

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

Table of Contents

<i>PERSEVERANCE</i> _____	2
<i>Works is the fruit of salvation, not the means of salvation</i> _____	4
<i>SCRIPTURES FOR ETERNAL SECURITY</i> _____	5
<i>SCRIPTURES USED TO SUPPORT LOSS OF SALVATION</i> _____	16

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

PERSEVERANCE

Will the believer who has genuinely been regenerated (born again) persist in that relationship? Once saved forever saved? If so, on what scriptural basis?

POSITION 1: Salvation Secure. If there is no guarantee that salvation is permanent, believers may experience a great deal of anxiety and insecurity that may detract from the major tasks of the Christian walk.

POSITION 2: Salvation Not Secure. If our salvation is absolutely secure, if our preservation is independent of what we do or what our life is like, there could be a sort of indifference to the moral and spiritual demands of the gospel.

DISCUSSION/ASSIGNMENT:

1. Which position do you ascribe to?
2. Which scriptures support your belief?

Position 1 is generally a Calvinistic point of view, that salvation can't be lost and we can't lose salvation.

Position 2 is generally an Arminian view, which suggests that salvation is a conditional promise of God, that Christians can fall away (apostasy) and become unsaved.

SCRIPTURES TO THINK ABOUT

1 Peter 1: 3-5	Heb 6:11, 10:22	Heb 2:1, 3:12-14, 6:4-6, 11-14	
Romans 8:31-39	2Pet 1:10	Matt 7:21-23, 24:3-14	Col 1:21-23
Phillipians 1:6	John 10:27-30	1Tim 1:19-20, 4:1	Acts 5:1-11
Hebrews 7:25	2Tim 1:12	2Tim 2:12, 16-18, 4:10	1Cor 6:9-10
John 6:37	John 15:1-11	Gal 5:4, 19-21; Eph 5:3-5	2Ths 2:3
Romans 8:1, 15:4	1John 3:9, 5:13	2Pet 1:10, 2:1-2, 20-21	Lk 9:62
1Cor. 10:13	Eph 1:13-14, 4:30	1 Pet 1:3-9	Jude 24

Which scriptures tend to support which position?

Find other scriptures on the subject not listed above and bring them to the next group.

Before we begin to examine the scriptural evidence on this subject, it is important to briefly summarize a few key elements that form the foundation of the study on perseverance and eternal security. We will not examine the specifics of these, but assume they are accepted without question.

1. The bible is the infallible Word of God and as such does not contradict itself.
Apparent contradictions rest in our understanding or interpretation of the scripture, not in the scripture itself.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

2. We are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God.
3. It is God's faith within us, not our faith, that cause us to believe. Faith is God's gift to us.

Let's now try to put into context the idea of salvation. Let's begin by asking, Why do we need to be saved? Why does God chose to save us? What does He want and expect from us once we are saved?

God reveals the reason he created man is as an expression of love, for God is love. God expresses His love through His creation. God created man and desires to have man come into a special relationship with Himself, for unlike anything else that exists in all of creation, man and only man has been created in the image of God, our creator.

God desires a relationship with us, His creation. God does not need man, for He is perfect and complete without man. But because we occupy a preferred place within the created realm, He has purposed "us" to come into a special relationship with Him.

However, sin prevents this relationship from taking place, because God is holy, righteous and good. Sin, must therefore be addressed before God can bring us unto Himself. That's why we need and have a savior in Jesus Christ. Jesus is God in the flesh. His purpose is to stand in the gap and restore us into a right relationship with God, our creator. While God does not need us, He greatly desires us. It is, therefore our goal, individually and collectively as humanity, to return to that relationship we were created to have with God.

Salvation is the "means" to achieve that relationship. The ultimate goal of Christianity is not to "get people saved," but to help restore our lost relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Salvation is the means to an end, not the end. Our relationship with God begins with Salvation.

I believe the reason much confusion and problems exist within Christian churches is we have lost focus of our purpose. Too many Churches and Christians have placed too much emphasis upon "getting saved" rather than restoring their lost relationship with God through the "good news" (gospel) of "God with us" (Jesus.) Getting saved in and of itself could be quite a self-centered approach to God. If saving your own hide is what salvation is all about, then the day you're saved is the finishing point, for you have achieved your purpose in life. But, is that what God's Word (the Bible) teaches us? I think not. It's all about Jesus. It's all about God. It's all about our walk with God through Jesus for only through Jesus can we come into a right relationship with God.

