

**QUESTION - CAN AN OBEDIENT BELIEVER,
SO SIN AS TO LOSE HIS SALVATION?**

1. There are some people who believe that you can be lost after you have been saved.
2. There are also people who believe that **YOU CAN NOT** ever lose your salvation.

They believe and teach, " Once Saved, Always Saved. "

From here on in this lesson, we will refer to the first view as *View # 1*.

We will refer to (Once saved, always saved) as *View # 2*. We are smart enough to know that both of these views cannot be true. So this makes one of these views, a false teaching. The Apostle Paul, says in Gal. 1:8 - though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. Paul thought that this verse was so important, that he repeated it in the next verse. So the only way that we can ever know which one of these views is true, is to go to the writings of Jesus and His apostles and to study their words with an open mind. We must also harmonize all scriptures on any given subject, before we can ever know what is TRUTH. John 8:32, says, We Must Know the Truth, and the Truth WILL Set You Free.

Let us start in Matthew, and see what we can find on this subject. Matt. 6:15, Jesus says, If we do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will our Father forgive our trespasses.

QUESTION - Can an obedient believer be guilty of doing this? *Ans. Yes they can*. If they could not do this, Jesus would not have had to even write this verse. Would He not?

QUESTION - So what is Jesus saying here to the obedient believer? He is saying, if you don't forgive others, then all the sins that you commit from then on, will not be forgiven you.

Which view is Jesus teaching here? *View # 1 or View # 2 ?*
Now let read Matt. 7:19, Jesus said, Every tree that brings not forth good fruit, will be hewn down and cast into the fire. The tree that Jesus is referring to here, is the obedient believer who is too lazy to work for Him. Jesus says, that this type of person will be cast into the fire. Which view is Jesus teaching here, *View # 1 or View # 2 ?*
Luke 9:62, Jesus says no man having put his hands to the plow and then looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.

QUESTION - Who is the man that puts his hands to the plow,

that Jesus is talking about in this verse? *Ans.* The obedient believer. What does Jesus mean here, when he says, and then looks back? It is the obedient believer, who lets the desires of their flesh, begin controlling them again.

QUESTION - Which view is Jesus teaching here View # 1 or View # 2 ?

1 Cor. 9:27, the Apostle Paul said, " I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest, by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

QUESTION - What is Paul saying to us in this verse? *Ans.* He is saying - that the obedient believer must give his best effort in doing the will of God, because if he does not, he could become a castaway.

QUESTION - In this verse, which view does Paul hold to, View # 1 or View # 2 ?

1 Cor. 10:12, the Apostle Paul said, Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth , take heed, lest he fall.

QUESTION - Who is Paul writing to in this verse? *Ans.* He is writing to the church at Corinth. What is Paul teaching the church in this verse? He is teaching the church, to not become so confident in being a member of the church, that you think you cannot fall.

QUESTION - Fall from What? *Ans.* - Fall from our relationship with Jesus. That is the only thing that an obedient believer can fall from. Again we must answer the question, which view does the Apostle Paul hold to, View # 1 or View # 2 ?

Gal. 4:9, Paul says - But now after that you have known God, or rather known of God, how turn you again to the weak and beggarly elements, where unto you desire to be in bondage. Verse 11, I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you, labor in vain.

QUESTION - What is Paul saying to the members of the church of Galatia? *Ans.* He is telling them that if they turn back to their old ways of life, then his labor with them has been in vain. This verse is teaching us that a member of the church can go back to his old manner of life. Gal. 5:4 - the Apostle Paul writes, Christ is become of no effect unto you. For whosoever of you are justified by the Law, you are fallen from Grace. Paul is saying to the church in Galatia, every one of you who have gone back trying to justify yourselves by the Law of Moses, you have fallen from the Grace of God. Here we have some people who belong to Christ. Christ is the Grace of God that has appeared unto all men. These members of the church had accepted the Grace of God at some point in their lives.

QUESTION - How do we know this for sure? Because, of

Paul's own words. He said they had fallen from Grace. We all know that we have to be in something, before we can fall out of it.

QUESTION - Now in this verse, which view is Paul teaching to be truth, View #1 or View # 2 ?

