

Once Saved, Always Saved?

- Some of the background notes are available from Wikipedia. Many, if not most, of the parenthetical statements are quoted from the www.Bible.ca web site on “Calvinism”.
- Some **Christians** have friends that espouse the idea, according to their denomination, that once a person has been saved they no longer have the threat of losing their eternal destiny in **Heaven**. They base this understanding on a few passages, that, when you look deeper than the English translations and find what the writer was **originally** inspired to pen, we can find true meaning on any given doctrine. Hopefully this lesson will convince those who believe in the doctrine of “eternal security” to understand the fallacy of its teaching. We will look at what the **Bible** states on this subject through exegesis (*taking out of the passage and not reading into it*). One of the “go to” passage that highlights this deceitful teaching is 1 Jn 3:9. But 1 Jn 4:1 tells us that we are not to believe every vital principle concerning **God’s** word but are to test them according to their validity as being inspired or just another “seducing spirit” or “doctrine of devils” (1 Tim 4:1).

1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit (*Gk.4160- to make or do*) sin; for His (*God’s*) seed (*Gk.4690- something sown*) remaineth in him: and he cannot (*Gk.1410/3756- to be able or possible/ no or not*) sin, because he is born of God.

- His seed is referring to “**the word of God**” (*Lk 8:11*) which was the subject of **Jesus’** parable of the soils. **Peter** also refers to it as the source of the re-birth process which is to be understood as “incorruptible” and that “which liveth and abideth forever” (*1 Pet 1:23*).

Col 3:16 Let the **word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- To commit (*Gk.4160*) sin from what this **Greek** word “refers to is what one does repeatedly, continually, habitually. It does not mean that a person does not occasionally sin, but will not make a constant practice of sin”. To say he cannot means he is “morally unable and not that which is physically impossible”. “And so the word in our verse does not mean that the child of God has come to the place where he is physically unable to do anything wrong, but that he is morally restrained from it, just as a good man who is asked to join another in some crime would reply, ‘O, no, I couldn’t do anything like that.’ (E.M. Zerr, Bible Commentary, vol. 6, pg. 284)” “The Greek words literally mean, ‘cannot continue to PRACTICE sin’.”

Get me in an airplane and tell me to jump and you’ll find the true meaning of the word “can’t” according to this context. With or without a parachute it would be physically **possible** for me to jump, but my fear of heights and the experience of actually jumping would make it impossible to do so mentally. Notice what **Paul** said concerning the ability to sin.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for **to will** (*Gk.2309-choose or prefer*) **is present** (*Gk.3873-to lie near, be at hand*) **with me**; but *how* to perform (*Gk.2716-accomplish*) that which is good I find not. **19** For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, **that I do**. **20** Now if I do that I would (*Gk.2309-choose, prefer*) not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth (*Gk.3611-occupy a house, to cohabit*) in me.

- In expressing the evil which I would not, that I do the apostle Paul made it clear that it is not just possible, but also probable that Christians can and do sin, even though a good Christian tries hard **not** to.

John plainly states that Christians DO sin.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we **have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.** 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we **say** that we have not sinned, **we make Him a liar**, and His word is not in us.

- Of course this passage doesn't give us the go-ahead to sin and just be forgiven when we ask for it either. That would minimize the importance of repentance.

1Jn 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. (*Why would John remind us to not do something that would be impossible to do in the first place?*) And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

Eternal life is conditioned through continued obedience.

Heb 3:6 But Christ as a Son over His own house; Whose house are we, **if we hold fast** the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope **firm unto the end**.

Heb 3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, **if we hold the beginning** of our confidence steadfast **unto the end**;

- Another go-to passage misconstrued by this false teaching is the following in which Jesus makes a statement that shows His power over any and all outside forces. In this way, we can receive comfort knowing that there's nothing that can take us away from His love. We alone make the decision to leave that place of safety.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of My hand. 29 My Father, which gave *them* Me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of My Father's hand.

- “What these passages are really teaching is that nothing can harm the Christian who submits to God and obeys His commandments. But if that individual starts to willingly disobey and openly practice sin in rebellion to God they will be lost. Here they leave the security of the ‘hand of God’.”

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to **separate us from the love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- God did His part in loving the world to the point of sending His Son to die for the world. That in and of itself won't save anyone. And Christ's love for us is stronger than any physical or even spiritual entity. But that too will not save us. Salvation has with it a covenant relationship between a plurality of individuals. Just as a marriage is a covenant that can be broken through unfaithfulness, so can the contract between Christ and His bride the church, "and members in particular" (1 Cor 12:27).

The need for a shepherd. (To the Ephesian elders.)

Act 20:28 Take heed (Gk.4337- *be cautious about*) therefore unto yourselves (Elders are seasoned Christians.), and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers (Gk.1985-*superintendent, bishop*), to feed (Gk.4165-*to tend as a shepherd [or figuratively supervisor]*) the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock (Gk.4168-*group [of believers]*). 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away (Gk.645-*drag forth, retire*) disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

- Why is a shepherd to be cautious if there didn't exist the danger to keep himself from falling away? And why have a shepherd to watch over the flock if the sheep can never leave the group and go astray? From the context of the passage the sheep are Christians which need the oversight of shepherds. It is even understood that leading men (*in this context elders*) can fall from grace when they teach a corrupted understanding of truth.

