

Once Saved, Always Saved?

www.cvillechurch.com

Introduction: Often I have attempted to raise a vital issue of salvation to one only to be turned away from any further study because: “We are all going to heaven anyway”.

- A. While the issues vary as to what a person wants to ignore, this false sense of confidence comes from an age old doctrine sometimes called: “Once Saved, Always Saved”.
 - 1. This belief states that God’s grace will automatically cover all sins of the true Christian.
 - 2. This means that one could murder, commit adultery and live in these sins without repentance and be saved as long as they once became a Christian.
- B. In the study of this doctrine we need to see however the great assurance God has given the Christian
 - 1. We can know we are saved. **(1 John 5:13)**
 - 2. We can have joy in this knowledge.
 - 3. I ask you not to substitute the false assurance that man give for the solid assurance of God. **(Heb 6:17-19)**

I. Salvation is Conditional

- A. There is a system of belief that states there will be an “Unconditional Election” and “Perseverance of the Saints” based completely upon a random decision of God before the world was created and through His irresistible spirit enforcing His will This is known as Calvinism.
 - 1. Most denominations are under the influence of this teaching. However, most of the members are unaware of the complete implications of these doctrines.
 - 2. Are we all robots with no free will whatever?
- B. God’s basis of election was through the gospel, not a random selection of individuals. **(Rom 8:29-30; Eph 3:6-9; 2 Tim 1:9-10)**
 - 1. Because of this our will is a factor in our salvation. **(Rev 22:17; 1 Pet 3:9)**
 - 2. This system called Calvinism in fact enslaves people in their sins.

II. Passages that show a Christian can so sin as to be lost.

- A. A Christian is warned concerning what unrepented sin can do to them. **(Heb 6:4-8)**
 - 1. Here we know this is a Christian because he has partaken of the spirit of God. **(Acts 2:38; Rom 8:9)**
 - 2. Why can they not come to repentance? Because of a hardened heart. **(1 Tim 4:1-2)**
- B. Christians are warned concerning the wrath of God and their sins. **(Heb 10:26-31)**
 - 1. God is holy and cannot be in the presence of sin. **(Hab 1:13)**
 - 2. The blood of Christ is what we need to be forgiven and stand in the presence of God. **(Isa 6:3-7; Heb 9:14)**
- C. The danger of false teachers are real. We can be lost after being saved. **(2 Pet 2:18-22)**
 - 1. These people had been saved through the gospel, the knowledge of God.
 - 2. How can a person be better off in a lost condition?
- D. Our attitude towards God’s word can cause us to be lost. **(Rev 22:18-19; 20:15)**
 - 1. What will happen if we add or subtract from God’s word?

2. What happens if one's name is removed from the "Book of Life"?
- E. Look at what a Christian is told to do for forgiveness. (**Acts 8:21-24; 1 Jn 1:6-10**)
 1. Is a Christian automatically forgiven?
 2. What if he does not repent?

III. Passages that show how a Christian must maintain his faith

- A. We must build our faith every day. (**2 Pet 1:8-12**)
 1. What if we do add to our faith?
 2. What if we do not?
- B. The Bible is filled with conditional statements about salvation. (**1 Cor 15:1-2**)
- C. What happens if we do not pursue peace with holiness? (**Heb 12:14-17**)
- D. Why did Paul write to Christians about the Israelites? (**1 Cor 10:1-4, 12-13**)

IV. False Arguments some use to defend this doctrine

- A. God has promised that no one can take a Christian away from His fellowship.
 1. No one can take a lamb of Christ away from Him. (**John 10:26-30**)
 2. Who are the sheep of Christ? Those who hear and follow Him! (**Jn 10:27, 2-5**)
 3. The issue is not one of God's power, but of our choice to stay within that power!
- B. You cannot have assurance without this doctrine.
 1. Yes we can! (**Rom 8:15-17**)
 2. I have seen those who believe in this doctrine struggle with their assurance too!
"Am I really a Christian?"
- C. God's grace automatically covers our sins.
 1. Where is this taught?
 2. Why then are Christians warned of eternal consequences?
- D. I would never cast out my own son, and God would never do the same to His.
 1. You are not God. We must submit to God's way and not man's. (**Isa 55:8-9**)
 2. Would you cast out your son for an eternity for any reason?
- E. You do not have confidence in the Blood of Christ. You are seeking to add to it by your good works.
 1. No, I believe in salvation through grace. I also believe this salvation must involve an active faith. (**Eph 2:8-9**)
 2. What if a Christian stops trusting God? (**Jas 2:14**)

V. Fruits of this doctrine.

- A. It causes men to be unconcerned about personal issues they should face. (**2 Cor 13:5**)
- B. It causes men to cease "contending for the faith". (**Jude 3**)
- C. It allows false religious systems to enslave others. (**Matt 7:15**)
- D. It causes those within the church to have these attitudes while professing opposition to this doctrine.
 1. I have seen those who teach this doctrine *live as if it was not true*. I have also seen Christians profess opposition to "Once Saved, Always Saved" live as if they believe it!
 2. Where is your confidence? Do you display these attitudes?

Conclusion: Are you standing upon the sure promises of God?

- A. He will never let us down. (**Heb 13:5-6**)
- B. Are you ready to meet God?