

Once Saved Always Saved?

18 VERSES THAT PROOVE WE CAN LOSE OUR SALVATION

(1) *Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto **ten virgins**, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And **five of them were wise**, and **five were foolish**. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. **Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not** (Mat 25:1-13).*

Comments: The ten virgins in this parable symbolize the collective Church (all Christians everywhere). Five were wise and ready to meet their Bridegroom and five were foolish and unprepared. According to the parable, the wise Christians made it into the marriage feast while the foolish ones were turned away at Christ's return. Clearly, the foolish Christians lost their salvation.

(2) *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man (**Jesus**) travelling into a far country (**Christ's Ascension**), who called his own servants (**the Church or Believers**), and delivered unto them his goods (**a spiritual Kingdom—the Church**). And unto one he gave five talents (**Spiritual gifts/ministry responsibilities**), to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his **several ability** (1 Cor 12:7-11; Rom 12:6; Eph 4:8; 11)... Then he that had received the five talents went and traded (**used his gifts for God's Kingdom**) with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord (**Jesus Christ**) of those servants (**Christians**) cometh (**the Second Coming**), and reckoneth (**the Day of Judgement**) with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, **I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord**. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: **enter thou into the joy of thy lord**. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I*

knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant **(Christian)**, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury **(putting your faith to work—Jas 2:14)**. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. **And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth** (Mat 25:14-30).

(3) And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward **(Christian)**, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? **Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.** But and if that servant **(Christian)** say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, **and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the *unbelievers*** (Luk 12:42-46).

(4) I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch **(Christian)** in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch **(Christian)** that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. **If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned** (Jon 15:1-6).

(5) And if some of the branches **(Jews)** be broken off **(lost)**, and thou, being a wild olive tree **(Gentile Believer)**, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches

were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou **(Gentile Believer)** **standest by faith**. Be not highminded, **but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee** (Rom 11:17-21).

Comments: Only Christians are grafted into the Olive Tree representing God's covenants. And since many Jews have forfeited their place in the Olive Tree on account of unbelief, the Gentiles have now been given a chance to fill the vacancy. Yet these Gentile Believers are warned not to take this for granted or become proud about it. Why? Because if God destroyed ancient Israel on account of their unbelief, He can just as easily destroy anyone else who would follow a similar pattern by departing from the Faith through unbelief.

(6) *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway **(rejected)*** (1Co 9:27).

Comments: Paul understood that he must continually control his carnal tendencies. Why? Because he feared that while warning others of eternal damnation, he himself would become a reject. In other words, he would be disinherited by God and unfit to partake in eternal life.

(7) *Therefore we **(“WE” MEANS PAUL AND THE CHURCH)** ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, **lest at any time we should let them slip**. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How **shall we escape **(ESCAPE WHAT? DAMNATION!), if we neglect so great salvation****; which at the first began to be spoken by our Master, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him (Hebrews 2:1-3).*

(8) *Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, they do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. **So I swear in my wrath, they shall not enter into my rest.**) **Take heed **(WARNING!), brethren **(BELIEVERS)**, lest there be in any*****

of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God (Heb 3:7-12).

(9) Let us (**“US” MEANS PAUL AND THE CHURCH**) therefore **fear**, lest, a promise being left us of **entering into his rest**, any of you should seem to **come short of it**. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. **Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief** (Heb 4:1-2; 11).

Comments: God rescued Israel out of Egypt so that they might inherit the Promised Land. In the New Testament, Egypt symbolizes the world and the Promised Land symbolizes Heaven. But while Israel was saved from Egypt they were unable to enter into the Promised Land because they fell into unbelief. Here, Paul is encouraging Christians to remember the example of ancient Israel in order to avoid doing the same thing (falling into unbelief), which would result in the **same** type of punishment that befell ancient Israel—they were barred from entering the Promised Land, a type and figure of Heaven.

(10) For it is impossible for those who were **once enlightened**, and have **tasted of the heavenly gift**, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **If they shall fall away** (**UNBELIEVERS CANNOT FALL AWAY FROM SOMETHING THEY NEVER HAD**), **to renew them *AGAIN* unto repentance** (**THEY HAD REPENTANCE BEFORE**); seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame (Heb 6:4-8).

