

CAN A TRUE BELIEVER IN CHRIST EVER BE LOST?

May 2009

In a word - ABSOLUTELY NOT! There are some who teach that one who is born again through faith in Christ can, because of sin, self will, etc. lose his salvation. How preposterous! In the first place, it flies into the face of many Scriptures that teach once you are saved, you are always saved. Here is a brief outline on the subject:

THE NATURE OF SALVATION. (THE BIBLE SAYS, "SALVATION IS OF THE LORD")

- ♦ Salvation is from sin (and "sins"). Matthew 1:21. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins." How many of our sins? "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from ALL sin." ~I John 1:7. I had one man tell me salvation was like riding a bicycle, if you stop peddling you will fall off. His analogy is worthless for salvation is not like riding a bicycle.
- ♦ Salvation is a new life. Christ's life! Galatians 2:20, "...Christ liveth in me..." John 5:24. "...he that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me, hath EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION, but is PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE."
- ♦ It is eternal life! (so called over 50 times in the New Testament). John 10:28-29. "And I GIVE unto them ETERNAL LIFE; and they shall NEVER PERISH, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father...is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." NOTE: It is a GIFT ("I give...") It is ETERNAL NEVER PERISH WE ARE IN JESUS' HAND WE ARE IN THE FATHER'S HAND! If that is not eternal security, language means nothing. I've had some say you can pluck yourself out of His hand. Why would anyone want to? Would Noah want to get out of the ark? (He couldn't if he wanted to). These three verses alone guarantee the security of the believer in Christ!
- ♦ It is finished! In John 19:30 Jesus cried, "IT IS FINISHED." If it is finished there's nothing left for us to do. To say (as some do) that that refers to the end of Jesus' life is so ridiculous that it requires no answer. If Jesus didn't finish salvation, do you think you can? It is not of works before or after salvation.
- ♦ Notice God's promise! John 6:37: "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh to me I will in NO WISE CAST OUT!" Will God fail to keep His promise? To disbelieve in eternal security is to impugn the integrity of God (and the value of Christ's blood)! I believe God; not human reasoning!

OVERWHELMING TESTIMONY OF SCRIPTURE: ONCE YOU'RE SAVED YOU CANNOT BE LOST!

Testimony of the Apostle Paul: "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that HE IS ABLE TO KEEP that which I have committed unto him against that day." ~II Timothy 1:12. He is able - I am not! I do not have space here nor do I need to bring to bear more Scripture though there are scores of verses such as: Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:31-39; I John 5:13; Hebrews 9:12, 10:10,12,14; etc. Speaking of Hebrews, there are several passages in that Book which are used by those who teach a true believer in Christ can be (See page 3)

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YOUTH CORNER

SOME IMPORTANT TESTS FOR CHRISTIANS:

THE WEATHER TEST: Am I a "fair weather" Christian? Am I faithful to be in Church in bad weather? No Church can long survive if rain or snow keeps the members at home. I Corinthians 4:2

THE WALLET TEST: Am I regular and Scriptural in my offerings to the Lord's Church? Closed pocketbooks will result in closed churches. Luke 6:38

THE WORRY TEST: Do I worry about difficulties, trials, etc., instead of trusting the Lord and showing a peaceful confidence in God. Philippians 4:6,7.

THE WORK TEST: Am I willing and eager to work for my Lord? Can my Church count on me to serve whenever I am asked to take some responsibility?

THE WORSHIP TEST: Am I not only faithful in attending all the services of the Church, but do I spend some serious time each day in Bible reading and prayer? Do I truly worship God or just go to Church?

THE WILL TEST: Is my will truly submitted to the will of God? Can I honestly say, "Not my will but thine be done?" --Adapted

BE CAREFUL WHO YOU FOLLOW! Calvin Coolidge sometimes invited members of Congress to the White House for breakfast. One day the guests were surprised to see him pour coffee and cream into his saucer. In confusion, some of them decided to do the same thing. However, they really felt foolish when, without a word, the President placed the saucer on the floor for his dog.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.

Sin is a heart disease that can only be cured permanently by the Great Physician.

The grace of God will enable you to live straight in a crooked world.

In America, anybody can be president. That's one of the risks you take. -Copied

The Bible tells it like it is (and like it should be) but who wants to hear it?

Some people who are always standing up for their rights are always falling down on their duties.

It does not require a decision for one to go to hell.

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. ~Lamentations 3:22-23

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER. (From page 1) thrown into hell. However, they simply do not understand that Book for they do not "rightly divide it." (They just divide it!). If Hebrews teaches a child of God can again become lost, it contradicts all the Scriptures we have already given for they clearly state a Christian is saved forever! These people make God the Author of confusion! I do not have space here to teach the book of Hebrews, but just let me say this: the several passages that speak of condemnation there are not dealing with true believers but with those who have made a profession of faith but were not truly saved. That happens all the time. If in fact, those passages are speaking of believers, then once a Christian sins, he can never repent and get saved again (as these people teach). See Hebrews 6:4.

