

Conditional or Un-Conditional Eternal Security

Samuel H. Nodal

Conditional Eternal Security - is the conditional preservation of the saints, or commonly called conditional security (one can lose/walk away from their salvation). This is the Arminian belief that believers are kept safe by God in their saving relationship with Him upon the condition of a persevering faith in Christ. The relationship of "the believer to Christ is never a static relationship existing as the irrevocable consequence of a past decision, act, or experience." Rather, it is a living union "proceeding upon a living faith in a living Savior." This living union is captured in this simple command by Christ, "**Remain in me, and I in you.**"

Un-Conditional Eternal Security - known as (once saved, always saved); it is the belief that from the moment anyone becomes a Christian, they will be saved from hell and cannot lose their salvation. One of the serious problems with this unconditional security position is that there are vast numbers of professing Christians who think they are saved but are living careless, indifferent, and even sinful lives, yet they still think they are saved and going to heaven! Further, there are others who are depending on a past religious experience for their salvation, but their present life does not give evidence of a living, active, obedient faith to Jesus Christ. They allow known, deliberate, unrepentant sin in their life, yet assume that they are saved because of this past experience.

Which is TRUE?

Look at what Jesus told Peter

But I have prayed for you **that your faith may not fail.**

And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:32) ESVS

Notice what Jesus said to Peter! "I have Prayed for you, that your **Faith** fail not!" Pay close attention; **Jesus did not say** I prayed that **you don't fail!** You can fail the Lord a thousand times and still be saved if you repent. But, you cannot make heaven if you deny the Lord continuously from the heart!

It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If **we deny Him, He also will deny us;** If **we are faithless, He remains faithful;** for He cannot deny Himself.

(2 Tim. 2:11-13) NASB

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath **he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:**

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.

(Col. 1:21-23)

I have Appointed you as a Watchman to Warn the People

“Son of man, **I have appointed you a watchman** to the house of Israel; **whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.** “When I say to the wicked, ‘**You shall surely die**’; and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, **that wicked man shall die in his iniquity**, but **his blood I will require at your hand**. “Yet if you have warned the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, **he shall die in his iniquity**; but **you have delivered yourself**. “Again, **when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity**, and I place an obstacle before him, **he shall die**; since **you have not warned him**, **he shall die in his sin**, and **his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered**; but **his blood I will require at your hand**. “However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, **he shall surely live** because he took warning; and **you have delivered yourself**.” (Ezek. 3:17-21) NASB

*Notice what God said; when a righteous man (saved) turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, **he shall die in his sin**. And his previous Righteous acts **will not be remembered**.*

Scriptures that Prove; “Conditional Eternal Security”

For **if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth** (*saved or unsaved*), **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, but **a fearful expectation of judgment**, and **a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries**. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. **How much worse punishment**, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has **trampled underfoot the Son of God**, and has **profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified**, and has **outraged the Spirit of grace**? For we know him who said, “**Vengeance is mine; I will repay**.” And again, “**The Lord will judge his people**.” It is a **fearful thing** to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb. 10:26-31) ESV

For **if God did not spare angels when they sinned**, but **cast them into hell** and **committed them to pits of darkness**, reserved **for judgment**; and **did not spare the ancient world**, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; (2 Pet. 2:4,5) NASB (*were the Angels in heaven in the beginning?*)

“And those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; **they believe for a while**, and in time of **temptation fall away**. (Luke 8:13)

It is a **trustworthy statement**: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; **If we deny Him, He also will deny us**; If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.

(2 Tim. 2:11-13) NASB

And ye shall be **hated of all men for my name’s sake**: but **he that endureth to the end** shall be saved. (Matt. 10:22) ESV

Abide in Me, and **I in you**. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine**, so **neither can you, unless you abide in Me**. “**I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.** (John 15:4-6)

For it is impossible, in the case of **those who have once been enlightened**, who **have tasted the heavenly gift**, and **have shared in the Holy Spirit**, and **have tasted the goodness of the word of God** and **the powers of the age to come**, and **then have fallen away**, to **restore them again to repentance**, since **they are crucifying once again the Son of God** to their own harm and **holding him up to contempt**. (Heb. 6:4-6) ESV

For if, **after they have escaped the defilements of the world** through **the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**, they are **again entangled in them and overcome**, the **last state has become worse for them than the first**. For it would have been **better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back** from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: “**The dog returns to its own vomit**, and **the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire**.” (2 Pet. 2:20-22) ESV

Did the Apostle Paul Believe he was Judgment Proof?

“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 Cor. 9:27)

Curtis E Schulz

I have good news for Christians. You cannot lose your salvation. Your salvation cannot accidentally fall out of your pocket like your keys. Your salvation cannot mysteriously disappear somewhere in the dryer like your socks.

You cannot place your salvation somewhere and forget where you placed it. Your salvation is in Christ. You always know where it is.

But the truth is that you can walk away from your salvation. Your salvation is in Christ. If you walk away from Christ, then you walk away from your salvation. Whether the hardening of our heart comes through difficulties, persecution, the cares of this world, or a naturalism based intellectual pursuit (Heb 3:12-15; Mt 13:18-23; 1 Cor 1:18-25), **we can decide to walk away from our salvation that is found in Christ. We can abandon our Christ for something else** (Gal 1:6; 1; Tim 4:1). **We can trample upon the sacrifice of Christ and insult God's Spirit** (Heb 10:29). **We can decide that the perseverance it takes to be a Christ follower requires too much and stop following him** (Jn 6:60-66; 8:30-31; Col 1:23; 1 Tim 4:16; 2 Pt 1:8-11). **None of what was listed above happens by accident. We make choices that cause us to move away from Christ. Or, more accurately, it is the choice we do not make that causes us to move away from Christ. That choice is the choice to lay down our lives our wishes, our demands, our expectations, our comfort and to take up our cross and to follow after him alone.** You do not have to worry about losing your salvation. However, you do have to keep your heart soft to the Spirit of God so that you do not fall away from the living God. God faithfully calls us to repentance. How will you respond?

It can be seen from Scripture that Salvation is a process due to the command of perseverance of faith. If faith were a one-time act, there is no reason to command perseverance. There is much language in the New Testament that demonstrates salvation to be a process.

If You Can't Walk Away From the Faith; Then Why These Scriptures?

Look at what Jesus told Peter

But I have prayed for you **that your faith may not fail**. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:32) ESVS

“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 Cor. 9:27)

It is a **trustworthy statement**: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; **If we deny Him, He also will deny us**; If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.

(2 Tim. 2:11-13) NASB

And ye shall be **hated of all men for my name's sake**: but **he that endureth to the end** shall be saved. (Matt. 10:22) ESV

True; Christ Will Lose Nothing and No One Can Pluck Us From God's Hand

This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day. – Christ in John 6:39-40 (NASB) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and my Father are one. – Christ in John 10:27-29.

*The problem with that interpretation lies in the reason for why Christ spoke these words. People who want to believe these passages are teaching the doctrine of the preservation of the saints assume that Christ said what he said to establish that doctrine. **But the preservation of the saints was not the doctrine Christ was trying to establish. Christ was establishing the truth that he has the authority to give eternal life. Preservation of the saints is a theological interpolation.***