Gal. 6:1, we read where Paul says, Brothers, if one of you be overtaken in a fault, you which are spiritual, restore such a one, in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest you also be tempted. Paul makes it very clear in this verse that a brother in Christ can be overtaken in a fault. Does this mean as long as he remains in this condition, that he is in danger of losing his salvation? It sure sounds like it to me. Paul says that this brother in Christ needs to be restored.

QUESTION - Restored back to what? Ans. Back to his right relationship with Christ. Notice the last part of this verse, Paul gives all of us, Who are in the body of Christ, a warning. He warns us, when he says, lest thou also be tempted.

QUESTION - Which view does Paul uphold here in this verse, View # 1 or View # 2 ?

We read in Col. 1:23 , that the obedient believer can be moved away from the hope of the gospel.

Col. 3:4-6, Paul in these verses names over some things that God's children can get involved with, that will bring the wrath of God upon them.

QUESTION - Does this wrath of God, sound like we are going to make it to heaven? It sure doesn't sound that way to me. Col.3:25, Paul is writing to the church of Colosse, and he is telling its members, those of you, who do wrong shall receive for the wrong that he has done, and there is no respect of persons

QUESTION - What is Paul teaching in this verse? Ans. He is telling us that a member of the church can so sin as to bring the wrath of God upon him.

1 Tim. 1:5-6, Paul is giving us examples of some who are members of the church, who have turned aside unto vain things.

1 Tim. 1:19, Paul writes, Holding faith, and a good conscience which some, having put away, concerning their faith, have made shipwreck. In verse 20, Paul names two of the members which had done this. Paul goes on to say, I have delivered them to satan. What about these two verses? Do they sound like (once saved, always saved) ?
Ans. Absolutely not, does these two verses agree with View # 1 or View # 2 ?

1 Tim. 3:1-6, In these verses, Paul gives the

qualifications for being an elder in the body of Christ. Let us especially notice verse 6. It reads, not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride, he fall into the condemnation of the devil. We know that this person was a member of the church because, where else would one go to look for men to serve as Elders? So here is another verse that shows conclusively, that a member of the church can so sin as to lose his salvation. Verse 7, says the same thing. Falling into the condemnation of the devil and fall into reproach and the snare of the devil, does not sound like a blessing to me. I hope we have noticed through all of these verses that we have read, there has not been a single verse that taught (once saved, always saved) .

1 Tim. 5:11-12, Paul is talking about the young widows, that are members of the church, who have begun to wax wanton against Christ, and have cast off their first faith. Paul says they have brought damnation upon themselves. Now lets read verse 15, where it says, For some of them are already turned aside after satan.

QUESTION - Does these verses sound like once saved, always saved? I don't know how Paul could ever make it any plainer than this, that a member of the Lord's church can so sin as to lose their salvation.

1 Tim. 6:10, for the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. Paul is talking about members of the church here. He says these people have erred from the faith. We surely know, what erring from our faith does to our relationship with God. In Heb. 11:6, the writer says, without faith it is impossible to please God. We could not miss understand this, if we had help.

2 Tim. 2:18, Who concerning the truth, have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already, and have over thrown the faith of some. These were members of the church at one time.

QUESTION - How do we know this? Because Paul says they have erred from their faith. You cannot err from something that you have never been in. Paul says that in doing this, they had also over thrown the faith of some of the other members. Does Paul's teaching here in these verses agree with View # 1 or View # 2 ?

2 Tim. 4:2-4, Preach the word, be instant in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine, For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts, shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears. And

they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. Paul is teaching in these verses, that there are some members of the church, who will turn away from the truth, and find teachers who teach what they want to hear. Do we believe that will be pleasing to God? No, but it is pleasing to man. We must remember what Rom. 3:4 says. Let God be true, and every man a liar.

2 Tim. 4:10, Paul writes, Demas has forsaken me having loved this present world. What condition is this Christian in?

Titus. 1:14, Don't give heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. These two verses show clearly that members of the church can turn from the truth, and go back to loving the world.

Heb. 3:6, But Christ as a son over His own house, whose house we are, (IF) we hold fast the confidence, and the rejoicing of the hope, firm unto the end. The writer of Hebrews makes it very plain in this verse, that it is possible for some members of the church, who will not remain faithful until the end.

