

Christian Basics: Eternal Security

Lesson 2

Can A Christian Lose Their Salvation

- This question is one of the top questions that has been contentious for centuries within the Christian church.
- Throughout history some Christian groups have insisted that some kinds of sins (mortal sins) make one the enemy of God.
 - So a major church council was held to try to decide which sins were mortal and which were not. (This debate continues)
 - Other scholars have said that it's the pattern or frequency of one's sin that over time reveals whether one is truly born again. (But who is the judge of such a pattern?)
 - Others suggest that if sin is willful, one can lose his salvation (But isn't all sin willful?)
 - Still others say that to commit apostasy or heresy is sufficient evidence that one is no longer saved.
- Read [John 10:22-30](#)
 - The Promise of Eternal Life
 - The Protection of Eternal Life
 - The Proof of Eternal Life

The Promise of Eternal Life

- [Verse 28](#)
 - *"I give them eternal life"*
 - *"Neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand"*
- The doctrine of the believer's eternal security does not rest just on Christ's words in this one passage. God the Father has added His word to the discussion
 - [Romans 11:29](#) – God doesn't change His mind (about who is among the elect and who isn't)
 - [Jude 1:24](#) – God is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless
 - [1 Peter 1:3-5](#) -- talks about an inheritance ... Those whom God saves, He keeps by His own Power
 - It stands to reason that if God had a purpose in choosing some to be saved, that that purpose will be fulfilled. For God's purpose to be thwarted by human weakness or fickleness would make man the determiner of God's accomplishments
- The Spirit of God has also borne witness to this truth.
 - [Ephesians 1:13](#) All saved people are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise
 - Seals as used in ancient times to close a document until it could be opened by its recipient.
 - The seal was an official mark of permanence and security.
 - Paul says the Holy Spirit serves as that kind of seal permanence and security in our lives – a guarantee that our destination would not be interrupted. [Vs 14](#) says the Holy Spirit is the "guarantee of our inheritance."
 - Some 43 times in the gospel of John, the life of the believer is referred to as eternal life – eternal life before we get to heaven!
- The moment you believe in Christ as your Savior, you enter into eternal life, passing from death into life. Your connectedness to God begins the moment you believe and does not end. If eternal life can be interrupted, than it never was eternal.
- If one could lose their salvation than all the things that happen to a person when they are saved: born again, regenerated, baptized, united to Christ, and etc... would have to be un-done. Everything God did would have to be reversed because of some failure on your part. And that is not possible. Everything God does, He does perfectly.

The Protection of Eternal Life.

- [John 10:28-29](#) paints a picture of believers being held in His hand.
 - You're held in one hand, leaving the other free to fend off anyone who comes after you.
 - We are protected by the strong hand of Jesus Christ
 - Our security is not in our ability to hold on to Christ's hand but in His ability to hold us in His hand.
 - There is an eternity's worth of difference in these two situations.
 - I would rather be dependent on Christ's faithfulness and strength and determination than my own.
- Does this mean we can go out and live any way we want – even willfully sin – without fear of the ramifications “If I can't lose my salvation, then I'll just do whatever I want and still get to heaven.”
 - I truly believe that anyone who looks at eternal security as an insurance policy has missed the point of the Gospel altogether.
 - Why Because it is the experience of the love and grace and mercy of God that keeps the believer from sinning.
 - Those who have truly known the forgiveness of their sins and who those who consistently thank God for their salvation are not going to use their forgiveness and salvation as a license to sin.
 - True believers in Christ are looking for ways to please Him every day, not ways to exploit their promised salvation.
 - God puts the desire for good works in our heart because that's why we were saved. The absence of that desire is a serious warning sign concerning one's salvation.
- God doesn't throw us out when we fail. He works with us and stays beside us to help us through difficult times. He will protect our relationship with Him. If he would break his relationship and cut all ties us whenever we sin, than there never have been forgiveness, protection or salvation in the first place.

Proof of Eternal Life

- Can someone who has led a devout life as a Christian and suddenly ‘leaves’ the faith, never to return, still be saved?
- [John 10:27](#) “My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me...”
 - Christ’s sheep are ‘branded’ in two places.
 - The ear to hear Jesus’ voice
 - The foot to follow Jesus.
 - Just as cattle are branded to identify their owners, Christians are ‘branded’ on the ear and foot to identify their owners.
 - When you are asked if you’re a Christian, you’ll respond yes and when you first became a Christian and that you are actively following Him faithfully today.
 - When you read the Word of God you will affirm its truth and look for ways to apply it in your life.
 - The test for every person who claims to be a Christian is to check himself for the two marks: listening and following. More than our activities, it is walking in the footprints of Jesus that reveals who we are.