

ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED

IS SALVATION BASED UPON BELIEF OR PREDESTINATION?

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

NOTE: Two things determine our salvation: the sacrifice of Jesus and our response to that gift.

IS SALVATION ONE EVENT OR AN ONGOING EXPERIENCE?

But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us. 2 Corinthians 1:9, 10

WHAT ASSURANCE DOES GOD'S WORD GIVE US?

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:6

NOTE: Salvation is a past, present, and future working of God in the life of the believer.

HOW WAS THIS WORK OF SALVATION BEGUN?

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Galatians 3:3

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL BIBLE REVEALS WHAT PEOPLE?

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18 NIV

NOTE: The teaching of once saved and predestination go hand in hand. If God has predestinated one to be saved, then it is impossible for them to reject God's irresistible grace and be lost. In other words God chooses some to be lost and others to be saved without any choice or action on their part and nothing can alter their destinies. They are not saved because they have responded to His love, nor lost because they have rejected it, but because God has foreordained them to be saved. But is this what the Bible teaches?

WHAT TWO CHOICES DO EACH OF US HAVE?

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life... Deut. 30:19, 20

ARE WE FREE TO CHOOSE WHOM WE SHALL SERVE?

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will

serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15

NOTE: God has given each of us a free will to choose or reject Him and the gift of eternal life.

WHAT DOES JESUS SAY EACH OF US MUST DO?

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.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned...

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. John 15:2-6, 10

WHAT MUST WE CONTINUALLY DO TO ABIDE IN CHRIST?

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

IS IT IMPORTANT WE REMAIN FAITHFUL TO GOD'S WORD?

Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. 1 John 2:24

WHAT MUST A CHRISTIAN DO TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. John 8:51

WHAT ASSURANCE DOES PETER GIVE THE BELIEVER?

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. 2 Peter 1:10

WHAT WARNING DOES PAUL GIVE CHRISTIANS?

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify [put to death] the deeds of the body, ye shall live. Romans 8:13

NOTE: Scripture is filled with warnings about falling away and being lost. If God's grace is irresistible, such warnings would be unnecessary. If salvation is based upon God's "irresistible grace," then even faith becomes unnecessary, for God simply chooses whom He will save regardless of any act of faith or response to His love. Therefore, one can live as he or she pleases and still be saved because God has ordained it so. If this is so, then why did not God exercise this "irresistible grace" in the Garden of Eden and save this world a lot of trouble, suffering, and heartache?

WHAT WILL CAUSE US TO BE CUT OFF FROM GOD'S GRACE?

Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not

highminded, but fear:

For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. Hebrews 11:20-22

HOW LONG MUST WE HOLD FAST TO OUR FAITH?

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....

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

But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end. Hebrews 3:6, 12-14

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE WILLFULLY SIN AGAINST GOD?

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? Hebrews 10:26-29

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD COUNSEL US TO DO?

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Hebrews 10:35-38

WHAT TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE DOES PAUL CONTRAST?

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Hebrews 10:39

NOTE: If it were not possible for someone to lose salvation, why would the Bible contain so many warnings about this possibility becoming a reality.

DID PAUL REALIZE EVEN HE COULD FALL FROM GRACE?

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. 1 Corinthians 9:26, 27

NOTE: The word "castaway" is found only here in the Bible and comes from the

Greek word “adokimos.” This word is translated “reprobate”(Romans 1:28) or “rejected” (Hebrews 6:8). The abominable and disobedient are called “adokimos” (Titus 1:16) and Jesus does not dwell in the heart of one who is “adokimos” (2 Corinthians 13:5). This is what Paul said he would become if he did not consciously choose to remain faithful to Christ.

WHAT DO THOSE WHO FALL FROM TRUTH DO TO CHRIST?

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. Hebrews 6:4-6

TO WHAT DOES PETER COMPARE THOSE WHO FALL AWAY?

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. 2 Peter 2:20-22

WHY ARE WE TOLD TO BE “DILIGENT” AND “BEWARE”?

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 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. 2 Peter 3:14-17

CAN ONE’S NAME BE REMOVED FROM THE BOOK OF LIFE?

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. Revelation 22:19

WHAT CAN CAUSE OUR NAMES TO BE BLOTTED OUT?

Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. Exodus 32:32, 33

WHAT WILL PREVENT OUR NAMES FROM BEING REMOVED?

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out

his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. Revelation 3:5

WHOM DID JESUS SAY WOULD BE SAVED?

He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. Matthew 24:13

NOTE: The Bible is clear that believers can choose to be lost as surely as sinners can choose to be saved. If once a person was saved they could never fall, then the devil would not even waste his time on believers, nor would he need to expend his energies on non-believers for they are already his.

HOW CAN WE KNOW WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:11-13