Because we teach the eternal security, we are sometimes accused of encouraging people to sin. That is a lie! We teach no such thing. We believe that a Christian is a new creature (II Corinthians 5:17) and he is to endeavor to live a holy life. However, there is no such thing as perfection in this life. Our eternal salvation and forgiveness of sins is totally dependent upon our faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross! I am eternally safe because of Him and what He did not because of what I do or do not do. If I have been born again, God wants me to be sure that I have eternal life and will never perish. I John 5:13 says, "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." There was a boy standing on a street corner when a man pulled up in his car and asked, "Where does this road go?" The lad replied, "I don't know." "Where is route 20?" "I don't know." "How far is it to the nearest town?" "I don't know." Exasperated, the man said, "Don't you know anything?" "I know I ain't lost!" I can say that I know two things: I know I ain't lost. And I know I can't be lost! We sing a hymn: "Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow." Even John 3:16 clearly teaches eternal security. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in should **NOT** PERISH. but EVERLASTING LIFE." To teach a saved person can be lost is to pervert the Word of God and demean the work of Christ! Amen!

ONE WORLD EFFORTS NOT REAL? A key step in advancing the creation of a Transatlantic Union was creation of the Transatlantic Economic Council by the U.S. and the EU in an agreement signed by President Bush, German Chancellor Angela Merkel - then the president of the European Council - and European Commission Pres. Jose Manuel Barroso at a White House summit April 30, 2007. The agreement constituted the Transatlantic Economic Council as a permanent body that committed the U.S. to "deeper transatlantic integration," without ratification by the Senate as a treaty or passage by Congress as a law. The formation of a Transatlantic Common Market between U.S. and European Union by 2015 has been targeted by the http://www.tpnonline.org/about.html, a non-governmental organization headquartered in Brussels with a policy advisory board of U.S. congressmen and senators. In February 2007, the Transatlantic Policy formed a Transatlantic Market Implementation Group to put in place "a road map and framework" to direct the activity of the Transatlantic Economic Council to achieve the creation of the Transatlantic Common Market by 2015... Another NGO urging transatlantic integration is a Washington-based policy group headed by former Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., who currently serves as the group's chairman of the board. On April 20, 2007, an Atlantic Council commission co-chaired by Stuart E. Eisenstat, former deputy-secretary of the treasury, and D. Aldonas, former under-secretary of commerce for international trade, issued a report "Transatlantic Leadership for a Global Economy." -WND (3/11/09) Ed. Globalism is a real and a hot issue with the "movers and shakers" of this world. I have read that the world's financial leaders are using the present crisis to move even more vigorously toward a one-world system.

AN ISSUE WORTH NOTING! "Why is it that in the Church of God so few are concerned about punctuality? The carelessness they show about the work of God would wreck a business... I have been around for a long time and I am convinced that people are not spiritual at all if they are not punctual. Everyone may be excused for emergencies of life - there are things that will happen at times - but I'm trying to show my concern for not being punctual until it becomes a habit." -A.W.Tozer. I believe this sort of thing shows a lack of respect for God and His worship. The service does not start when the preacher gets up to preach but at the first note of the organ, etc. The hymns and prayers are not mere preliminaries.

THE WISDOM OF GOD

The richest man in the world, Croesus, once asked the wisest man in the world, Thales, "What is God?" The philosopher asked for a day in which he could deliberate over it. When the time came, he asked for another day. Then another. And another - at length he finally confessed that he was not able to answer the question. He said that the longer he deliberated the more difficult it became for him for frame an answer. He simply could not explain God. Hearing about the incident, the fiery Tertullian, one of the early Church Fathers, seized upon the opportunity and said that it was an example of the world's ignorance of God outside a knowledge of Jesus Christ. He exclaimed, "There is the wisest man in the world and he cannot tell you who God is. But the most ignorant mechanic among the Christians knows God and is able to make Him known to others." The Bible says, "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe....But we preach Christ crucified... But unto them which are called both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." ~I Corinthians 1:21-24. Man with his faulty, sinful mind, is still trying to figure out Who God is and what He is like. But apart from God's Revelation (the Bible) man will never be able to come to the truth. God says, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned." ~I Corinthians 2:14.

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HAVE YOU WON A SOUL TO CHRIST?

The Bible says, "He that winneth souls is wise." ~Proverbs 11:30. Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." ~ Matthew 4:19. Christian, have you ever won one soul to Jesus Christ? Do you try? If there is one thing we are called to do, it is win souls. Jesus also said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me..." ~Acts 1:8. Charles Spurgeon was offered a trip to America by P. T. Barnum. Spurgeon was to give 50 lectures in 50 different cities. All expenses for him, his wife and secretary would be paid. In addition, he would be given \$1,000 per lecture (quite a sum in those days). But he quickly declined the offer of \$50,000, etc. saying: "I can do much better than that. I will stay here in London and try to win 50 souls to Jesus Christ, worth more than fifty worlds." There are other things we must do, but certainly soul winning must be near or at the top of the list. Jesus said that one soul is worth more than all the riches in this world. He also said, "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Think of the plight of the lost! Where is our compassion? Child of God, think of the results if every Christian won just one other person to Christ. I believe God would give every believer at least one soul if he would pray and do his best to tell others the Gospel message. If you do not tell your loved ones and friends, who will? The Bible speaks about those who do not warn others, they will have blood on their hands. Oh, how many of us have the blood of others on our hands! Let's go soul winning - today and every day!