**Bradon Ladd**

**David Thomas**

**Christian Beliefs RELT 202**

**Discussion Questions Due 05/22/19**

**Rice Chapter 11**

1. Page 266: How do we balance love to God and love to sinners? It’s a common thing in the Adventist culture to look down on those who we think are sinners, such as homosexuals, alcoholics, etc. While not everyone in the church holds these beliefs, it has been said by many close to me that they do not feel welcome to change in the church due to these individuals that don’t seem to love them. What does God say about loving those that come into the church with apparent sins?
2. Page 267: Rice writes that the new birth experience is like the gradual formation of love. If our journey to God happens at a gradual place, when is it appropriate to get baptized? Is it at the end of this gradual journey, or when it feels right?
3. The idea that salvation is a gift is confusing to me. God says that salvation is a gift, but those who disobey God willingly have that gift taken away from them. In order to fully take advantage of that gift, we must pledge our obedience to Him. Doesn’t that make it an exchange? Our obedience for our salvation? As a disclaimer: I have no problem with the exchange; I’m just curious about how we view salvation, is all.
4. Page 279: Rice talks about the concept of predestination and double predestination. Does the Bible give definitive proof against predestination? Or is it that predestination is a real thing, and our lack of understanding of how time works from the viewpoint of someone in a higher dimension than us limits our understanding of the subject?