

## CONDITIONAL SALVATION

### Matthew 13:24-30

**Introduction:** Church rolls have more numbers/names than there are more in attendance on any given Lord's Day. Where is everybody ? At one time or other every body whose name is on a Church roll made a profession of faith in Jesus and was baptized, therefore becoming a member of a Church. So what happened? Where are all those who say they are "Christians?" Some start good but seem to waver, to drift, to fade away and some openly disclaim any connection to a Church at all, even though their names are on the roll. Is there such a thing as being saved and then being "unsaved?"

#### 1. The most important question is WHO is a TRUE believer.

- One can have intellectual faith and be saved?
- Can outward appearances bring salvation, (if one acts like a Christian?)
- Can Church membership bring salvation?
- Can being baptized guarantee salvation?
- A person must ask him/herself, "Have I really received Jesus Christ by faith as my personal Savior?"
- Most who deny eternal security are really saying that superficial faith is not enough to save -  
AND THAT IS CORRECT!

#### 2. Many scriptures used to support "lost again" doctrine deal with human works as the EVIDENCE of Salvation.

- To judge a person by his/her works can be very deceiving, for the lost can appear to be saved and the saved can appear to be lost again.
- Mere moral reformation IS NOT genuine salvation. Reversion back to the former way of life does not correspond to losing salvation.
- The Christian's profession of faith in Jesus is justified by its fruit. However, not all Christians at all times manifest the fruits of salvation.
- Not all scripture dealing with the evidences of salvation necessarily affect the security of the believer.
- The question to be answered is whether God, HIMSELF considers a person to be saved.

#### 3. Most passages quoted in support of insecurity of believers are in the form of warnings against superficial belief in Jesus Christ.

- *Hebrews 10:26* - The New Testament Jews are being warned that they must turn to Jesus Christ since sacrifices for sins have ceased.
- *Hebrews 6:4-9* - This is a warning to unsaved Jews and Gentiles against falling away from the work of the Holy Spirit (conviction, call to believe).
- *Matthew 25:1-13* - Unspiritual Jews are warned that they won't be received into the Kingdom of God.
- *Romans 11:21* - Gentiles are warned about losing their place of blessing through unbelief. God won't accept Jews if they refuse to believe in Jesus Christ, neither would He accept Gentiles without Jesus Christ either.

#### 4. Some quoted passages by insecurity believers deal with the Christian's reward, rather than salvation.

- *1 Corinthians 3:15; Colossians 1:21-23* - A saved, safe person can lose his/her reward.
- *1 Corinthians 9:27* - A saved, safe person may live a life of disappointing service to Jesus Christ.

**5. A Christian may lose his/her fellowship with God because of sin.**

- *1 John 1:6*

- The Christian, because of sin, may be deprived of some present benefits, such as the fruit of the Holy Spirit and peace of mind.
- The sinful Christian may not have the satisfaction of effective service for Jesus Christ.

**6. True believers will be chastened or disciplined by God, even to the point of losing their lives.**

- *John 15:2; 1 Corinthians 11:29-32; 1 John 5:16*

- Chastening of the Lord is not evidence one is lost, but on the contrary, it is evidence that one is a Christian and is being punished by God.

**7. A Christian is said to be able to "fall away from grace."**

- *Galatians 5:1-4* - is the passage misquoted but it is not speaking of the grace of salvation at all but the kind of life a Christian is free to live in Jesus Christ. Without living for Jesus Christ, one lives a life under the law, but with a life in Jesus Christ, one is not under the law, but under Grace.
- To fall from grace is not to fall from Salvation, but to fall from a way of life.

**8. Most scriptures supporting insecurity of believers are misquoted or quoted out of context.**

- Any Old Testament scripture used as proof do not offer a clear New Testament picture of salvation.
- All scripture passages must be interpreted within their natural settings.
- many passages quoted by advocates of insecurity of believers refer to false and unsaved teachers.
  - *1 Timothy 4:1-2*
  - *2 Peter 2:1-22*
  - *Jude 17-19*

**9. Many passages are simply misunderstood or misinterpreted.**

- *Matthew 24:13* - This speaks not of salvation but of persecution of Christ's Saints. Enemies of Jesus Christ will be enemies of His Children/Family. This passage deals with the time of Tribulation.
- *Revelation 7:14* - Christians will die as martyrs before Jesus Christ returns, certainly they will not "endure."

**CONCLUSION:**

1. The ultimate answer to security or insecurity of the believer rests on the question of WHO DOES THE SAVING!
2. "Once Saved, Always Saved! is based on the Truth that salvation is the work of God, not resting on any merit of the believer and NOT sustained by any effort of the believer.
3. If a person (man or woman) does the saving, then it is indeed "insecure." IF IT IS a work of God - IT IS SECURE!