

SAVED AND SURE

John 5:24

Introduction: There are very few items on the market today that have no guarantee. We investigate each item thoroughly, especially the expensive ones, before buying and that the seller insure us that it is fully, unconditionally guaranteed. Let's think about God' guarantee on our investment of our total existence in Him. There are many who are going through this life unsure, uneasy, anxious and worried about whether they are saved or not. These people believe that they can lose what God gave them, their salvation and believe that they are saved until they sin again, then they become lost all over again.

What if this were really true. what if we really had to do, as they say, work our way into salvation?

I. THE PROMISES IN THE BIBLE CANNOT BE BELIEVED IF SALVATION CAN BE LOST

1. There are many, many promises in the Bible that teach assurance of salvation, *John 5:24* is one.
 - Note that those who believe ALREADY have eternal life.
 - Not that the believer will NOT come into judgment (hell or heaven).
 - Note that the believer has ALREADY passed into eternal life.
 - Therefore, if one can have salvation today and be lost tomorrow, this promise is false.
2. Another promise of eternal life is *John 10:27-29*.
 - Note that eternal life is a gift, from Jesus Christ, Himself.
 - Note that it is FOREVER, not for 10 minutes, nor 10 years, but FOREVER.
 - Note that NO ONE can remove the believer from the safety of Jesus Christ.;
 - Note the security of God's Children:
 - Nothing can remove them from God's protection.
 - Not man, not the devil, not circumstances, not temptations, not sin, not failures, not self
 - Therefore, IF God is true to His promise, IF God can be trusted, IF He means what He says, then those who have trusted Jesus Christ can never lose their salvation.
3. Another promise of eternal life is found in *Romans 8:33-39*.
 - *vv. 33-34*- No one can condemn the believer because it was Jesus Christ who gave Salvation.
 - It is Jesus Christ who is interceding for those who believe in Him.
 - *vv. 38-39*- None of these, which are inclusive, can separate the believer from his/her God.
 - If this promise is true, then no believer shall ever be lost again. He/she can never lose his/her salvation.
4. There are more promises like these, but if these are false, not true, then all the others are also and they won't do anybody any good.

II. CHRISTIANITY IS NO BETTER THAN ANY OTHER RELIGION IF ONE CAN LOSE HIS/HER SALVATION

1. If one must work his/her way to salvation, then one might as well join any of the foreign religions for in them one must do good works to receive any benefits from their god/gods.
2. If one must live a good life in order to receive spiritual benefits, then the blood of Jesus Christ was shed for nothing.
3. Catholic beliefs teach that salvation is dispensed through their Church, that certain rites must be observed and certain rules followed.
 - Salvation for the people is settled by the Church.
 - Certain works could bring about more assurance of one's salvation.
 - It is quite possible to have God's grace removed from the member by action of the Church.
4. Many say that it is by our CHARACTER that we reach salvation.
 - Some believe and teach that we are actually on probation and won't know whether we have been saved or not until death. Then he/she will either be sent to Heaven or Hell, depending upon his/her life here.
 - Some add to the end of their prayer, "...and in the end Lord, save us all."
 - Most of the "lodges" in our country have scriptural laws and rules to follow and almost everyone of them teach salvation by works. They do not teach that our sins were nailed to the cross with Jesus.
5. All the false religions of the world advocate similar beliefs:
 - There must be sacrifices of some sort.
 - There are to be rites and ceremonies.
 - Whatever the eternal blessing is, it will come by works, a good life and by one's own righteousness.
 - These religions do not have a SAVIOR whose blood has settled the question of salvation once and for all.
 - These religions do not have justification from sin.
 - These religions do not have an intercessor for them, seated at the right hand of God.

III. IF ONE SAVED SOUL CAN BE LOST AGAIN, THEN ALL THE SAVED WILL GO TO HELL

1. To our own eyes, everyone looks about the same, but to God, not so, for He looks on our hearts.
2. Outwardly we are much the same, even those who have believed and those who have not. However on the inside it is different. The blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed the hearts of the believer and the believer has been made as white as wool in the eyes of God.
3. Those who are believers in Jesus Christ are like Paul who said, "*...when I want to do good, I end up doing evil, and I serve the laws of God with my mind, but the laws of sin with my flesh...*"

4. God has said, "*There is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*"
 - Every believer in Jesus Christ sins. "*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...*"
 - Haven't you sinned lately? Ever doubted God? Ever lacked Faith? Ever neglected your Lord and His Church? Ever been critical? Ever robbed God of His tithe?
 - See, if guilty of any one of these and countless other sin, in the eyes of some, we are lost. In the eyes of SOME, yes, but in the eyes of GOD, no! Not if you have trusted Jesus Christ to be your Savior and Lord.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible does NOT teach that we are on probation while we are here on earth.
2. The Bible does NOT teach that believers can fall from the hands of God.
3. The Bible does NOT teach salvation by works.
4. The Bible DOES teach that NOTHING can take the believer from the hands of God.
5. The Bible DOES teach that believers do sin, but that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses them.
6. The Bible DOES teach that it is GRACE that assures salvation, not works.
7. **1 John 5:13-15** is the "golden" text of assurance that those who believe in Jesus as the Son of God and that God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day, and has confessed Jesus with their lips, are assured by almighty God, Himself, that the believer has eternal salvation.
8. Where in the world do people get the idea that a believer in Jesus Christ can lose what Jesus Christ has given, eternal salvation? Because that's how they would have it if they were God!