

DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL SECURITY

CAN A CHRISTIAN LOSE SALVATION?

INTRODUCTION:

Definition of a Christian:

- A. A Christian is not someone who said a prayer, came to the front of the church, or was raised in a good home.
- B. A Christian is a person who has put faith and trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ, including His death on the Cross as payment for sins and His resurrection on the third day.
- “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:1-4).
 - (John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 16:31; Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)
- C. **A Christian is One Who is Saved.**
- “He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time” (2 Tim 1:9).
 - Keeping this definition in mind – Can a Christian lose Salvation?

Let’s examine from the Bible what occurs at Salvation and further study what losing Salvation would include:

A. **A Christian is Born Again** (John 3:3, 7)

“**Born Again**” – Born from above, a spiritual birth

- “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be **born again**” (John 3:3, 7).
- 1. To lose Salvation, a Christian would have to be Un-Born.
- 2. Just as a person born physically cannot be Un-Born, a person Born-Again spiritually cannot be Un-Born.

B. **A Christian is a New Creation** (2 Cor 5:17)

“**In Christ**” – forgiveness of sin paid for in Christ’s substitutionary death

- “Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”.
- To lose Salvation – the New Creation would have to be canceled and reversed.

C. A Christian is Redeemed (1 Peter 1:18-19)

“**Redeemed**” – refers to a purchase being made, a price being paid.

- “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet 1:18-19).
- To lose Salvation, God would have to revoke (take back, withdraw) His purchase that He paid for with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

D. A Christian is Justified (Rom 5:1)

“**Justify**” – declared righteous, not guilty

- “Therefore being **justified** by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 5:1).

1. To lose Salvation – God will have to go back on his Word and “Un-Declare” what he had previously “Declared”.
2. To Un-Declare – Christians would be guilty of Sin.

E. A Christian is Promised Eternal Life (John 3:15-16)

“**Eternal Life**” – a promise of eternity (forever) in Heaven with God.

- “That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have **eternal life**. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have **everlasting life**” (John 3:15-16).

1. For a Christian to lose Salvation, eternal life would be taken away. To lose Salvation means that it was never eternal.
2. God would be breaching His promise by taking away eternal life.
 - God cannot lie (Num 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18).
 - God cannot change (Mal 3:6; Heb 13:8)

F. A Christian is Guaranteed Glorification (Rom 8:30)

“**Glorification**” – refers to a Christian receiving a perfect resurrection body in Heaven

- “Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also **glorified**” (Rom 8:30).
- For a Christian to lose Salvation, Rom 8:30 is in error, because God could not guarantee Glorification for all those whom he predestines, calls and justifies.

G. A Christian is Indwelt with the Holy Spirit (John 14:17; Rom 8:9)

“**Indwelt**” - to exist within, especially as a spirit or driving force, to dwell in; to abide within; to remain in possession.

- “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he **dwelleth** with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:17).
- For a Christian to become Unsaved, he would have to become “Un-Indwelt and detached from Christ.

H. A Christian is Adopted into God's Family (Rom 8:15)

"Adopted" - the admission of a believer into the family of God.

- "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of **adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Rom 8:15).
- For a Christian to become Unsaved, he would be kicked out of God's family.
- When God starts a work, He finishes it (Phil 1:6).
- Once Saved – Always Saved
- Salvation cannot be lost or reversed – Christians cannot become Unsaved
- Christ's redemptive work for mankind can never be broken, undermined or reversed.
- God will not go back on His Word or change His mind:
Numbers 23:19 Gal 1:9-10 1 Pet 1:24-25
Isa 40:8 Prov 30:5-6 John 10:35
Deut 4:2; 12:32 Rev 22:18-19

Reasons People Believe that a Christian Can Lose Salvation?

1. Those professing to be Christians continuously live an immoral and sinful lifestyle.
2. Those who professed to be Christians but later reject the faith and deny Christ as Savior.

Response to these Beliefs:

- A True Christian will not continuously live an immoral and sinful lifestyle.
 - (Rom 6:1-14; 1 John 3:6-9)
- Anyone departing from the faith, demonstrates that he/she was never truly a Christian.
 - (1 John 2:19; 2 Tim 2:19)

CONCLUSION:

- A. Nothing can separate a Christian from God's Love** (Rom 8:38-39).
- B. Nothing can remove a Christian from God's Hand** (John 10:28-29),
- C. God is willing and able to guarantee and maintain the Salvation He has given us** (Jude 24-25).

MEMORY VERSE:

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17).

From the Teaching Ministry of:
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October 27, 2021

"...the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isa 40:8).