

Once Saved Always Saved?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself to develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

What the Bible says

"Once saved, always saved" is a popular Christian phrase describing the doctrine of eternal security. It means that once someone accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior, their eternal salvation is assured and cannot be lost or reversed, regardless of future events.

Read Deuteronomy 29:20: Here we have the LORD blotting out his name from under heaven. **Go to II Kings 14:27:** We have the Lord not blotting out Israel from under heaven, implying that names can be blotted out. **Turn to Psalm 69:28.** All of these scriptures show us that we can have our names blotted out of the book of life, indicating that we are not pre-destined for salvation or always assured of being saved. We have the possibility of losing our salvation. We will see in our next scripture one way this can take place.

Read John 15:2, 5-6: In this scripture, the unfruitful believers (branches) are cut, cast into the fire, and burned. **James 2:20, 26:** “Faith without works is dead.” We must have a productive relationship with Jesus to be fruitful and grow in our relationship with Him.

The idea that no effort is needed to maintain our salvation is unbiblical. We can have our names blotted out of the Book of Life if we do not grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Without fruit in our lives, we will become like the dead branches in the parable of the vine, be cut off and burned, and lose our salvation by having our names blotted out of the Book of Life.

Read Revelation 3:5: We must be overcomers in this life; if we don't overcome, we will not receive eternal life. We are not once saved, always saved. The previous verses show that our names can be blotted out of the Book of Life at any time if we do not continue to grow in our relationship with our Lord and Savior. As we grow in Christ Jesus, He will use us to draw others to Himself. Life won't be easy. As we draw closer to Christ Jesus, the devil will do whatever he can to discourage and deceive us, hoping to have our names blotted out of the Book of Life.

A person can lose their salvation if they deliberately turn their back on God, renounce their faith, or continue in unrepentant sin. These verses call for believers to "work out [their] own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12) and to "endure to the end" (Matthew 10:22)

We are predestined as a group. Those who choose and grow in a relationship with Christ Jesus are predestined for eternal life; those who don't are predestined for eternal death. Notice that the predestination is given after we have made a choice either for or against the Lord.