We will see through careful examination of scripture that restoration begins with salvation. Salvation is the starting point for our walk with God. The true work of the church begins when a soul is saved. That is not to say evangelism has no part, for it

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

does. We must first gather those God is calling before we can help nurture their relationship with God.

Works enters the picture after salvation, not before it. Good works is the fruit of salvation, not the means to salvation. The bible clearly states **we were saved to do good works**.

Eph 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 2:14

who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Works is the fruit of salvation, not the means of salvation

2 Tim 1:9

who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Titus 3:4-6

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,
5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He
6 saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,
whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 2:7-8

7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,
8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

Matt 5:16

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Tim 6:18

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

We see we are clearly called to do good works. Does God also see the lack of good works in our life? The bible clearly indicates yes, He does.

1 Tim 5:25

Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

Our unfruitfulness cannot be hidden before God.

Titus 3:8

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

Titus 3:14

And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

Does being careful to “maintain” good works mean the potentiality of the loss of salvation? This will be examined in further detail later in the study. What Titus is clearly saying is part of a Christian’s purpose is to address the physical, spiritual, moral and emotional needs of those they serve. We will see as we continue to develop this study whether penalties are imposed upon the Christian for not maintaining good works and if so, does that penalty include a loss of salvation?

Heb 10:24

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love “and” good works,

1 Pet 2:12

having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

The above scriptures are written to and for believers and testify that we were saved to bear fruit (good works.) But what happens if a true believer, one who is “born again” does not fulfill his purpose to bear much fruit? ... does not do good works? ... or even worse, departs from the living God, and returns to a lifestyle of habitual sin? Can a true believer, a born again Christian lose Salvation once given?

This question over perseverance and the loss of salvation has caused much separation amongst believers. Some say yes, you can lose your salvation and have scripture they say proves this point, while others say no, and they too stand on scriptural ground. Who’s correct?

There are only three possible scenarios that can occur: (1) they can both be right (highly unlikely, God is not double minded,) (2) they can both be wrong (highly unlikely, God is not a liar) or (3) one is incorrect, the other is not (the most probable scenario.)

It now begs the question, does God clearly state in scripture His mind on this issue? Is this an important enough issue to God for Him to clearly articulate His will concerning the perseverance of the saints? It is, for He does. God does not leave this to doubt or misinterpretation.

This study is an attempt to examine the scriptures that have formed the basis for each of the positions so we may evaluate for ourselves the grounds for our belief.

SCRIPTURES FOR ETERNAL SECURITY

1 Pet 1:3-5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

- mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
- 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Col 3:24

knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

There is much stated in these three verses of First Peter and Colossians. We learn eternal life is (1) an inheritance, (2) that does not fade away, (3) is reserved for us, (4) in heaven, and (5) is kept by the power of God. These are five quite compelling points. It is the destiny of all believers to inherit eternal life. It will not fade away because it is reserved in heaven by God. God holds on to it, not man. If it were kept by the power of man, I'd say that loss is not only possible, but highly probable. However, it is through the power of God that we, the inheritors, are kept.

Rom 8:31-39

- 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
- 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also "freely" give us all things?
- 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.
- 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
- 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."
- 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
- 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,
- 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These scriptures speak for themselves. More than conquerors refers to eternal life. Death, eternal separation from God, is conquered through the resurrection of Jesus. The individual born again believer is included in the phrase "nor any other created thing." The scripture is saying we who are believers do not possess the power or strength to separate ourselves from the living God once given salvation. Note the end of verse 39, nothing can separate us from God. We are now under God's control. We're in His hand. He must let go for us to be lost. The **power of God to hold** us secure is greater than the power of man to separate. You see, this speaks to the very essence of God. How reliable is God? Can our unreliability, our unfaithfulness, our bent to return to sin render God unfaithful? ... unreliable? ... a liar?

Phil 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that **He** who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

It is God who began the work, not us. It is God who completes the work, not us. Our salvation is the work of God, not the work of man. God says He "will" do it, not might do it, or can do it if... There are no conditions associated with this promise.