Heb. 3:12-14, Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the Living God, but exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin, for we are made partakers of Christ, (IF) we hold the beginning of our confidence, steadfast unto the end. We can know for sure, that Paul is talking about members of the church, because, he calls them brethren.

QUESTION - What is the writer of Hebrews warning the Christians about? He is warning them that some of them could end up with an unbelieving heart. This can cause them to have an evil heart, and cause them to depart from the Living God. Then the writer says, we are made partakers of Christ, (IF) we stay faithful and steadfast until the end.

QUESTION - What is our condition if we don't stay faithful unto the end? The Christian will end up, departing from the Living God. Now let us all remember the subject that we are studying, and that is can a Christian so live as to lose his salvation in the end? In these verses it teaches that the Christian can depart from the Living God. The people who teach, (once saved, always saved,) they use as their number one scripture, Hebrews 13:5 to prove their teaching is true. In Heb. 13:5, God says, I will never leave you nor forsake thee.

QUESTION - How can we harmonize this verse with all these verses that we have just read? The answer is, God will never forsake his children, but His children can sure forsake God. How do we know that God's children can depart from Him? We just read it in Heb. 3:12, where it says, that some will depart from God.

QUESTION - Who does this verse say, is doing the departing, God or his children? The Holy Spirit of God says that it is the church members, who are doing the departing. The people who teach, (once saved, and you will never lose your salvation), refuse to hear anything that is said in these verses. The power is only in God's word, to change peoples hearts, and if members of the church do not heed to what God is saying, they will not have to answer to man, but they will answer unto God.

QUESTION - Which view do these verses align themselves with, View # 1 or View # 2 ? Now let us read Heb. 6:4-6, For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted of the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God, afresh, and put Him to an open shame.

QUESTION - Is the writer talking about Christians here? Watch and see.

1. He says, he is talking to those who have once been enlightened.
2. He is talking about those who have tasted of the Heavenly Gift.
3. He is talking about those who were partakers of the Holy Spirit.
4. He is talking about those who have tasted of the good word of God.

QUESTION - Can there be any doubt in any ones mind who God is talking about here? *Ans.* It does not take a degree in education to figure out which view is being taught here. Is it View # 1 or View # 2 ?

Heb. 12:14, Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. The writer here is teaching, if a Christian does not follow after peace and holiness, they shall not see God. This means they will not get to live in the presence of God.

James 1:26, If any man among you, who seems to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, he is deceiving his own heart, this man's religion is vain The book of James is written to

the Jewish brethren who were scattered abroad, and James is telling them, that if a member of the church does not bridle his tongue, his religion is worthless, or vain.

QUESTION - Does this sound like (once saved, always saved) ?

James 5:9, He says, brothers in Christ, if you grudge one against another, you will be condemned. This verse says it all, that a Christian can so sin, that he will be lost in the end. 2 Pet. 2:20, For if after they have escaped the pollution's of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end, is worse with them, than at the beginning. Here again this verse is a warning to members of the church.

QUESTION - How do we know this? Because the verse says, to those who have escaped the pollution's of this world - through their knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This can only be talking about an obedient believer. View # 2, teaches that if he falls away, he has never been in the family of God.

The Apostle Peter also says, that if a member of the church becomes entangled again in the things of this world, his latter end is worse than the first. This means that his sins have separated him from God. In the next two verses Peter now compared their condition to a dog that has turned to it's own vomit, and to a sow, that was washed, and then returns to wallowing in the mire. This is a very graphic illustration that the Apostle Peter is using here. Peter's words is exactly what the Holy Spirit told him to write. You would think that these verses of scripture would change anyone who believes that (once saved, you cannot so sin as to lose your salvation). I have not known anyone who changed their view on this subject, regardless of what the scriptures say. 2 Pet. 3:17, Ye therefore beloved, seeing you know these things before, beware lest you also, being led away with the error of the wicked fall from you own steadfastness.

Here again we can see the warning, given to the members of the church, by the Apostle Peter, when he says, beware, that you (the Christian) can be led away the wicked and FALL, from your own steadfastness. I hope that we have noticed, how many scriptures, that we have read, that has the word fall in it. That is exactly the word, that some people use to explain their view on once saved, always saved. They say, that a member of God's family cannot fall from the grace of God. Yet we have read all these scriptures, written by Jesus and His inspired Apostles,

where they use the word (fall) to show, that we can fall from the grace of God.

