

## **The Security Of The Soul**

### **Part 1**

#### **Introduction.**

1. A study of “The Security of the Soul” is very important.
2. There are two extreme views on this very important subject in the religious world today.
  - a. There are many who advocate the doctrine “once saved always saved.”
    - 1) They contend that once a person is saved that he or she cannot be lost.
    - 2) They do not encourage believers to do evil, but contend that under no condition can a believer be lost.
    - 3) This means even if a believer denounces God and Jesus and chooses to live an abandon life he is still covered by the grace of God and remains saved.
  - b. There are others who teach that the child of God can have no security of salvation.
    - 1) Christians must live in constant fear, doubt and uncertainty.
    - 2) They can have no real confidence of salvation.
    - 3) When asked if they are saved, they say “I am not sure. I hope so, I guess so.”
    - 4) This makes one a very poor ambassador of Christ.
    - 5) Who wants to be a part of such uncertainty?
3. It is important examine the scriptures to see if they teach either of these extreme viewpoints.
  - a. It is of great importance that we understand what the Bible says on this salvation subject.
  - b. Our human feelings alone can be wrong and they do not substantiate either viewpoint.

#### **View 1**

1. First, let’s consider the doctrine “once saved always saved.”
  - a. Those who hold this view rightly emphasize the grace of God. (Eph. 2:5-10; Rom. 6:23; 11:6).

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Eph 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly {places} in Christ Jesus,

Eph 2:7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

- b. The above scriptures set forth that salvation is by the grace of God, that is, it is based on God's mercy and cannot be earned.
  - c. "It [salvation] is the gift of God."
2. It is right to emphasize the grace of God.
- a. Once again there is absolutely nothing one can do to earn salvation.
  - b. There is nothing we can possibly do to deserve salvation.
  - c. This does not mean that nothing is required of us.
  - d. The very question "What must I do to be saved?" clearly sets forth there must be a human response to the grace of God.
  - e. The human response of faith, repentance, confession, self-denial, baptism, and a life of dedication to Christ does not earn salvation.
3. It is, however taking grace too far to say the Christian cannot fall out of favor with God and lose his soul.
4. This untenable position will be discussed at length later in this study.
- 5 Those who teach that once a man is saved he cannot be lost use several scriptures in an attempt to prove their position.
- a. One scripture that is used very often is **John 6:47**.

John 6:47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

- 1) The interpretation placed on this verse is that the believer already possesses eternal life and that such a person will not come under the condemnation or judgment of God under any circumstance.
- 2) The fallacy of this interpretation is that the child of God can stop believing and even become hostile to Christ and the way of truth.
- 3) Only the person who continues to believe on the Lord and do His will has eternal life. (Matt. 7:21).
- 4) Christ will not save an unbeliever. (Mk. 16:16; Jn. 3:16, 36).
- 5) Only those who accept Christ will be saved. (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12).

- b. A second scripture commonly used to support this doctrine is **John 10:27-29**.

John 10:26 "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.

John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

John 10:28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

John 10:29 "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.

- 1) In this passage Jesus states that no one can snatch the child of God from His hand and out of the Father's hand.
  - 2) They interpret this to mean that once a man is saved he cannot be lost.
  - 3) Those who interpret this passage to teach such overlook the condition of this promise.
  - 4) Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice and follow me."
  - 5) The child of God is safe as long as he/she abides by this condition. If he stops heeding the voice of Jesus he is lost as long as he remains unresponsive to Jesus.
  - 6) The promise is not "My sheep **hear not** my voice and **do not** follow me."
  - 7) "No one is able to snatch {them} out of the Father's hand" does not mean one cannot forsake God and His Son. "Snatch" is from "arpazo" [ahr **pah** zoh] meaning "to snatch, seize."
  - 8) God does not force any believer to love and serve Him.
- c. The advocates of this doctrine also use **Romans 8:31-39**.

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God {is} for us, who {is} against us?

