

Everyone Is Salvageable Second Week of Easter Wednesday, May 1, 2019 Acts
5:17-26; **Jn 3:16-21** (We do have free will so we have to cooperate somehow.)

“God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”

Now this actually should be astonishing, but we have heard it so often it no longer astonishes. If we go back into the Old Testament, first of all God created everything and it was good, but after God created everything that was good it soon became corrupted. And **if you read through the Old Testament, you will not see any promises of eternal life.** You will see that God promises well-being to the good and God promises to wipe out the evil, but that’s it. **It’s more or less on the human plane, on the earthly plane,** that all this is being discussed.

Now **with Jesus** there comes this new idea that, first of all, **the eternal life of God can be shared**—this is a new idea, eternal life can be shared—and not only does God intend to share this with his own beloved, but actually **he is making it available to everyone, even the wicked.** This is the idea of **redemption.** Even the wicked can be redeemed. Even the wicked can be saved, and how? **By believing in Jesus and letting the light, which is Christ, Jesus, into their own hearts and living in that light.** And this is possible for everyone.

Now you might say what about really evil people—well, what about really evil people? **Most really evil people are also really insane,** like for example Adolf Hitler. He was criminally insane, clearly. Toward the very end of his life he was defending everything he did as if it was actually noble. Well that’s insanity, the same with Goebbels.

Now that’s not always true with everyone. For example here it says, **“For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.”** This is evidence of a sort of conscience even in the wicked where they

don't want anyone to really know what they are about. That was not true of Hitler unfortunately, or fortunately however you look at it. But it is true of some. **But even they can be redeemed if they only want to**, if they only give into this love which is so intense that God sent his Son into the world that the world might be saved through him. If people are only willing to open themselves, **everyone is salvageable**, and that's the point.

On the other hand, **we do have free will so we have to cooperate somehow**, in some way. Most of this remains for us a mystery. And that is why Jesus said, "**Judge not lest ye be judged.**" We can't actually know what is going on in the awareness, the consciousness of other people, the minds of the people, **the hearts of other people. We don't know what is going on.** We do know that **God intends and desires to save the whole world.** We know he has endowed us with free will that can resist that, and we do not know the ultimate outcome. But we can have utter and total confidence that if we open ourselves to God, we shall live with him in eternity.