

## CAN A SAVED PERSON BE LOST AGAIN?

### Matthew 12:43-45

**Introduction:** There's been much discussion, arguments and debates on the subject of being saved and then something happening that causes the once saved person to become lost again. Who is right? Every side of the debate/argument seems to quote scripture that supports their view/belief. A passage often used to support the belief that one can lost his/her salvation is the text. *Matthew 12:43-45*.

#### 1. The Unclean Spirit is "gone" out of a person.

- Notice that the unclean spirit WAS NOT driven out of the person, but went out on its own accord.
- The unclean spirit that left the person said, *"...I will return into MY house..."*
- The person was unsaved when the unclean spirit was there and is still unsaved when the unclean spirit decided to return.
- Notice also that the "house," the person was still empty, Jesus Christ was not there and had never been there.
- This is a picture of a person who tries to straighten his/her own life out on his/her own and does not have Jesus Christ within.

#### 2. "... ye are fallen from grace..." (Galatians 5:4)

- This partial verse is used often to support the belief that one can be saved and then be lost again.
- Notice the first part of the verse, however: *"...Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law..."*
- The truth is that anyone who would try to be justified by keeping the law, by his/her own righteousness to save him/herself has not followed God's plan of salvation by His Grace, not by anyone's works.

#### 3. "...And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the Holy city, and from the things, which are written in this book..." (Revelation 22:19)

- Another verse used by those who believe that one can lose his/her salvation, but note exactly what the scripture is saying:
  - God shall take away their "part" out of the book of life, not that God will BLOT out any one's name which is written in the book of life...there is a difference.
- Salvation is bought and paid for for every human being in the world.
  - *"...He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world..." (1 John 2:2)*
  - Every sinner has a place purchased for him/her in the Book of Life and in the Holy City, bought by the blood of Jesus Christ, which he/she may occupy IF he/she accepts the Savior as his/her own and the eternal life which is freely offered.
    - THIS/THAT PART is prepared for every person and it is his/her opportunity - choice.
  - However, anyone who rejects the Bible and turns his/her back on God's offer will miss the way of salvation and all the good things which Christ has bought for him/her.

**4. "...But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I, myself should be a castaway..."(1 Corinthians 9:27)**

- Here is a man used by God to preach the Gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul is stating that he could lose the power of the Holy Spirit and become unapproved to continue what he was doing if he let his human/fleshly nature take over and control his life.
- Paul is not talking about losing his salvation, but losing his usefulness for the Lord.
- **"...All that the Father giveth me shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise' cast out..." (John 6:37)**
  - Jesus promises that anyone who comes to Him for salvation will never be cast out.

**5. Do Good Works Keep a Christian Saved?**

- **"...Wherefore, my beloved, as ye 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..." (Philippians 2:12)**
  - A person cannot work out something you don't already have.
    - You can't work out your garden unless you have one.
    - You can't let your light shine unless you have a light.
  - A person cannot work out his/her salvation to a lost world until he/she has that salvation.
    - A person does not work FOR his/her salvation, but to work one's salvation OUT to others.
- **"...For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted 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..." (Hebrews 6:4-6)**
  - Notice the wording: **"...IF they shall fall away..."**
    - Is this person saved? Enlightened, tasted the heavenly gift, the good word of God and the powers of the world to come, even something to do with the Holy Ghost.
    - An unsaved person can be enlightened, learn something about Jesus.
    - An unsaved person can "taste" (not eat) the Heavenly gift of the Word of God.
    - The Holy Ghost convicts the lost, each one personally, showing, revealing, offering heavenly things, but to reject, to say "no" is to re-crucify the Son of God again.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. God does not make mistakes, people do.
2. Jesus opened the door of salvation to every human being who will accept it GOD'S WAY.
3. NO ONE LOSES HIS/HER SALVATION for God keeps those who come to Him through His Son safe and permanently, forever.
4. Salvation is not dependent upon the works of people, nor is staying saved dependent upon the works of people.
5. IF people had their way, one could be saved and then lost again, but thankfully God is in charge, not people.