(11) For if **we** (**“WE” MEANS PAUL AND THE CHURCH**) **sin wilfully AFTER** that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth **NO MORE *sacrifice for sins***, But a certain **fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done**

despite unto the Spirit of grace? (WHAT'S WORSE THAN DEATH? HELL!)

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb 10:26-31).

Comments: Paul reminds the Church that if they continue to sin intentionally after having receiving the “knowledge of the truth” (the Gospel) they can anticipate something far worse than death. He then goes on to describe the fate of ancient Israel who were disobedient toward the Law and stoned to death by the mouth of “two or three witnesses”. If our punishment is to be worse than **that**, what else can it be other than hell??

Now what does it mean to sin “willfully”? Here’s how Paul defines it:

who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace (Heb 10:30).

According to this verse, if we do the following things we will be eternally cut off: (a) intentionally/deliberately turn our backs on Jesus, (b) treat him as if He were a piece of trash, and then (c) proceed to insult the Holy Spirit. Friend, if you are guilty of any of this after coming to know Christ as your Savior, be warned, this verse may well apply to you!

(12) ***Brethren*, if any of you (Believers) do err from the truth (depart from the truth), and one convert him (turn him back); Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner (a sinning Brother in the Church) from the error of his way shall save a soul from death,** and shall hide a multitude of sins (Jas 5:19-20).

(13) **But there were, false prophets also among the people,** even as there shall be **false teachers among you,** who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, **even denying the Lord that **BOUGHT** them,** and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and **their **DAMNATION** slumbereth not. For if God spared not the**

angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment (2 Pet 2:1-4).

Comments: Peter warns the Church about the false teachers that would soon appear. He does not pretend as though they had never been genuine Believers to begin with. Yet these false teachers had backslid to the point of denying the “**Lord who bought them**”. We know that only Believers are redeemed and blood purchased by Jesus, though He has died for all: ***For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's*** (1 Cor 6:20). Therefore only those whom Jesus has redeemed are His **purchased possession** (Eph 1:14) and God’s Children. The unregenerate are not Christ’s “purchased possession”. So if these false teachers would have at one time been “blood bought” by Christ, yet now deny Him, they would have still been considered “saved” in the past. However, in verse 4 we discover that because of their rebellion against God they had been cut off from salvation and condemned to hell.

(14) **For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.** *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, **to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.** But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire* (2 Pet 2:20-22).

Comments: Just like our previous point, these verses continue with the same subject (false teachers) found in 2 Peter 2:1-4. Here again, the false teachers are said to have “**escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**”. But some time later they were **AGAIN** entangled in the world, and **overcome**. Peter goes on to condemn them with harsh words promising that their latter end will be worse than what it would have been had they never converted. 2 Peter 2:4 describes exactly what they should expect.

(15) *These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, **twice dead, plucked up by the roots.** Raging*

waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, **to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever** (Jude 1:12-13).

Comments: Before conversion, these Believers were dead in their trespasses (Eph 2:1). After conversion they were spiritually alive through faith. But while their faith was firmly rooted (Mat 13:3), they became dead **AGAIN** on account of sin (**twice dead**). **Consequently, they will be plucked by the roots and cast into hell fire (v. 13).**

(16) Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward (2Jon 1:8).

Comments: Why would John warn the Believers against losing their reward, eternal life, if that is impossible? To me, this “full reward” sounds like salvation. Indeed, that is the greatest reward of all!

(17) I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not (Jude 1:5).

Comments: Having escaped Egypt, the children of Israel perished in the wilderness because of their unbelief. Jude reminds the Church of this event and uses it as a dire warning. His aim is to encourage Believers not to take their salvation for granted, as did the ancient Israelites.

(18) He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels (Revelation 3:5).