QUESTION - Who are we going to believe, Jesus and His inspired Apostles, or the mere words of man? For me and my house we are going to believe what Jesus and His inspired Apostles taught on this subject.

1 John 1:6, The Apostle John writes - If we say that we have fellowship with him and we walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth.

1 John 2:4, He that saith, I know God and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. In Rev. 2:1-7, Jesus said to John, write these words to the church at Ephesus. Verse 4, Jesus says to the members of the church at Ephesus, never the less, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works or else I will come unto thee Quickly, and remove thy candlestick out of its place. In these verses the Apostle John tells us, that the Christian can leave their first love, and when they do this, they are in a fallen state. But we still hear those who believe in View # 2 saying, that we cannot fall from our salvation.

QUESTION - How can they be so blind to these verses? Ans. They already have their mind made up on this subject, even when Jesus says, you have left your first love, they still refuse to believe His words. Jesus goes on to say, If you refuse to repent, I will remove your candlestick.

QUESTION - How can we have our candlestick removed and still be saved? We can not.

Rev. 2:16, Jesus is talking to the church at Pergamas, and he tells them, you are not doing my will and if you don't repent, I will come unto thee quickly, and I will fight with you, with the sword of my mouth. Here is another example of members of the church that are in danger of losing their salvation.

In Rev. 3:5, Jesus is talking to the church at Sardis, and he says, He that overcometh the same shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot out his name, out of the book of life. This verse teaches us, that a Christian can have his name blotted out of the book of life. These are the words of Jesus. Now listen to how some people try to make void, what Jesus is saying here. They say that is just man's interpretation of scriptures. Here is the sad part about this. Someday when they stand before God to be

judged, they will have the opportunity to tell Jesus right to his face these same words. That they are telling us. Rev. 3:15-16, Jesus tells the church at Laodicea, I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot, I would that thou was cold or hot, so then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will spue you out of my mouth. These words if Jesus in these two verses are just as plain as the English language can make it. Jesus just plainly says, that if a Christian becomes lukewarm in his service to him, he will lose his salvation. There are many more scriptures that could be used in this study, to show that a Christian can so live his life, that he will lose his salvation in the end. But if a person does not believe that the verses that has been given is positive proof that the teaching of (once saved, always saved) is a false teaching, it would not help, regardless of how many more verses that could be used. If the teaching (once saved, always saved) is true, it would give every obedient believer a license to sin, with the promise attached to it that said, you cannot ever so sin as to lose your home in heaven. Can we just imagine how many obedient believers, that have been taught this false doctrine, and have believed, how terribly disappointed, that they are going to be on judgment day.

Now let us read some verses, where this doctrine of (once saved, always saved) had its beginning. So let us turn our Bibles to 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 which gave them unto me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Fathers hand. I do not understand how they can get eternal security out of these two verses. Surely one knows, that God has more Power than any man. He also has more Power than the devil.

We read in 1 John 4:4, where John says, that greater is He who dwells within us than he who is in the world.

John 14:23, Jesus said, If a man loves me he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make our abode with him. We can also read in Rom. 8:11, where Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit also dwells in us. This means that when we become a member of the Lord's family, there is no power, that can cope with the Almighty God, and come in to His domain and take His Children away from Him. This is exactly what this verse teaches.

This is one of the greatest comforts that God could ever

give to His children.

Give attention to what these verses DO NOT SAY. They do not teach that God is going to KEEP US from leaving this protection that God provides for His children. If God would keep us from choosing to leave His PROTECTION, then He would be taking away our free will choice in life, that He created us with. God will never do that, because that would take away part of God's created plan in the creation of man, that was to last until the end of the world.

These verses do not teach Eternal Security as some people think. James 5:19,20 proves that . We read in verse 19, Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him, let him know, that he that converted the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sin.

The first thing that we need to establish is this, who is James writing to in this letter? The first two verses of this chapter tells us. He says he is writing to his brethren in Christ, who are scattered abroad. So in James 5:19, he is writing to his brothers in Christ. He is telling them, if you see any of your spiritual brothers, who have turned away from the truth, to convert him, so his sins will be forgiven. What should we learn from this statement? We should learn that when obedient believers enter into God's family, that he does not lock the door behind them, where they cannot return back to their old ways of life.

