

Once Saved, Always Saved?

It's a wonderful thing for someone to get saved, to have the Holy Spirit touch their heart, to realize that our Lord died on the cross for their sins, but it can also become one of the biggest traps of organized religion for it is commonly taught that once you have been saved, you are saved forever. No matter what you do.

We have this from a popular website:

"The Bible teaches "once saved, always saved" -- that we can be saved once and for all only through a repentant, saving faith in Jesus Christ. Once a person has accepted Christ as Savior, they may wonder if it is possible to lose that salvation. What if they commit a sin? What if they commit a lot of sins? What if they do something very, very wrong? Is it possible to be saved, and then lose that salvation? Fortunately, the answer is a resounding "no." Once a person has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, he/she is forever saved. This fact is referred to as the doctrine of "eternal security," often summarized as "once saved, always saved."

Another **doctrine** from the established religious systems. Keep the pew-sitters safe and secure. Tell 'em everything is gonna' be all right.

The **Rapture Doctrine**, the **Any-Moment Doctrine**, the **Fly-Away Doctrine** and now the **Eternal Security Doctrine**. Too bad there's not an **Anti-lie Doctrine**.

I feel that many Christians have the thought in their mind that once they come forward and **get saved** that they can pretty much do as they please from then on. **"Oh, I'm saved so it won't matter if I steal a little from my job"**

The church leaders, or those in authority, will argue that someone who is **truly saved** would not do that sort of thing but since the very nature of a flesh and blood body is to give in to temptation, this body always wanting something that pleases it, we must continually fight against these temptations and desires and the fact is that we don't always resist these temptations, we will indeed sin after we have been **saved**.

But the love that we have for the Lord will prompt us to, first, repent of those sins and, secondly, our Lord will do the forgiving after that. But you have to ask for forgiveness first and that's where the trap comes to play.

If Christians are told by their leaders that no matter what they do they will still go to heaven after they have **declared** their belief in Christ then they may assume that they pretty much can do whatever their conscience will permit them to do.

Certainly most of us wouldn't commit a murder but how often do we think badly of ourselves for telling a little white lie, especially if we think that we are **protecting** someone, and not feel that we have to repent of it?

There are many, many Scriptures used by the proponents of the **once saved, always saved** crowd to bolster their argument and some of the verses that they use can be taken in a couple of different ways and certainly the Bible does not contradict itself in any way but when it does appear that way then we need to look at the who, what, when, where, how and why of that particular verse or verses. Many things that were written to the Israelites do not necessarily apply to the gentiles and vice versa.

One major church seems to admit to the possibility of sinning after being saved by teaching the existence of a place called **purgatory**. This is where souls go after the death of the flesh when there are unforgiven sins on that soul at the time of death.

The soul will remain there, squirming and writhing in pain, until these unrepented sins are **burned** away but they don't give us a time frame of how long that period of time might be. This same church also classifies sins into a couple of **categories**. One being **capital sin** and the other being **venial sin**. It seems that one will go to hell for a capital sin but purgatory is in store for those with venial sins on their soul.

However, our Father doesn't see things quite that way. In the book of James, Father tells us that if we break one of His laws or Commandments we are equally guilty of breaking all of His laws:

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

There are no degrees of sin according to Him. One is not only as bad as the other, if you break even just one of them, you are guilty of breaking **all of them**. Doesn't sound like He agrees with the concept of purgatory, does it?

One thing that should be agreeable to all is that even after we have been saved that we all will continue to sin. So what happens to our soul at the time of death when we still have sin assigned to us? We're not gonna go to purgatory, that much is sure.

Truth is, on Judgment Day, we will be held accountable for those sins. Can't happen any other way. Does the grace of our Father come into play at this point because there is definitely no opportunity for repentance after death? It certainly does:

James 5:20 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. KJV

The righteous acts that we performed in this life are now considered by our Father. Hiding a multitude of sins means that they are done away with, gone forever. **Repentance and forgiveness** wasn't received on our part for them, but **grace and forgiveness** will be supplied on His part for them.

This word **converteth** means to turn someone's head around, get them off the wrong path that they're on and turn them towards something good;

G-1994 epistrepho (ep-ee-stref'-o); from NT:1909 and NT:4762; to revert (literally, figuratively or morally):

If you have a part in getting someone to believe in Christ, that goes a long way in having unforgiven sin removed from your page in the Book. And notice that I said **a part** because you cannot save anyone, it's the Holy Spirit that does the saving but if you initiate the conversation or introduce them to the Scriptures, you will be granted grace over and above what you receive based on your own beliefs or actions.

1st Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. KJV

This word **charity** doesn't mean giving money to some organization but rather having a loving spirit towards all humanity:

G-26 agape (ag-ah'-pay); from NT:25; love, i.e. affection or benevolence; specially (plural) a love-feast:

Loving your brother, so to speak.

If, after you get saved, you never spend too much time repenting for your sins thereafter, and you have no righteous acts built up, you might be in a lot of trouble. **Once saved, always saved** might end up being just another much-believed lie of established church systems.

Look.....here is the bottom line: our Father loves us very much and if you openly declare that you believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior then you are in pretty good shape. And furthermore, if you attempt to live your life according to His Laws and Commandments, which shows Him **how much you love Him**, if there are some unforgiven sins on your soul at the time of your death, don't you think that He will return that love through His grace? His unmerited favor?

Of course He will. There is no way that every person who dies will have a squeaky clean record. I don't believe that it's possible because we are all sinners and will forever be that way until the death of this wretched body.

Our Father knows that as well for He is the one that created these wretched bodies in the first place. Show Him your love and He will show you His. Forget about this **once saved, always saved** nonsense. Do the best that you can, **repent often, even daily**, and you'll be in good shape on Judgment Day.

If you lead a reckless life after salvation all the grace in the world may not be enough to keep you out of the Lake of Fire. This website that I quoted from went on to say:

"If we are not eternally secure, this sinning will cause us to lose our salvation, but how much sin is too much? There is no scriptural "yardstick" given to tell us how many or what kind of sins are enough to void our salvation. Without eternal security, the Bible would describe a situation where Christianity is a perpetual game of Russian Roulette; a life in which condemnation and salvation alternate every time we sin and confess, and we never know if we're saved or not."

This fella brings up a good point: **how much sin is too much?** How much unrepented sin can our acts or His grace forgive? That's something that you are going to have to decide for yourself. To be on the safe side, repent daily and from the heart. If you repent from fear that your eternal soul may be destroyed by our Father you will be repenting from the heart!

The two verses that I quoted above from James and 1st Peter removes the **Russian roulette** from the equation. It is indeed our righteous acts, in this life, that not only remove residual sin from our souls at the death of this flesh and blood body but carry through into the Millennium and the Eternity, for these acts become the threads that weave the beautiful white robe that we will wear throughout those times.

Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. KJV.

Thank God the churches are not the ones that do the judging on that day for I fear that, if they had the power, only their leaders would go to heaven while they condemned the rest of us to hell.

PS: Remember, you have to be **saved from above**.