

What Does The BIBLE Say?

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 need not 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.

Once Saved Always Saved? Or Pre-Destination?

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 Psalms 69:28:** All of these scriptures show us that we can have our names blotted out of the book of life, showing that we are not pre-destined for salvation or for being saved always. We have the possibility of losing our salvation. We will see in our next scripture one of the ways 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.

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.

We are not individually predestined for salvation or hell, and 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 any fruit in our lives, we will become like the dead branches in the parable of the vine and be cut off and burned, thus losing our salvation by having our names blotted out of the Book of Life.

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.