Heb 7:25

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

It is God who sustains the work, not us. God began, completes and sustains our salvation. There is no sin bad enough that God cannot forgive, nor any place far enough that God cannot reach. The phrase "always lives to make intercession" means his willingness to intervene on our behalf to the Father "before and after" we've accepted Jesus as Savior. His love and promise is unconditional. Whenever God has conditions to any of His promises, He makes those conditions clearly known, and sufficient in detail.

We need never question if conditions exist that have not been disclosed. The bible is replete with conditional promises of God. All such promises clearly articulate God's expectations.

Heb 10:22

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Eph 1:13-14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Eph 4:30

and do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

These scriptures do not leave much room for doubt. God uses strong language to deliver the impact of His promise: assurance, sealed, guarantee. He identifies the time frame as well, the "day of redemption" meaning the second coming of Jesus. This is God and His word, not ours. Not even our lack of faithfulness could break the steadfast promise of God. He guarantees it.

John 6:37-40

37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.
38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
39 "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.
40 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

No casual statements here either. The will of the Father and the will of Jesus Christ will be done. By “no means” will it not be done says verse 37. No conditions here either.

John 10:27-29

27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

More strong language by Jesus, “I know them ... they follow me ... I give them eternal life ... shall never perish ... no one is able.” I think never means never and no one includes ourselves. We ourselves do not even possess the power to remove ourselves from the hand of God! His promise is that secure. In fact, it's an irrevocable promise.

Rom 11:29

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Irrevocable means it is impossible to retract or revoke! Our gifts and our calling cannot be retracted, lost or forfeited. What an awesome God we worship!

Rom 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Lest we think this is not the purpose of God that we can TOTALLY and COMPLETELY take Him at His word. Our hope is the faithfulness and truthfulness of God to keep His word and His promises. We can, and do, stake our lives on Him. The scriptures are valid, written and contractually enforceable. God binds Himself to His promises and statements. While we may waiver, there is no wavering with God, period.

2 Pet 1:4-8

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb 10:35

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

Eternal life and a restored relationship with God through Jesus is but two of the “exceedingly” great and precious promises of God. Could there be any lack of diligence on the part of God to not deliver such “exceedingly” great and “precious” promises? I think not. Let us not cast away our confidence of this great reward.

2 Pet 1:12

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

2 Tim 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

1 Jn 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

The security of our salvation is something God have given us to know. There is no need for any guessing game. We can and should be secure in the knowledge of and in the steadfastness of our salvation. We don't have to be unsure with the "maybe I have eternal life, but I'm not sure" syndrome. No, the LORD has given it to us to know we have eternal life, the Spirit convicts us of that. We never have to be in doubt. Let us be the liar and God be true for "God is able."

Jude 1

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

2 Tim 4:18

And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

It is the LORD who delivers and preserves. Once again, it is God's work, not man's.

1 Jn 3:9

Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

We have "been born" of God and no longer remain in habitual sin. The seed of God, the Holy Spirit, remains in us. Remains, not leaves. This scripture has also been used by those who state that one who returns to a sinful lifestyle can't have the Spirit of God dwelling within him. If you were once saved, but return to a sinful lifestyle, the seed of God cannot be in you, therefore the seed is gone and you no longer have eternal life is their logic. Is this what the scripture says? Let's read it again, the "seed remains." This is quite clear, it "remains," not leaves.

Inference is a common problem that can cause one to depart from the clear meaning of scripture, especially if that inference causes one to contradict that which is clearly written. Here's how the inference proceeds with 1 John 3:9. One has accepted the LORD and remains diligent for a time. This person has subsequently returned to the same sinful lifestyle that he was delivered from. The scripture states that one who is born of God no longer remains in a sinful state. Therefore, because he is in a sinful state he cannot be "born of God." If you are not born again, you do not have eternal life. We therefore conclude that (a) you never had the Spirit of God, or (b) you had the Spirit of God, but lost it because of sin. In either case, you will go to hell unless you repent and return to God.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

This is a logical progression except for one critical element, the scripture clearly states that "the seed remains." If the seed remains, salvation is guaranteed as the numerous scriptures presented earlier testify. Is this scripture a contradiction?

