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**Christian Beliefs RELT 202**

**Discussion Questions for 05/17/19**

**Thorsen 21**

1. Page 263: I think it’s important to keep in mind that we should not view God’s way of salvation “too narrowly or dogmatically”. The baptism process described by Peter is purposefully left arbitrary, with minimal steps. We as a church should talk more about the practice of leaving dogmatisms out of our faith, I believe. Is it important for us to focus more on our faith and repentance rather than following the minute details of Scripture to be saved?
2. Page 264: I also think it’s important to have conversations about the motives and self-awareness of our church, like Thorsen writes. “In Christians’ zeal to evangelize, however, they have not always done so with sufficient self-awareness of their motives and methods”. It’s worth talking about it more than we do to keep ourselves in check. What can we do as a church to actively avoid inadvertently bad motives?
3. Page 269: When is someone truly converted? In the church today, it seems that conversion is generally accepted to happen when someone gets baptized, regardless of their personal faith. Does conversion happen much later when someone truly gets to know God, or does conversion happen the moment they choose to start that relationship with God?
4. Page 274: I think it’s worth discussing how alter calls affect repentance in the Adventist church. I often hear alter calls and feel that there are more factors in play than just simply walking up and repenting. Those with social anxiety cannot go forward and present themselves so vulnerably and prefer to repent in quiet. Those who choose not to go up can also feel a bit of tension when nobody decides to go to the alter. When do alter calls go from genuine shows of repentance to playing on someone’s current emotional state?