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Rom 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

Rom 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Rom 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

Rom 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- 1) In this passage Paul points out that no power can "separate us from the love of God."
- 2) The interpretation placed on these words is that since no power can separate us from the love of God that the child of God is eternally safe.
- 3) This verse does not teach this at all.
- 4) It simply teaches that no external force can stop God from loving us. (Rom. 8:35, 38, 39).
- 5) It does not mean we cannot by our sinful lives fall out of the favor of God or that we cannot stop loving God.

6) This is why Jude said. (Jude 21).

Jude 1:21 **keep yourselves in the love of God**, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

7) This is a needless admonition if the child of God cannot fall out of the grace and love of God.

8) Christ is ready and able to protect us if we will call on Him for help. (Jude 24).

9) Only those who obey God's commandments "know" God and are approved of God. (1 Jn. 2:3-5; Matt. 7:21).

1 John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1 John 2:4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

1 John 2:5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him

Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven {will enter.}

d. **1 Corinthians 10:13** is used as a proof text for this doctrine.

1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

1) It is said that God always provides a way of escape that the child of God will not be overcome by temptation.

2) It is true God provides for us a way of escape, but He does not force it on us. We can reject it if we choose.

3) Christians frequently reject God's way of escape because of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. (1 Jn. 2:16).

4) One should also keep in mind the warning Paul gave the Corinthian believers. (1 Cor. 10:12).

e. **Hebrews 13:5** is still another proof used in support of the eternal security of the soul.

Heb 13:5 {Make sure that} your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

1) It is argued that God will not forsake us so we cannot be lost regardless of what we say or do.

2) It is true that God will not forsake us.

3) It does not prove, however, that a child of God cannot forsake God.

4) It is clear that many believers have forsaken God.

5) Every community has people who once confess Christ, but have forsaken God and in some instances denounce God and His commandments.

5. There are numerous scriptures that clearly teach a child of God can fall from grace. (Matt. 10:22; 1 Cor. 9:27; 10:12; Gal. 5:4; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:12; Jas. 5:19, 20; 1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Pet. 1:10).

Matt 10:22 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

1 Cor 9:27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

1 Cor 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

Gal 5:4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

1 Tim 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

Heb 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

James 5:19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

James 5:20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

1 Pet 5:8 Be of sober {spirit,} be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

2 Pet 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

6. Jesus' warnings to the seven churches of Asia are further proof that Christians can be lost. (Rev. 2:5,7, 10, 17,26-28; 3:5, 12; 3:16, 21).

Rev 2:5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent.

Rev 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

Rev 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev 2:17 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give {some} of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

Rev 2:26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;

Rev 2:27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received {authority} from My Father;

Rev 2:28 and I will give him the morning star.

Rev 3:5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev 3:12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev 3:16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

Rev 3:21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

7. In addition to these warnings we have several examples of Christians falling from the favor of God.

a. In 1 Timothy 5:15 Paul mentions **some Christian women** who “turned to follow Satan.”

b. **Demas** (2 Tim. 4:10)

2 Tim 4:10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens {has gone} to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

c. **Ananias and Sapphira** - See Acts 5:1-11.

1) These Christians died because they lied to God.

2) It is inconceivable that God killed them because of their lie, but still counted them among the saved.

d. **Hymenaeus and Alexander** - 1 Tim. 1:19, 20.

1 Tim 1:19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

1 Tim 1:20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme. See the sin of Hymenaeus in 2 Tim. 2:16-18

2 Tim 2:16 But avoid worldly {and} empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness,  
2 Tim 2:17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,  
2 Tim 2:18 {men} who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

1) Paul spoke of some who had “suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.”

2) Unless these Christians came to repentance, it is hard to argue that God saved them.

3) Paul had “handed” them over “to Satan” meaning they had been excommunicated from the body of Christ.

4) Christians must be people of faith. (Heb. 11:6; 1 Jn. 5:4).

e. Those who refused to help their own had “denied the faith” and were “worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Tim. 5:8).

1 Tim 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

7. These warnings and examples should be enough to unequivocally convince every honest mind that a child of God can fall from grace.

- a. In fact, it is possible for a child of God to so fall from grace that it is impossible to renew him to repentance.
- b. The Hebrew writer gave this warning to believers. (Heb. 2:1-3).
- c. Listen to what the Hebrew writer wrote believers in Hebrews 6:4-6.