Let's address and review the facts and determine what the Word of God clearly states.

I believe it is close to impossible for someone who has the Holy Spirit to return to a lifestyle of habitual sin. The in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit is too powerful a force to be resisted. That force, the Holy Spirit, remains forever. The Holy Spirit will never leave you nor depart from you after God gifts it to you. God promises it, He guarantees it and seals it with the Holy Spirit. The promise is sealed by God!

But what about the person who claims to be a born again Christian, states he has the Spirit of God dwelling within him, has performed good works for a time, has read and knows the bible, but now returns to a sinful lifestyle? What's the status of that person?

The Word of God gives us two alternatives. One, the man is a liar and a deceiver. He never had the Spirit of God, he operated on human good works and was able to perform that which is in the realm of human possibility. Does the fact that a man can lie and deceive or be deceived bring into doubt the truth and faithfulness of God? Why?

I Jn 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Matt 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Luke 13:23-24

23 Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them,

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

The above scripture is of a man who has been deceived into believing he is saved because of works. That man never embraced Jesus, nor did he have a relationship with Him as evidenced by Jesus saying, I never knew you. This man did not lose salvation for he never had it.

2 Cor 11:13-15

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

2 Jn 1:7-11

- 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
- 8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.
- 9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.
- 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;
- 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

Col 2:18-24

- 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
- 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.
- 20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations--
- 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,"
- 22 which all concern things which perish with the using-- according to the commandments and doctrines of men?
- 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.
- 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Heb 10:35

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

The fact is, a liar and deceiver cannot nullify the gift of God, nor should his lies and deceitfulness rock our foundation of knowing we are saved through Jesus. The Holy Spirit convicts us of this truth. God has given His Holy Spirit to each one of us who accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior. God allows every born again believer to individually know our own status as it relates to salvation. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our salvation. The fruit or works of the Spirit is the sign, or evidence of this truth. Jesus tells us we can know a tree by its fruit. God has not granted this authority to the church or it's ministry to determine the status of the souls it ministers to. Each soul (person) has the means, method and opportunity to know its fate before the almighty God as granted by God. God wants us to know the gifts He gives us.

The parable of the sower clearly explain this as does Jesus in verses 18-23.

Matt 13:3-9

- 3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.
- 4 "And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.
- 5 "Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.
- 6 "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.
- 7 "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

- 8 "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
9 "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

The seeds that fell by the wayside, among thorns and stony places are examples of those who never had eternal life. Those that fell on stony places immediately sprang up. They showed forth some fruit. They appeared to be growing. But did these ever have eternal life? Were they ever born again? The scripture clearly states no, they did not. Jesus and the Word of God are represented by the good, fertile soil. Only seeds that remain in the good soil (Jesus) are saved.

Matt 13:18-23

- 18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:
19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.
20 "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
21 "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.
22 "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.
23 "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Luke 8:12

"Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."

The second alternative is we have received the Spirit of God by the acceptance of Jesus as our LORD and SAVIOR. Acceptance of Jesus as LORD implies obedience, which is works or fruit. Accepting Him as SAVIOR implies salvation. The question is, if we stumble or fall in the aspects of our acceptance of Him as LORD and never produce fruit, will that negate in any way our acceptance of Him as SAVIOR? In a word, no. We established through scripture that Salvation is a work of God, not man. When God promises salvation, it is done. I don't think it is an easy thing to fool God. True and sincere repentance that leads us to accepting Jesus as our personal savior guarantees our salvation and guarantees the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

However, let us again return to the unlikely scenario of the man who is born again but at some later point in time resists the influence of the Holy Spirit in his life and no longer bears fruit. What happens now?

Scripture indicates very strongly that the born again believer, one who is saved, that does not produce fruit will suffer loss of REWARD, not salvation.

Matt 16:27

"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

Rev 22:12

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

We must also remember the bible speaks clearly and uniquely to those who are saved, (the believers) and also to those who are non-believers, (the unsaved.) It is tragic for the believer to apply scripture written specifically to the non-believer to himself. Conversely, It is equally tragic for the non-believer to apply scripture written to and for the believer to himself as well. While God grants opportunity to all to come to the grace and knowledge of the truth, all scripture does not equally apply to all people, all the time. One must exercise spiritual discernment to rightly divide the word of truth. This discernment is only granted to the believer.

