

FOR HOW LONG IS A PERSON SAVED?

Galatians 3:1-3; 1 Peter 1:3-5

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: There are several thoughts about how long a person who is saved stays saved. God's Word states that when one believes in Jesus Christ, he/she is born into the family of God and there is nothing in God's Word about a person becoming "unborn" in God's family. Sadly, there are several teachings, beliefs, theories that there can be changes in one's salvation (being saved) and he/she can become "unsaved" and no longer a member of God's family and resumes his/her destination of Hell. How can a Christian know for certain that he/she will stay saved? How can a person know that his/her salvation is permanent?

I. JESUS PAID FOR ALL SIN FOR EVERY PERSON

1. *Acts 13:38-39*

2. When Jesus died on the cross for sin, He paid for EVERY sin, ALL sin.

- God's required payment for sin has been paid in full by Jesus and there is NO sin left to be paid for.

- *John 19:30; Hebrews 9:12*

II. GOD HAS DECLARED THE BELIEVER IN JESUS RIGHTEOUS

1. It is God WHO determines who goes to Heaven and who does not and He has declared that *"...whosoever believes in His Son, Jesus Christ, shall have ETERNAL life...."*

- God has spoken! It is finished!

- *Romans 8:31-34*

III. EVERLASTING MEANS JUST THAT - EVERLASTING!

1. *"...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 3:16)*

- Eternal life is the life which God gives and is in no way affected by any time limitations.

- *John 6:47; 5:24*

2. If there was somehow an end to "everlasting life" than there would be no such thing as "everlasting life."

IV. GOD HAS PROMISED TO NEVER LOSE ONE OF HIS OWN

1. *John 6:37-39*

2. What can be more assuring than God promising that He will never lose or cast one of His own out.

- Jesus promises to never lose any believer.

- If one could become lost again, then Jesus failed but Jesus didn't fail.

V. NOTHING CAN UNDO A SPIRITUAL BIRTH INTO GOD'S FAMILY

1. As it is impossible to become "unborn" physically after being born to earthly parents, nothing can undo that relationship, so it is impossible to become "unborn" spiritually.

- *John 1:12-13*

2. Salvation, being saved, being born spiritually is a one-time event (experience, occurrence).
 - Jesus declared "... ***Ye must be born again...***" not again and again and again.
 - Once a person is born into God's family through his/her belief/trust in Jesus Christ, he/she is always a child of God.

VI. BELIEVERS IN JESUS ARE ALREADY "GLORIFIED" IN GOD'S EYES

1. ***Romans 8:28-30***
2. God sees the believer in His Son as if that believer had already left this earth and is free from all that contaminates people.
 - God sees salvation, being saved, as an accomplished fact that happened in the believer's past.
 - God sees the believer as if he/she is already in Heaven with Him.

VII. BELIEVING IN JESUS PUTS THE BELIEVER INTO GOD'S HANDS

1. Who could take better care of the believer than God?
 - ***John 10:28-29***
2. The believer trusts God's faithfulness and ability to keep him/her saved rather than his/her own abilities.
 - The believer is safe and secure in the hands of both God, the Father and Jesus, the Son of God.

VIII. THE BELIEVER IS SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Holy Spirit is the stamp, the identification, the proof of one being a member of God's family.
 - ***Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30***
2. God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Holy Spirit, all of the God Head are involved in keeping the believer saved.
 - Held in the Son's hand
 - Enclosed by the Father's hand
 - Sealed by the Holy Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit indwells/seals, secures every believer until each believer reaches Heaven.

IX. BELIEVERS BECOME A PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

1. ***1 Corinthians 12:12-13***
2. As the human body has many different parts, functions, uses, so has the body of Jesus Christ and every believer has his/her "assigned" use (gifts of the Holy Spirit)
 - Once a part of the body of Christ, one is always a part.

X. SALVATION (BEING SAVED) IS A GIFT, NOT A REWARD

1. The believer's salvation does not depend upon his/her performance and works.
 - ***Ephesians 2:8-9***

2. God's Word is very clear, salvation is a gift, not some kind of reward.
 - One's performance has no bearing on whether he/she will get to heaven or not.
 - The believer should be faithful but it is not one's faithfulness that determines whether he/she has been saved or not.
 - **John 3:18**
3. Salvation is not something that can be achieved but something received by one's faith in Jesus Christ.

XI. IT IS GOD WHO KEEPS THE BELIEVER SAVED, THEREFORE SALVATION IS PERMANENT

1. **1 Peter 1:4-5**
2. Believers can live their earthly lives with complete confidence that there is a place awaiting them in Heaven for God has promised over and over that if one would trust, believe in Jesus Christ, there would be a place waiting for them.
 - There is no power greater than God and IF God says so, it will be so.

XII. GOD CANNOT LIE, THEREFORE BELIEVERS ARE SAVED FOREVER

1. **Titus 1:2**
2. Can you believe Jesus? If He said that you have everlasting life when you trust Him, is it so? Is it true?
 - God promises eternal life to those who believe in His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - Can God lie? Has God lied? Will God lie?
 - Can people lie? Have people lied before? Will people lie again?
 - Who are YOU going to believe? God or somebody else?
3. When one puts his/her faith in Jesus Christ, he/she is saved forever. He/she is safe and secure for all eternity.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's Word clearly declares that one is saved when he/she believes/trusts in Jesus Christ and that he/she will be saved forever because of what God, the Father, Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have done continue to do and will do.
2. Believers in Jesus Christ have permanent, eternal life because it is a gift, an act of GRACE on God's part.
3. There is nothing that will cause the believer in Jesus Christ to lose his/her salvation for each believer is born into the family of God.
4. Salvation, being saved, is God's expression of love and concern for all people and He offers eternal life with Him in Heaven to everyone. Have YOU received God's gift of eternal life?

(This outline comes from the book "Secure Forever" by Dr. Thomas M. Cucuzza)