Here is a classic example of that. God did not go back on His word when He said that no one would ever come into His family, and by force pluck one of His children out of His hand. Notice, those who turned away from the truth, walked out of God's family by their own choosing. It is very important to notice -

1. Who is it that has walked away? Ans. A brother in Christ.
2. Who is the one who needs to be converted? Ans. The brother in Christ who has walked away from God's family
3. Who is to convert the brother, who has walked away from God's protective care?
Ans. A brother who is in Christ, and who has not walked away from God's family.
4. Who is the sinner who needs his soul saved from death? Ans. It is the Christian who has walked away from God.
5. Who is it that can have a multitude of sins forgiven?

Ans. The brother in Christ, that has erred from the faith.

QUESTION - How do we know that all of these answers are true? Because that is the only subject that James is addressing here.

We need to pay close attention to what James says about the brother in Christ who has walked away from God. James says that he is spiritually dead.

QUESTION - Does this sound like (once saved, always saved) ? It sure doesn't to me.

Look at another scripture that those who teach (once saved, always saved) use for one of their proof text. Turn the Bible to Rom. 8:38-39. Here the Apostle Paul says to the church members at Rome. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, or things to come. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God. Note, the whole thought of this verse is, there is absolutely nothing that can ever separate us from the love of God.

1 John 4:8, tells us that God is love. John 3:16, tells us that God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, so the sinner would have an opportunity to be saved. So God will never let any power destroy what He has done. Now that is not hard to understand is it? Thank God for His love and protection.

QUESTION - What is the subject matter in these two verses?

Ans. God's love and protection to the Christian. Now listen carefully, the subject matter in these two verses is not, (once saved, always saved) as some people teach and preach. To be able to see this, all that the reader has to do, is to read these two verses with an open mind, wanting to know what is truth. If this verse is teaching (once saved, always saved) then we have many verses of scriptures that we have just read that contradicts this verse. And when this happens, WE DO NOT HAVE THE TRUTH, because there is no contradictions in the Bible. All scriptures will harmonize with one another. If they do not that would make God a liar. In Titus 1:2, It says that God cannot lie. In Heb. 6:18, It says that it is impossible for God to lie.

Please notice that these verses do not say, there is nothing that can separate man's love from God. This is what some people want this verse to say, but it just does not say it. God's purpose in sharing these verses with us, is to assure us of the great security system that God has around His domain. These verses say absolutely nothing, about man not being able to walk out of God's domain anytime that he wants to. If (once saved, always saved)

be true, why would Jesus say to the members of the church in Rev. 2:10, be thou faithful until death, if our salvation is already secured?

Now turn to Rom. 11:21,22, The Apostle Paul says, For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed, lest He also spare not thee. Behold therefore, the goodness and the severity of God: On them which fell, severity, but toward thee goodness, (if) thou continue in His goodness: otherwise, thou also shall be cut off. There is NO WAY, (if a Christian reads these two verses with an open mind) that he could ever believe these verses teach (once saved, always saved), because they teach the complete opposite. The Apostle Paul is telling the Gentile converts, if you do not remain in the goodness of God, then you will experience the severity of God.

QUESTION - And what does Paul say the severity of God is?
Ans. You will be cut off, from the blessings of God.

How can anyone, who reads these verses, come to the conclusion that they teach, that a Christian CAN NOT so sin as to be lost? Let us not forget what Jesus said about these kind of people, who refuse to study and meditate upon the words of Jesus, and his inspired Apostles. He said, in Matt 15:14, that the blind shall lead the blind, and they both will fall into the ditch together. Even the words of Jesus here in this verse tells us that a Christian can be lost, if we won't study the word. I have only covered a few of the verses that teach that a Christian can so live his life, that he will lose his soul in the end. If you do not believe this is true, then just read the New Testament from the beginning to the end, with an open mind, and we will find that Jesus and His inspired Apostles spends much of their time in warning the children of God, to not fall back, be diligent in your service to God, or we will lose our reward in the end.

As I close this lesson, on this subject, I would like to say to us. I have tried my best in preparing this lesson to just find one verse that would help me to understand how anyone could come to the conclusion that a Christian cannot so sin as to lose his salvation. I never did find one. Thank you for reading and studying this lesson.

In Christian Love,
Herb Trout