Jesus spoke in parables to refrain His truth from the non-believers.

Matt 13:11

He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

For those whom He has given to know must rightly discern His word of truth.

2 Tim 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

With that in mind, let's begin to examine scripture that some say support the loss of salvation to see if they have rightly divided the word of truth. We will also examine scripture that address the status for the apparent born again Christian who not only does not produce fruit, but returns to his sinful lifestyle after tasting the gift of eternal life.

We'll begin by first examining some passages that both the believers in eternal security and the loss of salvation use to support their position.

John 15:1-11

- 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
- 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
- 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
- 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
- 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
- 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.
- 7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
- 8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.
- 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
- 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

- 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Much is said in this parable. This parable is used as a proof text by those who are both for and against eternal security. What is clear, regardless of your position on eternal security is the fruit (works) is produced by Jesus, the vine. We, the branch are to position/abide ourselves within the vine. The word abide means to rest and remain. Verse 2 and 6 have been used as evidence of loss of salvation, but is this the correct interpretation?

The context of this parable has to do with works or the fruit that accompanies salvation. It establishes that we are the branch. The branch bears the fruit, but does not produce the fruit. The fruit is produced by the vine as a result of our "position" or "place" within the vine. We are to "rest" (abide) in the LORD to "bear" fruit. Again, this is the Work of God, not man. But what about verses 2 and 6? Does not Jesus say in verse 2 we will be taken away if we do not produce fruit and in verse 6 thrown into the fire? And is not this fire hell? Doesn't this prove we can lose our salvation?

Yes, the scripture clearly states we will be removed from the vine and consumed by fire, but this fire is not the fire of hell. Notice the scripture says "they will gather them (useless branch) and throw them into the fire." Who are they? ... and what is the fire? This can't be talking about hell because only God can condemn one to hell. If that were the case, the scripture would read, "...and I gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned, but it doesn't say I, referring to God, it says they, so who are they? ... and what is the fire if not hell?

1 Cor 3:15

If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

The fire is that of a fiery trial, not that of eternal damnation in hell. The "they" are none other than Satan and his demons and those under his influence as we see in 1 Cor 5:5.

1 Cor 5:5

deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1 Cor 5:11-13

- 11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner-- not even to eat with such a person.
- 12 For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?
- 13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person."

These are the ones whose seed was sown among the thorny ground. We see that God will cut off from fellowship and union with other believers those whose walk is inconsistent with the gift of salvation. The protective hedge God places around the

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

believers will be removed. Verse 11, “a brother,” may or may not be referring to a “born again” believer who has returned to his sinful lifestyle. Verse 12 seems to imply that the “brother” is not a true believer but one “outside” the body of Christ. Whatever the case, God removes him from the fellowship of believers for the destruction of his flesh. Why? If he is a true believer, so that he may be saved. Yes, there is a penalty for disobedience, but the penalty for the born again believer is not hell. Those who practice such lawless deeds are not “getting away with anything.” For the judgment of believers is now.

1 Pet 4:17

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

The book of Acts has a clear example of this with the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11. While lying to the Holy Spirit is probably not the same as blaspheming the Holy Spirit, we do see a strong example of the destruction of the flesh. Was Ananias and Sapphira born again? Only God knows for certain. In any event, I'd say this is an area where we need to exercise extreme caution. For in this specific example, the penalty was swift, and extreme.

Heb 2:1-3

- 1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.
- 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,
- 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Heb 3:12-14

- 12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;
- 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
- 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

Take heed lest we, as born again Christians, come into judgment of the saints. For we are the saints of God and, as such are to judge a sinning brother. When a brother returns to a lifestyle not fitting a born again believer, we put him out of the fellowship of believers and deliver him into the hands of Satan. The Spirit of God does not depart from such a man, nor will that man be condemned to hell for sin.

1 Cor 5:5

deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Rom 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

When we are born again we no longer walk in the flesh but in the spirit. It says there is no longer any condemnation, not any sin. Sin will always be present in the life of a believer as long as he remains in the flesh. The penalty of sin has been removed forever, washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ. The effects of sin remain, however. The physical suffering that sin brings on in this lifetime will not be spared, though our eternal life will.

