

CAN THE SAVED EVER BE LOST AGAIN?

Ephesians 2:8-9

Introduction: Can a Christian lose his/her salvation? When one has truly repented of his/her sins, trusted Jesus Christ for forgiveness, when one has been truly born again, can that person fall away, lose his/her salvation and be lost again? There are some who honestly think so. They do not believe in the eternal security of the believer. Supposing they are right, supposing that God does not keep a person saved unless he/she works hard for Him, and if one sins, he/she will be lost again. If this doctrine were true then look where it would lead:

I. SALVATION WOULD BE BY WORKS AND NOT BY GOD'S GRACE

1. If a person does not become lost again, then it is because of his/her good works.
 - Revivals would be filled with the same people getting saved over and over again.
 - This belittles real salvation and greatly dishonors God.
 - If this doctrine were true, then those getting saved over and over every night at the revival were right and you and I surely need to do the same thing.

2. Whatever salvation one gets the first time from repentance lasts only moments.
 - Salvation by our faith alone may last only 10 minutes.
 - It doesn't guarantee heaven to anybody.
 - Real salvation, according to this doctrine, is earned.
 - One trusts Jesus and repents, for the moment he/she is saved but how long before he/she commits a sin? Then he/she has to work the rest of his/her life hoping to work his/her way to heaven. Ten minutes of salvation by grace and years of salvation by works.

3. Can a saved person ever be lost again?
 - First of all it depends on who does the saving.
 - If God saves, then one will never be lost again.
 - If by man, then whenever he/she sins or quits working for the Lord, he/she is lost again.

4. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
 - No person deserves salvation.
 - Only by God's mercy does anyone become saved.
 - If one can become lost again, then salvation must come by works and not God's grace.
 - The Pharisee was right in his prayer and life if salvation comes by works.
 - The Publican therefore should not pray for mercy but get off his knees and go to work doing something for the Lord (Church).
 - The Scriptures say that the Publican, not the Pharisee was justified.

II. THE BLOOD ATONEMENT AND SUBSTITUTION BY JESUS WOULD BE WORTHLESS

1. *1 Peter 1:19 Acts 20:28 1 John 2:1-2*
2. Clear Bible doctrine in these just read scriptures.
 - Jesus died as a substitution for the whole human race.
 - Anyone accepting Jesus' payment finds salvation according to God.
 - Jesus died once and settled the question forever.
 - *Hebrews 10:12-14*
3. If a Christian gets into heaven by living right, then he/she does not need the blood of Jesus Christ. If the blood of Jesus cannot pay for sin, then it cannot pay for anything/anybody.
4. Jesus Christ was treated like a common, guilty, hell-deserving criminal.
 - He died as the most wicked man in the world.
 - He died as you and I ought to die.
 - He took our punishment and penalty.
5. Jesus Christ became S I N as He took our sins. Thus we take His righteousness. Our sins are accounted for and we are free from the penalty of sin in God's eyes.
 - Jesus Christ died so we might live.
 - We believe, we have salvation forever.
 - This couldn't be true if we had to work for our salvation.
 - Then the blood of Jesus Christ settles nothing.
 - Jesus Christ didn't really take anybody's place.
 - BUT His blood DOES pay for our sins, He DID become our substitute.

III. IF A CHRISTIAN CAN LOSE HIS/HER SALVATION THEN NO ONE IS JUSTIFIED AS THE BIBLE TEACHES

1. First, there are none that are good and there are none that do good.
2. *Romans 3:24-28*
3. Justification is FREE and it comes by the GRACE of God.
 - Not by works.
 - Not by keeping the Ten Commandments.
4. What does Justification mean?
 - Not only forgiveness but restoration to God's favor, as if one were perfect, if one had never sinned.
 - Made righteous.
 - As if a person never had a sin charged against him/her.
 - The Publican was "justified."

- **Acts 1:38-39** When one receives Jesus Christ as his/her Saviort, he/she is justified from ALL things.

5. **Romans 4:3-8**

- Abraham was justified simply by believing God.
- God will still correct when one sins, but He will NEVER condemn a Christian's soul for his/her sins.
- Christians will face their sins at judgment and will lose some reward, but will not be condemned to hell.

6. If a person is justified in the eyes of God, who/what will send him/her to hell? If a person has no sins marked against his/her record in heaven, what, then, will send him/her to hell?
- Therefore, either the Scriptures are wrong or the people who "fall from grace" are wrong.

IV. IF THE SAVED CAN BE LOST AGAIN, THEN JESUS IS USELESS AS INTERCESSOR

1. **Hebrews 10:21-22; ;9:24 Romans 5:9-10**

2. The work of Jesus Christ did not end when He died and was resurrected. He remains to this day at the right hand of God, pleading the cases before God of Christians.

3. **Hebrews 4:14-16**

- Jesus know about our temptations.
- Think about some of your sins, the sins of others, now can you boast of your goodness?
- Peter boasted when he said, "**...I'll lay down my life before I deny you...**"
- No doubt, Christians sin, but we cannot be condemned to hell because Jesus Christ is not dead and He is at the right hand of God making intercession for us.

4. When Peter boasted, Jesus answered and told Peter that before the rooster crowed the next morning, Peter would have denied knowing Him three times, but that Jesus had prayed for him.

- Peter came through that experience because Jesus had prayed for him. It was a terrible sin but Peter wasn't re-saved when he repented.
- Does Jesus pray for us? **1 John 2:1-2**
 - We should not sin, but if and when we do, we have a heavenly friend making intercession for us with God, the Father.
 - How can a person go to hell when Jesus is praying for him/her and taking his/her side before God, the Father?

5. Jesus prays for us. **John 17:20-24**

- Jesus is on the road to the garden of Gethsemane.
- He offers a prayer to God concerning His work and His disciples. He then prays for you and for me.
- What does Jesus ask for? He asks that all who believe in Him would go to Heaven.

6. If you and I can become lost again as Christians, then the prayers and interceding by Jesus is useless.
 - It does no good to have an intercessor with God.
 - It does no good to have the Son of God praying for us.
 - It does no good if one can be saved today and lost tomorrow.

CONCLUSION:

1. What if one could fall from God's grace. What if we had to be re-saved every time we sinned. What if we had to "work" our way to heaven.
 - But thank the Lord Jesus, our salvation is not dependent upon our efforts or goodness.
 - The Bible is not wrong, believers in Jesus Christ are saved forever. Once saved, ALWAYS saved.
2. Those who believe in falling from the grace of God, believe that a Christian can be saved one minute and lost the next are those who would do it that way if they were God!
3. Believe what GOD says, not what anybody else says. Remember, God isn't like us.