



# INSIDE THE VATICAN

Catholic Universalism: All people go to heaven?

# WHAT IS UNIVERSALISM

- ▶ The belief that eventually everyone goes to heaven despite any actions taken on earth.
  - ▶ God is too merciful and loving to allow any one of created people to send to hell.
- ▶ Hell is a temporary place of punishment
  - ▶ Incorrectly compared to Purgatory



# PROBLEMS WITH UNIVERSALISM

**SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT RECEIVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.**

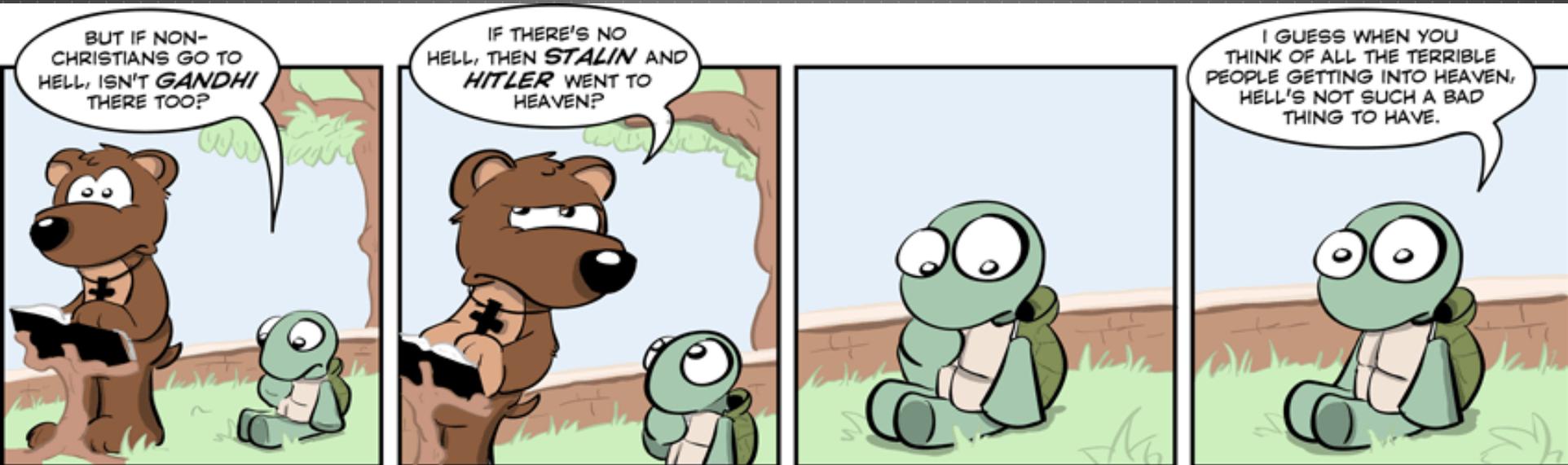


**INCLUSIONISM/UNIVERSALISM NOW TEACHING FAITH IS UNNECESSARY.**

**HMMMM SOUNDS ERRONEOUS!** [memegenerator.net](http://memegenerator.net)

# PROBLEMS WITH UNIVERSALISM

- ▶ 1) Ignores God's justice
  - ▶ Matthew 25:46 "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
- ▶ 2) Sin is minimalized
  - ▶ No accountability for our actions
- ▶ 3) Devalues Christ's death on the cross



# WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY?

- ▶ “God our Savior...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” -1 Timothy 2:3
- ▶ “For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men.”  
-Titus 2:11
- ▶ “By his glorious Cross Christ has won salvation for all men. He redeemed them from the sin that held them in bondage. ... Created in the image of the one God and equally endowed with rational souls, all men have the same nature and the same origin. Redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, all are called to participate in the same divine beatitude: all therefore enjoy an equal dignity.” –CCC 1741, 1934

# WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY CONT...

- ▶ “The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! ‘Father, what about the atheists?’ Even the atheists...And we all have a duty to do good. And this commandment for everyone to do good, I think, is a beautiful path towards peace. If we, with everyone doing his own part; if we do good to others, if we meet there, doing good, and we go slowly, gently, little by little, we will make that culture of meeting: we need that so much. We must meet one another doing good. ‘But I don’t believe, Father, I am an atheist!’ But do good! We shall meet there.” –Pope Francis

# EXPLAINING THE QUOTES

- ▶ God has saved all people.
  - ▶ Salvation is not earned; it is a gift
- ▶ Nowhere does the Church say all people go to Heaven
  - ▶ The fullness of salvation is experienced by accepting this gift through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- ▶ The Pope does not say atheists being good on their own will be saved. He says they, like all men, are redeemed by Christ's death and their good works are the starting place where we can meet with them—the implication being “meet with them in an encounter that leads eventually to faith in Christ.”

# HELL IS A REAL POSSIBILITY

- ▶ The teaching of the Church affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, 'eternal fire.' The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs" (CCC 1035).
- ▶ "It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where the worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." Mark 9:47-48
  - ▶ Most of the doctrine of Hell comes from Jesus Himself



# RECAP

- ▶ 1) Christ came and died for all people, granting them salvation
  - ▶ All people have the OPPORTUNITY to go to heaven
- ▶ 2) Salvation is a gift and must be chosen
  - ▶ Not everyone ACCEPTS this gift
- ▶ 3) Hell is a real place and is Eternal

