

Romans 7:24, Who Will Rescue Me?

“The Week.” National Review, 12 Aug. 1996, 18:

rhuomai - Lit: To drag someone out of danger who is in a helpless and hopeless situation. The best one-word translation of this would be “rescue.”

future - Progressive; denotes the idea of progressive action in future time.

You can be rescued but that rescue will be progressive. The act of rescue is not currently taking place. If it is to occur it must commence and be completed in future time over a period of time. (Review of corrected translation of Hebrews 12:5–Hebrews 12:13)

The progressive future indicates that there is no instant recovery from reversionism. The process involves the nine-step program for reversion recovery. This involves inculcation and metabolization of Bible doctrine, its storage in long-term memory traces, and its facilitation into paths of least resistance. Simultaneous with this there must be the rejection of long-held wheel-tracks of wickedness and their habituation down to nondominant status in the decision-making process.

This is not a time for prayer as a problem-solving device. Proper prayer should ask for the ability to endure throughout the recovery process by means of the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. Typically, reversionists use prayer, if they use prayer at all, as a spiritual 9-1-1. They petition God to perform a quick fix to override a lifetime of bad decisions. But God is not in the quick-fix business, which, in the mind of the reversionist, amounts to performing a miracle. What God is into is permanent renovation of the soul by means of a system clearly delineated in Scripture.

For the reversionist, this system includes all nine steps in God’s program for reversion recovery. If it is to be undertaken it must commence and be completed in the future over a period of time.

active - An unknown subject, “*who*,” produces the anticipated action of the verb.

indicative - Interrogative; assumes that there is an actual fact which may be stated as an answer to the question. That there is a process of being rescued is true, its mechanics are just not known to Paul at the moment.

CTL Romans 7:24 - I ... a miserable person! Who will rescue me...

The rescue is the provision of divine grace. God has a program but it is only available to those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. This “*for believers only*” recovery program is introduced by Paul in Romans 8 with the mechanics for the advance given in chapters 12–16.

God is the One Who rescues the reversionist. But He only rescues the ones who are believers in Jesus Christ. The rescue is accomplished by means of the nine-step program of reversion recovery as is presented in the remainder of the book of Romans. The process involves the development of experiential sanctification which is the advance to spiritual maturity by means of the three spiritual skills.

There is quite a bit of confusion regarding the doctrine of sanctification within Protestant Christianity. Since experiential sanctification is the end result of God’s nine-step program for reversion recovery, then we need to take a little time to define our terms for sanctification.

There is a category of sanctification for each phase of the plan of God. We will first of all define each one and then take a look at the biblical vocabulary of sanctification.