However, I strongly believe it to be highly improbable if not impossible for a born again believer to completely resist the indwelling Holy Spirit over an extended period of time. Remember, the person who accepts Jesus as personal savior has done so of his own free will, through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. One cannot yield to the gracious power of the Holy Spirit and continue in a habitual sinful lifestyle. We may indeed be fooled but God is not mocked.

I do believe, however, we do have in our midst those who have not truly repented and yielded themselves totally to God. They are those who “imitate” the works of the Spirit, may even bear fruit ... however, their fruit is “wax fruit” and not good for food. While wax fruit may “look good” it is not useful to anyone. The “true fruit” is indeed meant for “food” to feed others, not ourselves. The branch is fed from the vine upon which it abides. Our vine is Jesus, we’re fed by the Holy Spirit, and pruned by the Father. The wax fruit imitators do not have an in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit although they may cry out Lord, Lord.

Matt 7:21-23

- 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.
22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'
23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

The will of the Father in heaven is for us to abide, rest in Jesus. We come to God on His terms, the narrow gate, not on our terms, the wide gate.

Luke 13:23-24

- 23 Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them,
24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

SCRIPTURES USED TO SUPPORT LOSS OF SALVATION

Let's begin with examining the myriad of “endurance” scriptures. We should see which Greek words have been translated as endurance.

5278 hupomeno (hoop-om-en'-o);

from 5259 and 3306; to stay under (behind), i.e. remain; figuratively, to undergo, i.e. bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere:

KJV-- abide, endure, (take) patient (-ly), suffer, tarry behind.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

The following scriptures include all the verses that use the Greek word *hupomeno*. This word has the Greek word “meno” at its root which means to rest, place or position. It does not imply “work” or “working.” The context of the scriptures referring to salvation or works is for believers to “rest” in Jesus, to “position” ourselves “within” the LORD.

Let's examine the scriptures. The bolded verses are the relevant scripture to the subject at hand.

Matthew 10:22

And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth [<5278 hupomeno>](#) to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 24:13

But he that shall endure [<5278 hupomeno>](#) unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mark 13:13

And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that shall endure [<5278 hupomeno>](#) unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Luke 2:43

And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind [<5278 hupomeno>](#) in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not *of it*.

Acts 17:14

And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode [<5278 hupomeno>](#) there still [<5278 hupomeno>](#).

Romans 12:12

Rejoicing in hope; patient [<5278 hupomeno>](#) in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

1 Corinthians 13:7

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth [<5278 hupomeno>](#) all things.

2 Timothy 2:10-13

10 Therefore I endure [<5278 hupomeno>](#) all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11 [It is] a faithful saying: For if we be dead with [him], we shall also live with [him]:

12 If we suffer [<5278 hupomeno>](#), we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

COMMENT: 2 Timothy 2:10-13 needs to be taken in context. Some mistakenly apply verse 12 to believers. The verse clearly refers to the unbeliever who rejects Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus is the only way to the Father for by no other name can one be saved. This does not refer to the believer who strays. Jesus will never reject the one who accepts Him. This is clearly stated in verse 13 that even if we depart, He remains faithful to His word. To apply verse 12 to mean we can lose salvation is disingenuous, for in the very next breath Paul explains to Timothy this is literally impossible. He reinforces this fact in verse 19, “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

name of Christ depart from iniquity." (NKJ)} The King James version also translates *hupomeno* as "suffer" in verse 12 which is not a good translation in this context. Most other translations use the word endure.

Hebrews 10:32

But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured [<5278 hupomeno>](#) a great fight of afflictions;

Hebrews 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured [<5278 hupomeno>](#) the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:3

For consider him that endured [<5278 hupomeno>](#) such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:7

If ye endure [<5278 hupomeno>](#) chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth [<5278 hupomeno>](#) temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 5:11

Behold, we count them happy which endure [<5278 hupomeno>](#). Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

1 Peter 2:20

For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently [<5278 hupomeno>](#)? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently [<5278 hupomeno>](#), this *is* acceptable with God.