Heb 6:4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

Heb 6:5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

Heb 6:6 and {then} have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

- 1) Those described in this passage were genuine Christians. (Heb. 6:4,5).

“Once been lightened” - It means they had come out of darkness and had been brought into the light.
“Tasted of the heavenly gift” - They had experienced the gift from heaven, that is, forgiveness of sins by God’s grace.
“made partakers of the Holy Spirit” - They had received the Holy Spirit.
“Tasted the good word of God” - They had experienced how good God’s word is.
They had “tasted the powers of the age to come” - “Powers” is from the Greek “dunamis” [ <b>do</b> o nah mis] meaning “powers, miracles, miraculous powers.” “The age to come” is the Christian age used in contrast to the previous Mosaic age. They had witnessed the miracles of the apostles and had themselves received spiritual gifts. (1 Cor. 12:8-10).

- 2) It was still possible for these Christians to fall away to the extent it was “impossible to renew them again to repentance.”
- 3) It was not impossible for God to forgive them, but the hardness of their hearts made it impossible for some to repent.
- 4) The doctrine “once saved always saved” must argue they were never saved or one can be saved without repentance and in a state of rebellion.
- 5) It must argue that even those who “crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame” are saved

- c. We should pay special attention to Hebrews 10:26-31.

Heb 10:26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Heb 10:27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.

Heb 10:28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on {the testimony of} two or three witnesses.

Heb 10:29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Heb 10:30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."

Heb 10:31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- 1) The words “sinning willfully” are present tense in the original language denoting continuous action.
- 2) The pronoun “we” and the words “after receiving the knowledge of the truth” clearly reveal the Hebrew writer is addressing Christians.
- 3) This warning does not refer to single acts of sin assuming one repents of these sins and asks for God’s forgiveness.
- 4) It refers to Christians abiding in sin [darkness] and refusing to repent that is contrary to the conditions of salvation. (1 Jn. 1:7,9).

e. **One time I read about a faithful Christian who was a pillar and bulwark in the church** for a number of years, but who fell away from the faith in later years.

One year, when a well-known evangelist was conducting a meeting in the city where he lived, he came out to hear him. The preacher went out to visit him and said, “You used to be strong in the church. You were a leader in the congregation. Why don’t you come back and start over again?” He said, “Do you know the man mentioned in Hebrews 6?” The preacher said, “Yes sir.” The said, “That is me; I can’t change.” The preacher said, “You are bound to be wrong about it. You have attended the meeting. You have shown concern for your soul. Surely you can change.” He insisted that he could not. The meeting came to a close and the man did not make a move. A few months later when the preacher visited back in the community, he saw this man’s wife standing in her front yard and stopped and asked how she and her husband were getting along. She said, “We buried him a few weeks ago. He went to his grave saying he could not repent.”

d. He may have been wrong about it, but the Bible does clearly teach that a child of God can so fall that it is impossible to renew him again to repentance.

### Closing Comments

1. Men do not like the idea that anyone can be lost and especially those who have confessed Christ at some point in life.
2. Men have devised several false interpretations regarding salvation.
  - a. Some teach “once saved always saved” in an attempt to avoid condemnation of anyone who has ever accepted Christ.
  - b. Some have gone farther than this by advocating the doctrine of universalism that affirms all men will be saved.
    - 1) This doctrine makes the death of Christ vain. Jesus did not need to die if men are saved without His atoning blood.
    - 2) It affirms, God in His mercy, will save all regardless of how they have lived and even if they have never obeyed Christ and are covered by the blood of Jesus.
    - 3) Many universalists are not even Christian.
- c. Some, even those who accept Christ, now believe that one can be saved apart from obedience to Christ.
  - 1) They contend Jesus is “a way” to heaven and not “the way” as Jesus taught in John 14:6.



- 2) Others contend that ignorance is bliss and the masses who have never heard of Christ will be saved.
- 3) Some of these contend one can reject Christ and be saved by morality or by following other religious who reject God and His Son.

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