that? Absolutely.

Thanks for writing.

—*Martin*