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 Faith Bible Church  
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<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (20)  
 ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #11  
 (DDR #639)

**Objection #11: “What would happen to a Nazi murderer who believed in Jesus before he died? Would he go to heaven, while the Jewish men, women, and children he killed, man of whom were God-fearing people, go to hell:**

Michael Brown’s shorter response:

Based on the teaching of the Hebrew Bible, *if* the Nazi could truly repent before he died, then God would accept him as righteous, but merely “believing”—without true repentance—is meaningless. As for the Jews killed by that Nazi, if they died in right relationship with God, then they would go to heaven; if they died out of favor with him, they would perish. One thing is very important to remember: The fact that these Jews died in the Holocaust does not necessarily make them “saints: (even though we often speak of the six million Jewish “martyrs” of the Holocaust). Our people were indiscriminately exterminated by the Nazis simply because of their ethnic background—even if they were atheists or God-haters. Their tragic suffering in the Holocaust did not, in and of itself, transform them into godly people. To the contrary, many actually *lost* their faith during that time, while a large number of secular and irreligious Jews became overtly hostile to God.<sup>1</sup>

While I really appreciate all of the work that Dr. Brown has done in Jewish apologetics, I *profoundly* disagree with him on the need of repentance for the Nazi to be saved. At this time I am not going to enter into a comprehensive refutation of the notion of “repentance requirement” in addition to faith for salvation. I will just cite the Gospel of John 20:31:

but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Remember that in Gospel of John repentance is never mentioned anywhere—not once!

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<sup>1</sup>Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections*, 1ST ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), 35-42. In this work, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response, which is followed by a more detailed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response, after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his detailed responses (there is far too much material to include in the DDRs).

Putting Brown's repentance requirement aside, I do love the way he has divided the response into two categories—the Nazi and the Holocaust victim.

The Jew may ask, "If God can forgive the Nazi for murder, then why can't He forgive the Jew for ignorance?" Of course, the answer is that both will be judged on based on their relationship with God—that is the issue, not the amount or kind of sin. Jesus Christ bore the sins of all people, but only those who accept Him receive God's absolute righteousness. The only sin for which there is no forgiveness is rejection of God's mercy in Christ Jesus.

If the Nazi truly accepted Jesus Christ as Savior then, of course, he will be saved by the grace of God. This is the universal message of the gospel regardless of the recipient. Every person has to stand before God either clothed in the righteousness of Christ or they stand on their own relative righteousness—only those in Christ will be accepted by God. They are the only ones in the Lamb's Book of Life, and this is the sole issue in the final judgment:

**Revelation 20:11-15** And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup> And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> **And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

An elected one by the grace of God and before the foundation of the world,

Pastor Don

**Ephesians 1:4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,

**Romans 8:33** Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

**1 Pet 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;