Tit 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, ... 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound (Gk.5198- *uncorrupt*) doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

- This only goes to show that the possibility exists where even seasoned saints can fall away and that the doctrine of Christ can be corrupted.

2Jn 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth (Gk.3306- *to stay*) not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

- How can one stay in a place they've never first entered?

Gal 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert (Gk.3344- *corrupt*) the gospel of Christ.

- Again, how can a Christian be removed from Christ if they were never in Him?

The consequence of apostasy.

Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth.

- Speaking to the church at Laodicea, John was told to remind them of the danger of being so repugnant to Christ. This passage clearly states that they were a congregation of believers that, like the church at Ephesus, had left their first love (Rev 2:4). How can

you leave something you never first entered into. How can a man stop loving a woman he was never **in** love with from the start.

Joh 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. **2** Every branch **in Me** that beareth not fruit He taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

- Those that say of fallen Christians that “if they are lost, they weren’t saved to begin with” haven’t done their homework. If a farmer prunes the dead branches from a vine, then it is understood that the branches were once attached to it in order to be cut off from it in the first place. Those that “bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance” (*Mat 3:8*) the farmer prunes in order to produce even more fruit.

Luk 8:13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while believe**, and in **time of temptation fall away**.

Other passages showing what the children of God “can” do.

1) Fall from grace-

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore **in** the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not **entangled again** with the yoke of bondage. **2** Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. **3** For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. **4** Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are **fallen from grace**. **5** For we through the Spirit **wait for** the **hope** of righteousness by faith.

- Remember, if you already have something, why do you still hope for it? The same goes with “eternal security”.

2) Be led away with error-

2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, **beloved**, seeing **ye know** *these things* before, **beware** lest ye also, being **led away with** the **error** of the wicked, **fall from** your own steadfastness.

3) Err from the truth-

Jas 5:19 **Brethren** (*speaking to Christians*), **if any of you do err** from the truth, and one convert him; **20** Let him know, that he which converteth (*restores*) the sinner (*ailing Christian who fell*) from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

4) Weak brother perish-

1Co 8:11 And through thy knowledge shall the weak **brother** perish, for whom Christ died?

5) Fall into condemnation-

Jas 5:12 But above all things, **my brethren**, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and *your* nay, nay; **lest ye fall** into condemnation.

6) Be moved away from the hope-

Col 1:21 And you, that **were sometime alienated** (*before you became Christians*) and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, **yet now hath He reconciled** (*you became Christians*) **22** In the body of His flesh through death, to present you **holy and unblameable and unreprouable in His sight: 23** **If ye continue in the faith** grounded and settled, and *be not moved away from* the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

7) Deny the Lord Who bought them-

2Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there **shall be** false teachers **among you**, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord **that bought them** (*i. e., once saved*), and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

8) Depart from the living God-

Heb 3:12 Take heed, **brethren**, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in **departing** from the living God.

- Once again, how can you depart from something you never entered?

9) Be cast away-

1Co 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: **lest** that by any means (*shows the possibility exists*), when I have preached to others, I myself should be a **castaway**.

- Even the apostle **Paul** feared, after all the work he did toward saving the lost, that he himself could be lost.

10) Can become accursed children-

2Pe 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed **children: 15** Which have **forsaken the right way**, and are **gone astray**, following the way of Balaam *the son* of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

- Just as a dog cannot stray from a fenced in yard he was never in, so a person cannot stray from being in **Christ** if he was never in **Christ** to begin with.

How to avoid being lost once saved.

1) Be always about the local work-

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

2) Be diligent to add to your faith-

2Pe 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, **add** to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For **if** these things be **in you**, and **abound**, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath **forgotten that he was purged** from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, **brethren**, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for **if ye do these things, ye shall never fall**: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

- Was purged and Peter referring to them as brethren indicate that salvation had to be present in order to continue the need to be diligent about keeping it. And there are qualifications necessary to keep it. We are eternally secure (“*ye shall never fall*”) as long as we are diligently obedient (“*if ye do these things*”).

3) Don't grow weary-

Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, **if we faint not**.

4) Remain faithful unto death-

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may **be tried**; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou **faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a crown of life.

- Why be tried if there was no reason to be faithful unto death?

5) Practice makes perfect (*complete*)-

Php 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **do**: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Christians are to restore the fallen.

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, **restore** such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, **lest thou also** be tempted.

Jas 5:19 **Brethren**, if any **of you** do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

- Addressing them as brethren, James wrote to Christians. He was instructing them on what to do if any of them was to err from the truth. Why instruct them in this if it was not possible to sin and thus lose one's salvation? Misconstruing a few passages to show the possibility that a false doctrine could be true will never make it so. Hopefully this brief lesson using scripture after scripture (*and there are many others*) will settle once and for all that it takes commitment and a heart that seeks truth to find it, on any given

Biblical topic where someone might attempt to substitute error for gospel. But first a person has to be saved in order to begin that committed covenant relationship with Christ.

#1. Have you heard?

Eph 1:13 In Whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, **the gospel of your salvation**: in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

#2. Do you believe?

1Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but **as it is in truth**, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

#3. Have you repented?

Mar 2:17 ...**They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#4. Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God, Who alone can save you?

Act 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

#7. Are you growing?

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

Charli Yana

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www.searchfortruth.church