Similar conclusions exist for the word studies for "overcome" and "persevere." I want to reiterate a concept mentioned earlier, that of "Inference." When reading and studying the Word of God, we must be diligent not to "read into" or make "inferences" or "implications" that contradict that which is clearly and plainly written. For example, in James 1:12 (bolded scripture above) one cannot infer or imply that this scripture is saying that if one gives in to temptation he will not receive the crown of life. That inference makes this a false statement and is contrary to the meaning and intent of the passage. The passage clearly states the man who abides and positions himself placidly in the LORD will receive eternal life as promised by God. To do otherwise is to be cavalier with God's Word.

In all such occurrences for those who believe the bible teaches that our salvation is not secure, scripture is (1) taken out of context or (2) misinterpreted by use of inference or implications. There is no scripture that states salvation can be lost for a believer with the same weight and power as scriptures that state it cannot be lost.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

OVERCOMES: The Apostle John uses overcomes in his writing. Let's begin with how John defines overcome.

I Jn 5:5

Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

I Jn 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.

Believing that Jesus is God and has died for us is he who overcomes. The perfection of Jesus is accounted to us when we believe and accept Him as Lord and Savior.

Luke 11:22

"But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

Rev 2:7

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Rev 2:11

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

Rev 2:17

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

Rev 2:26

"And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations--

Rev 3:5

"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but 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 shall go out no more. 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 I will write on him My new name.

Rev 3:21

"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Rev 11:7

Now when they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

Rev 13:7

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Rev 17:14

"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

Rev 21:7

"He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Let's examine the remaining scriptures used to support loss of salvation.

Luke 3:9-14

- 9 "And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."
10 So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?"
11 He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."
12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"
13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."
14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

The above passage is John the baptist speaking to Jewish believers who have come forth to be baptized. This was a baptism of repentance. The tree in Verse 9 refers to the Jews, the descendants of Abraham. The gospel was first opened to the Jews. Those Jews not bearing fruits of repentance and coming to Jesus, the prophesied Messiah, will be uprooted and destroyed. Mosaic Law, a works based legalistic system was the only available means to come to God under the Old Covenant. John declared to non Jewish believers the works expected of them.

Luke 13:6-9

- 6 He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.
7 "Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?'
8 "But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it.
9 'And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.' "

The above passage is a parable of Jesus that should give hope to all that the Father is patient and gives opportunity to everyone to be planted in Jesus. Notice verse 8. Digging around it and fertilizing the soil is the fertile soil of the Word of God, Jesus Christ. Only roots planted in Jesus has hope of bearing good fruit. However, the clock is ticking. Nonetheless, this passage does not refer to a loss of salvation for the believer.

1 Cor 6:9-11

- 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

- 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.
11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Eph 5:3-8

- 3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;
4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.
5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.
8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

This has nothing to do with loss of salvation, but encouragement to bear the fruits of righteousness, to walk in the light. Verse 5 is referring to the deeds of those outside the body. We should separate ourselves from them as is fitting for those saved in Jesus.

1 Cor 15:1-2

- 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,
2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain.

Believed what in vain? Jesus is Lord and is risen. In Him we are saved. Not works, Jesus.

2 Th 2:3

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

A falling away has nothing to do with the loss of salvation. It is a departure from Truth of the gospel and the fellowship of believers. Those in this falling away will receive their just reward (punishment.) This is consistent with 1 Cor. 5:5 and 3:15.

2 Pet 1:10

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

Be sure to abide in the LORD. Our walk should be consistent with one redeemed in Jesus. No implication for loss of salvation. Those who abide never stumble and those who stumble are chastened and those turning away are delivered to Satan, yet saved.

Heb 12:11

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Chastening does not mean loss of salvation.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

2 Pet 2:1-2

- 1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.
- 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

If this is referring to believers, the swift destruction is the destruction of the flesh. This could also be referring to the great apostasy that is to come before the coming of the LORD. We should exercise caution in not being deceived by these false teachers. For non believers that follow, it means eternal death. For believers, great tribulation.

Heb 5:9

And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

This refers to Jesus. Those who obey are saved. It does not say those who do not obey are not saved. Obedience are those who remain/abide in Him.

Heb 6:4-6

- 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,
- 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
- 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Gal 5:4

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

I see nowhere where this speaks of a loss of salvation? It says they can no longer be restored to repentance. Loss of fellowship and the penalties associated with it. In this context it appears this refers to Jewish believers who return again to Judaism, and it's sacrificial, legalistic, works based redemptive system.