Comments: Please consult your dictionaries. **Blot means erase**. And you cannot erase something that wasn't there already. Jesus is promising that if we overcome, He will give us eternal life. **But if not, our name may be erased from the book of life.** Let us remember that this letter and these words were written to the **CHURCH in Sardis.**

*****21 VERSES THAT PROOVE OUR SALVATION IS CONDITIONAL*****

Condition #1 Count the Cost

*For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and **counteth the cost**, whether he have sufficient to finish it? (Luk 14:28)*

Condition #2 Confess and Believe

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and **shalt believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou **shalt be saved** (Rom 10:9).*

Condition #3 Repent and be Baptized (Become Born-Again)

*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, **and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost** (Acts 2:38).*

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God** (Jon 3:3).*

Condition #4 Love God and Neighbor

*And he answering said, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live** (Lke 10:25-28).*

Condition #5 Do God's Will

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven** (Mat 7:21).*

*And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that **doeth the will of God abideth for ever** (1Jn 2:17).*

Condition #6 Endure to the End

*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: **but he that endureth to the end shall be saved** (Mat 10:22).*

Condition #7 Be Willing to Forsake your Life and Family

*If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, **he cannot be my disciple** (Luk 14:26).*

Condition #8 Bear your Cross and follow Christ

*Whosoever doth not bear his own cross, and come after me, **cannot be my disciple** (Luke 14:27).*

Condition #9 Keep your Heart Pure

*Blessed are the pure in heart: **for they shall see God** (John 5:8).*

Condition #10 Be more righteous than the Pharisees (who merely had outward righteousness)

*For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall **exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven** (John 5:20).*

Condition #11 Continue in Christ's Words

*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed** (John 8:31).*

Condition #12 Demonstrate your Love for Jesus by Keeping His Commandments

*If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ... **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them**, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and **I will love him, and will manifest myself to him** (John 14:15,16, 31).*

Condition #13 Continue in God's Goodness

*Behold then the goodness and severity of God: toward them that fell, severity; but toward thee, God's goodness, **if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off** (Romans 11:22).*

Condition #14 Hold Fast the Gospel Message

through which also you are being saved, **if you hold fast that word I brought as Good News to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain** (1 Cor 15:2).

Condition #15 Conform to Christ's Death (Die to Self)

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being **made conformable unto his death**; If by any means I might **attain unto the resurrection of the dead** (Php 3:10-11).

Condition #16 Pay Attention to yourself and what you Teach

Pay attention to yourself, and to your teaching. Continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you (1 Timothy 4:16).

Condition #17 Fight the Good Fight of Faith and Lay Hold on Eternal Life

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses (1 Tim 6:12).

Condition #18 Hold the Beginning of your Confidence Steadfast unto the End

For we are made partakers of Christ, **if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end** (Heb 3:14).

Condition #19 Follow Peace with Men and Holiness

Follow **peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord** (Heb 12:14)

Condition #20 Abide in the Doctrine of Christ

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. **He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son** (2Jn 1:9).

Condition #21 Combine Works with your Faith

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? CAN FAITH SAVE HIM? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me

thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, **O vain man, that faith without works is dead?** Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. **Ye see then how that by works a man is justified a, and not by faith only?** (James 2:14-19).

VERSES THAT WARN THE BELIEVER TO GUARD THEIR SALVATION
And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God** (Luk 9:62).

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling** (Philippians 2:12).

And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? (1Pe 4:18)

Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election sure**: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2Pe 1:10-11).

CAN CHRISTIANS BE CARNAL AND SAVED?

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit (Mat 7:16-18).

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts (Gal 5:24).

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity** (2 Ti 2:19).

Follow peace with all men, **and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord** (Heb 12:14).

but if we **walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him (1 John 2:19; 29).

Everyone doing sin also does lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Everyone staying in Him does not sin. Everyone sinning has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one lead you astray. The one doing righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. The one doing sin is of the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested: to destroy the works of the devil. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: **Everyone not doing righteousness is not of God, neither the one not loving his brother** (1 John 3:2-10).

HOW DOES THE BIBLE QUALIFY A CHRISTIAN?

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word**, then are ye my disciples indeed (John 8:31).

Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree rotten and its fruit rotten, **for a tree is known by its fruit** (Mat 12:33).

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you (John 15:14).

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is

death; but to spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. **So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God** (Romans 8:5-14).

And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof (Galatians 5:24).

They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate (Titus 1:16).

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. **If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world (1 John 2:15-16).

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not (1 John 5:18).

HOPE OF SALVATION IS OUR ONLY ASSURANCE

And now I stand here to be judged for the **hope of the promise** made of God unto our fathers (Acts 26:6).

