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**Christian Beliefs RELT 202**

**Discussion Questions Due 05/20/19**

**Thorsen Chapter 22**

1. Page 281: Thorsen talks about how we can always be assured that we, as believers, are saved and given the gift of salvation. But God also states that we should be perfect, like Him. How do we balance our life full of sin with the assurance of salvation? In other words, how can we avoid becoming lackluster in our personal spiritual life because we become used to the cycle of sinning, repentance, and forgiveness?
2. Page 282: Thorsen mentions the Catholic church in his writings on the assurance of salvation and how it is given across cultures. I’ve always heard of the penances sold by the church to guarantee passage into heaven, but I never heard about where they originated from. Do the Catholics believe that was a written part of the Bible, or was it a decision made by some of the elected officials as a tax?
3. Page 284: Apostacy is something that I have wondered about for a long time. How does it work? Do you have to verbally and mentally tell God no resolutely, or can you, simply by disobeying for too long, just not hear the call to salvation anymore? How can someone know if they’ve hit that point?
4. Page 291: Thorsen writes about the Pentecostals and the importance they place on baptism. It is widely accepted throughout multiple churches that baptism is a huge step towards not only a relationship with God, but towards salvation. How important is baptism in salvation really? Are there any supporting texts on this in the Bible? Do we need baptism at all?