Heb 6:11-12

- 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,
- 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Heb 10:26

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins

The book of Hebrews is written to the Jewish believers in the body of Christ. Verse 10:26 is referring to animal sacrifices under Mosaic Law. There can no longer be a return to Mosaic law and its sacrificial system. This refers to the need to perform sacrifices associated with the Judaic system, not a loss of salvation associated with Jesus' sacrifice. This would render a quota system for the forgiveness of sins through

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

the blood of Jesus. His sacrifice is sufficient for all the sins of humankind, past, present and future.

1 Tim 1:19-20

- 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,
20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Suffering “shipwreck” does not mean loss of salvation. This is chastening through fire.

1 Tim 4:1-2

- 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,
2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

2 Tim 2:16-18

- 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.
17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,
18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. (NIV)

Removal from the body does not mean loss of salvation. Deliver such to Satan.

2 Tim 4:10

for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. (NIV)

Demas has left Paul. How can this be equated with a loss of salvation?

Luke 9:62

But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

This can be associated with the parable of the sower. The seed did not fall on fertile ground. Putting your hand to the plow should not be associated with being planted in the fertile ground. This sounds like the seed that fell among thorns that choked the word. One who looks back is more concerned with the cares of the world and not with the things of God. The cares of the world are the spiritual thorns. This is one who never had salvation.

Gal 5:19-21

- 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,
20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,
21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

Galations 5 is contrasting the fruit of the Spirit with the fruit of the flesh, believers with non believers. This is encouraging believers to not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Verses 19-21 are referring to the behaviors of the unsaved. A believer who engages in such behavior is cautioned to refrain, not due to loss of salvation, but due to the penalty of possible delivery to Satan in the here and now. Christian behavior should be distinguishable from those outside the body of Christ.

Phil 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

The fear and trembling does not refer to fear of eternal judgment. The context of this is referring to the born again Christians at Phillippi to refrain from selfish ambitions and bickering among themselves. They are encouraged to become of one mind in and through Jesus, especially in humility. God exalts the humble, not the proud. Fear and trembling has to do with a cautious attitude about how their behavior and walk is regarded by the LORD. This has to do with correction, pruning, chastisement or even delivering such to Satan and in no way implies a loss of salvation.

Col 1:21-23

- 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled
22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--
23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

This is a case of inference being used to contradict the clear word of God in regards to eternal Salvation. In verse 23, "if indeed you continue in the faith" has been inferred to read as a conditional promise because of the use of the word "if." It is clear from scripture that salvation is not conditional once received.

2 Pet 2:20

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

The latter end being worse for them than the beginning does not refer to hell for the believer. Probably delivery to Satan for the destruction of the flesh. (1 Cor 5:5)

Heb 5:9

And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

Obeying Jesus is the acceptance of Jesus as Messiah. Hebrews is written to the Jewish Christians and has a distinct Jewish perspective. This is saying the one time sacrifice of Jesus as eternal High Priest eliminates forever the need to perform the ritualistic sacrifices under the Mosaic system for all whom accept His sacrifice and forgiveness of sins for themselves. Abiding in Jesus is sufficient for salvation.

Salvation: Are We Eternally Secure?

Jude 3

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jude 24

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Jude in no way implies that salvation is suspect or insecure.

In conclusion, I want to end with a series of scripture that testify to the confidence that God can and will do what He promises. **They are God's promises, not man's**. He will do and He will deliver. May your relationship with the LORD continue to grow, deepen and enrich your walk with the LORD, Amen.

1 Cor 1:9

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Jn 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 Pet 1:3-9

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
- 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
- 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
- 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
- 9 receiving the end of your faith-- the salvation of your souls.

The Holy Spirit will never allow a truly saved individual to remain in sin once tasting the gift of life through our Lord Jesus Christ. That argument for that negates the power of God's grace through His Holy Spirit. A carnal mind thinks in those terms but the spiritual mind cannot. We grow in grace, it does not occur by fiat. We can walk confidently in the saving grace of Jesus without fear or apprehension of OUR role. We will ALWAYS be inadequate. Thank GOD for His GRACE through our LORD JESUS.