

## CAN I BE LOST AGAIN?

### Matthew 13:24-30

**Introduction:** There is a division today among churches over the permanency of one's salvation. There are those who say that a believer in Jesus, who has been saved, can do something that will cause him/her to lose his/her salvation and be "lost" again. There are others who say that once a person has received God's gift of eternal life (salvation) it cannot be taken away and that the believer is permanently, eternally saved, no matter what. So, can a person be saved and then lost all over again?

#### 1. THE QUESTION IS "WHO" IS A TRUE BELIEVER

- Can intellectual knowledge save? Can outward acts save a person?
- Can Church membership save? Can Baptism save?
- One must ask: "Have I really received Jesus Christ by faith for salvation?"
- Most people who deny security of the believer are saying that "superficial faith" is not enough and that is Biblically correct.

#### 2. ARE WORKS EVIDENCE OF SALVATION?

- Judging whether one is saved or not by his/her works can be deceiving for the unsaved can appear to be saved and the saved can appear to be lost.
- Moral reformation, a reversion back to old, former ways is not proof nor genuine that a person is lost again.
- The Christian's profession of faith is justified by FRUIT, but not all Christians act like Christians all the time.
- The most important question is whether God considers a person to be saved. It matters not what others think.

#### 3. MOST LOST/SAVED TEXTS ARE WARNINGS AGAINST SUPERFICIAL FAITH

- *Hebrews 10:26* - Not just one verse, but finish the whole chapter. Jews are being warned that they must turn to Jesus Christ and that sacrifice for them has been paid. (The veil in the Temple was ripped from top to bottom, revealing the most holy place to everyone's eyes.)
- *Hebrews 6:4-9* - Is a warning against refusing the work of the Holy Spirit. An unsaved person hearing the Gospel and then refusing to believe/accept Jesus Christ is the emphasis.
- *Matthew 25:1-3* - A warning to the unsaved Jews that they won't be received into the Kingdom of God.
- *Romans 11:21* - A warning to the Gentiles that God refuses Jews who are lost and will refuse Gentiles who also are lost (unbelievers in Jesus Christ.)

#### 4. SOME TEXTS USED DEAL WITH REWARDS, NOT SALVATION

- *1 Corinthians 3:15; Colossians 1:21-23* - The saved can lose their reward.
- *1 Corinthians 9:27* - A believer can live a life of disappointment to God but not be lost again.

## **5. FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD CAN BE LOST BECAUSE OF SIN BUT NOT SALVATION**

- *1 John 1:6* - Sin deprives the Christian of the presence and power of God and the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- Sin deprives Christians of effective service for the Lord and renders their witness useless.

## **6. GOD CHASTENS AND DISCIPLINES TRUE CHRISTAINS**

- *John 15:2 - 1 Corinthians 11:29-32; 1 John 5:16* - Chastening is evidence of being saved, not lost, even to the point of losing one's life. It's better to enter heaven maimed than not all.

## **7. SOME BELIEVE THAT A BELIEVER CAN FALL FROM GRACE**

- *Galatians 5:1-4* - The most used but misquoted passage. Paul writes of a way of life, NOT salvation.
  - Without living for Christ, one is therefore under the law, not grace. Two types of living is described, two kinds of people are described.
- TO FALL FROM GRACE IS NOT TO BE LOST AGAIN! It is departing from a way of life.

## **8. MOST TEXTS USED TO SUPPORT LOSING SALVATION ARE USED OUT OF CONTEXT**

- The Old Testament texts are prophecies and offer no clear picture of salvation.
- Texts often refer to false/unsaved teachers:
  - *1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Peter 2:1-22; Jude 17-19*

## **9. THE TEXTS USED TO SUPPORT LOSING SALVATION ARE MISUNDERSTOOD OR MISINTERPRETED**

- *Matthew 24:13* - Does not speak of salvation it is about the Tribulation, the persecution of Christians.
- *Revelation 7:14* - Speaks about Christians dying as martyrs for Christ before Christ returns.

## **10. THE ULTIMATE ANSWER TO THE SECURITY/INSECURITY OF THE BELIEVER RESTES ON WHO DOES THE SAVING**

- Eternal (security) salvation is based on the truth that salvation is the work of God, NOT by any human merit, attainment, institution, act or effort.
- If man does the "saving" then it is very insecure as it is impossible in the first place.
- If it is a work of God, then it is secure, complete for God is all powerful, all wise, perfect in every way.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Who is saved? Whomever God says is saved. *JOHN 3:16*
2. So, which matters more - what people/man says or what God says?