But let us, since we are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the **hope of salvation** (1 Thes 5:8).

that, being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the **hope of eternal life** (Titus 3:7).

that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the **hope** set before us: (Hebrews 6:18).

VERSES THAT SEEM TO TEACH A PERSON CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (Jon 3:16).

And whosoever liveth and **believeth** in me shall never die. Believest thou this? (Jon 11:26)

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (1 Jon 5:10-13).

Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life** (Jon 5:24).

Comments: It is easy to take these verses to the exclusion of all others. Yet as described above, salvation is a package deal that entails many different conditions. Belief is only one of them. There are many other requirements that need to be accepted including the requirement to believe.

And this is the **Father's will** which hath sent me, **that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day** (Jon 6:39).

Comments: I will point your attention to the fact that God's will is not always accomplished or carried out. How do I mean? Let's look at the following scripture: *The*

Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, **not *willing* that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance** (2 Peter 3:9). Even though it's God's will that none perish and all receive eternal life, this will not happen. Sadly, there will be millions of people burned up in hell one day.

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: **And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one*** (Jon 10:27-30).

Comments: This verse was already fulfilled. It directly referred to the Disciples of Christ. Notice: *Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: **That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none*** (John 18:9). **In John 17:12, Jesus said, "those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost except the son of perdition."** Moreover, if one should decide to walk out on God, God isn't at fault.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God (Eph 2:8).

Comments: Here again is yet another verse that is taken to the exclusion of all the rest. Grace and faith apply just as much as works. While we are not saved by works alone or faith alone, we need BOTH to "seal the deal". Please refer to James 2, where he says, *shew me thy faith without thy works, and **I will shew thee my faith by my works*** (Jas 2:15).

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance (Rom11:29).

Comments: The Greek word *Ametameletos* ("without repentance") simply means "**not to be repented of**". Please look up this word in the Strong's original Greek. You will find I am giving a direct translation of it. We should read this verse as follows: *For the gifts and calling of God are **not to be repented of***. In other

words, don't turn away from those things that God has given you, including His call on your life.

“THEY WERE NEVER SAVED TO BEGIN WITH”

Eternal security proponents are often divided into two camps: (1) those who believe in the most extreme application of the **certitude of salvation** and (2) those who maintain a more conservative application of the same teaching. The second group will frequently say that if Christians don't show evidence of salvation they are false and therefore, “they were never saved to begin with”. To examine this argument closely, I've broken it down into the following scenarios:

1. showed evidence of conversion for **10 months**, but later appeared to no longer be a Christian
2. showed evidence of conversion for **3 years**, but later appeared to no longer be a Christian
3. showed evidence of conversion for **10 years**, but later appeared to no longer be a Christian
4. showed evidence of conversion for **25 years**, but later appeared to no longer be a Christian

You will notice that the only difference in the above examples is the duration of time between them. Some “Christians” appeared to be “saved” longer than others. But eventually, they too were proven lost. **If you stop and think about it, how much security is found in such a model anyway? You're only secure as long as you show evidence of being saved, otherwise, “you were never saved to begin with”.** But on the other hand, those who believe in conditional salvation maintain that you were initially saved and then fell out of that condition because you stopped being obedient to Christ's teachings. So we are left to wonder which side is truly offering its adherents anymore security than the other. In my opinion, it appears that both offer the Believer the same amount of security.

DO WE LOSE OUR SALVATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER WE SIN?

No! According to the Scriptures, God has no desire to cut us off from salvation the moment we fall into sin (Rom 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9). The Lord is entirely merciful and gives us ample opportunity to repent and turn away from our evil ways. He is always quick to forgive and pardon us once we have repented.

Throughout the New Testament, we discover that God honors sincere faith. He will never allow sincere Believers to perish in their sin if He feels there is a chance they will repent (2 Tim 1:12; Jud 1:24). Yet those who stubbornly cling to iniquity will be lead further and further down the road of no return until they are severed at last from all hope of salvation. This doesn't happen overnight, but it is a gradual creeping process that causes one to eventually lose touch with all of their former desire and inclination toward God. At last, they completely forget about His involvement in their life and have no desire to return into fellowship with Him. How careful we must be not to fall into the condition of unbelief but to daily maintain our love and fervor for Jesus.

In Christ alone,
John A.