

## CAN A BELIEVER IN JESUS LOSE HIS/HER SALVATION?

### John 3:16

**Introduction:** Losing one's salvation is perhaps one of the most controversial issues among Christians today. There seem to be two distinct groups:

- Once one is saved, he/she is permanently saved. The danger or misconception of this is that anybody who has joined a church may think that he/she has salvation but really doesn't. When these people are being convicted of their "lostness" by the Lord, they are thinking that they have only "backslidden."
- Then there are those who believe that a saved person can be lost again. When a saved person sins, he/she who was once saved slipped back into lostness because of sin and needs to be saved again. Those who believe this are always living in fear and uncertainty, useless to their Church and to God insofar as their service is concerned for they are always worried about their salvation.

So, which thought is wrong? Can a believer in Jesus Christ lose his/her salvation? Is there really such a thing as Eternal Salvation? What does the BIBLE say?

#### 1. *Romans 8:28-39.*

- After truly being born again, justified by faith, born into God's Family, becoming a Christian in the truest sense of the word, having one's name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, who or what now can separate that believer from Jesus Christ?
- The Bible makes it clear that Jesus conquered death, hell and the grave. He defeated Satan and all Satan's demons. *Revelation 1:18*
  - Satan is a defeated enemy for Jesus Christ finished the work He came to do.
    - Jesus defeated Satan, death and hell and there is no satanic force that can separate the believer from God and "*...nothing in heaven above or below can separate...*" the believer from God.
- The Bible plainly teaches that the believer in Jesus Christ is SAFE, VERY Safe.
  - NOTE that is only the believer in Jesus Christ, only those born again (*Romans 8:28-29*) not to those who "think" they are saved or those we might "think" are saved, but to those who are truly saved.

#### 2. *1 John 5:11*

- Eternal life, life everlasting is given freely to any poor, lost sinner who accepts Jesus Christ as Savior. He/she receives a new nature and becomes a new creature in Jesus Christ. Old things are passed away and behold, all things become new and he/she is made to be a partaker of a divine nature.
- Think about it! A poor, lost, wretched sinner is so loved of God that his/her sins are forgiven, he/she is justified before God and is made partaker of the divine nature of God, Himself.
- This does not happen to just anyone who "professes" to be saved or joins a Church and offers "lip" service by saying he/she has been saved. Being/acting religious does not necessarily mean that there has been salvation.

#### 3. *Matthew 7:21-23*

- Jesus never did nor will He ever say, "**I once knew you, you once had eternal life...**" What He will say is: "*...I never knew you...*"

- In **Matthew 15:8** Jesus pointed out who those who never knew Him would be/are.
- Those who enter heaven will be those who do the will of God (**John 6:40**), truly believe.
- Everlasting life belongs only to those whom Jesus knows.

#### 4. **John 10:27-28**

- Jesus says of one kind/group of people, "**...I know them...**" and of the other group, He says, "**...I never knew you...**"
- Suppose a person says he/she is saved, joins a Church, even teaches a class, does all sort of Churchy things but later turns back into the world. His/her life totally denying the Lord. What happens to that person when he/she dies? Was that person saved or not? (**1 John 2:19**)
- The Bible plainly teaches that it is possible to "join" a Church, work faithfully, even serve as a deacon, teacher, even a preacher, yet remain to be unsaved.
- Unsaved people can produce "religious" works and even lead a lost person to Jesus. (It is the Word of God that brings conviction, not words of people.)
  - **1 Peter 1:23** - God's Word, even spoken by the lost, can do good.

#### 5. **1 John 5:11, 12, 20; 1:2; Hebrews 10:12, 14**

- Jesus is the believer's eternal life because of His one perfect sacrifice on the cross.
  - The blood of animals could not take away sins, only cover them, but the blood of Jesus completely removed, took away the sins of mankind.
- Jesus' sacrifice has made perfect those who are born again, sanctified, forever. Salvation depends upon the work of Jesus Christ, not upon one's faithfulness, works, or anything else.
- ANY condition placed upon keeping eternal life is insulting to the finished work of Jesus Christ.
  - His death and sacrifice would have to be repeated ever time a Christian sinned.

#### 6. Is the assurance of permanent Salvation dangerous?

- Those who cannot believe in or accept Eternal salvation limit what Jesus has done and in reality are afraid of the assurance of eternal life.
  - They are afraid Christians might become careless in the Christian life.
  - Thus they hold over the believer's head the fear of losing eternal life and declare that eternal life depends upon one's faithfulness and sinlessness.
- They also teach that when a person is saved, all the past sins are forgiven up TO THAT MOMENT, but after that, every believer must keep his life clean of sin or be lost again and have to start all over again.

#### 7. How can these kind of thoughts be? What about sins after being saved?

- **Hebrews 7:24-25**
- How many sins had you already committed when Jesus died on the cross? NONE for us had not even been born yet.
- When Jesus paid the sin-debt, ALL our sins were yet uncommitted, still yet to happen.
- "**1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5-; 1 Peter 3:18**

### CONCLUSION:

1. So, after a person is saved and then commits sin again, what happens? **1 John 1:9**
  - Jesus Christ has already paid once and for all for all the believer's sins. Saved! Forever!