



THE PERMANENCE *of* SALVATION

Twelve Reasons Why
"Once Saved, Always Saved"
Is True

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The Permanence of Salvation

One of the most debated issues in the history of the church has been whether or not a person, once saved, can lose his salvation. There are those who believe that a person must work to *obtain* salvation. Others hold to the belief that a person is saved through faith, but is then responsible for *maintaining* salvation by living a faithful Christian life. Those who subscribe to this line of thinking believe that failure to live a faithful Christian life results in forfeiture of salvation and loss of eternal life. What does the Bible have to say about these issues?

According to the Bible, when a person trusts Christ as Savior he is, at that very moment, born again.

“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” (John 3:3).

Jesus confronted Nicodemus with his need for salvation and then explained how a man can be born again.

*“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” (John 3:16).*

So, the question remains. Can you lose your salvation or not? Is permanence just wishful thinking? Is there any scriptural foundation for belief in *the permanence of salvation*? This question is more significant than most people realize because it strikes at the very heart of what it means to be “saved”. The answer will cause each of us to confront what we believe about God’s grace versus man’s works.

Consider the following twelve reasons why we know salvation is permanent:

1. Salvation is permanent because Christ paid the price for all sin--past, present, and future.

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38-39).

The word "forgiveness" means “to cause to send away” as in “to release one's sins from the sinner”. All of our sins were in the future when Jesus died. Therefore we know that if He has paid for *any* of them, He has paid for *all* of them. “All” means “all”! This is not a concept

confused in translation. "All" in the Greek means 100% of all there is.

*"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost" (John 19:30).*

The payment required for all sin for all time *was paid in full*. If the penalty for all the sins of your entire life has been paid, and you have placed your faith in Christ alone, what could send you to hell? The answer is, *nothing*. That perfect, one time payment that our Lord Jesus Christ made for each of us purchased our *eternal* redemption! If it is *eternal* redemption then, once you have been redeemed, it must certainly last *forever*.

*"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained **eternal redemption** for us" (Hebrews 9:12).*

2. Salvation is permanent because believers have been justified; that is declared righteous.

God alone determines who goes to heaven and who does not. He has ordained that all that put their trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior are justified.

“Justified” is a judicial term that describes the status of a person whom the judge has declared “not guilty”! The Judge of the universe has spoken on behalf of the believer and the matter is settled. The eternal verdict is “not guilty”.

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Romans 8:31-34).

3. Salvation is permanent because everlasting life is everlasting.

Everlasting means “eternal, perpetual, forever, endless, ageless, dateless, timeless, everlasting, infinite, permanent and ceaseless”. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary* states, "When referring to eternal life, it means the life which is God's and hence it is not affected by the limitations of time." The Bible says,

*"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" (John 3:16).*

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath **everlasting** life" (John 6:47).*

*"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 [has] passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).*

If everlasting life could cease, then it would not be everlasting! It would be temporary.

4. Salvation is permanent because God promises never to lose the one who trusts in Jesus Christ.

God promises that, if you come to Him by faith, He will never lose you nor cast you out. What could be more assuring? It should settle the issue of eternal security once and for all. Jesus said,

*"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me **I will in no wise cast out.** For*

I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 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" (John 6:37-39).

The will of the Father, to which Jesus Christ was obedient, is set forth in verse 38. You are secure because Jesus promised never to lose you! If you can be lost after having once been saved, then Jesus Christ is disobedient to His Father and a failure. That, of course, is impossible. He was perfectly obedient in fulfilling all of the Father's will, part of which was to never lose those who place their trust in Him alone.

5. Salvation is permanent because the *Eternal God* does not give birth to *temporary* children.

Humanly speaking, when you were born you became the child of your birth parents. There is nothing that can undo that biological relationship. If this is true in the physical world, why would it be any different in the spiritual realm? The idea of becoming unborn is nowhere found in Scripture! I repeat, nowhere!

"But as many as received him [Jesus Christ], to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them

that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

Salvation is an event that happens only once in a person's lifetime. The Gospel of John, chapter 3, could not make this any clearer. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." He *did not* say, "Ye must be born again, and again, and again." Once you become a child of God, you are henceforth and forevermore a child of God!

6. Salvation is permanent because the believer is already glorified in the eyes of God.

This is an amazing fact! The believer is already seen as being in Heaven with the Lord.

*"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, **them he also glorified**" (Romans 8:28-30).*

You are already glorified (aorist tense) in the eyes of God. God sees you as though you had already left this earthly tabernacle with its confines, sickness and disease. He sees you as though you had left behind your sin nature and its consequences in your life. If God sees it as an accomplished fact in the past, then it must and will be *your experience* in the future. Otherwise God is not God. What an awesome God we have!

7. Salvation is permanent because, when you believe, you are in God's hands--not your own.

I once worked with a man who believed that, if he were to sin after he trusted Christ as his Savior, he needed to confess that sin before he died or he would be lost in hell forever. This idea is not found any place in Scripture. This man was, in fact, trusting in *his faithfulness to confess his sins* instead of *trusting in Christ*. Jesus said,

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28).

This is a wonderfully reassuring verse which states clearly the everlasting security that believers have in

Christ. For many years Allstate Insurance Company has employed the motto "You're in good hands with Allstate". While Allstate may be a fine insurance company, you're in *even better* hands with the Lord Jesus Christ! This point is brought home even more in the next verse which says,

"My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:29).

You are secure in the hands of both the Father and the Son. But the Biblical assurance goes even further.

8. Salvation is permanent because the believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Being “sealed” with the Holy Spirit can best be illustrated by examining the historical function of a king's signet ring. In days of old, a king would seal a letter with his signet ring to authenticate its origin as well as to protect the privacy of its contents. A signet ring was crafted with the king's unique symbol on it so that when it was pressed into soft wax poured over the edge of the document the unique marking was left in the wax. The undisturbed wax impression was proof that what was contained inside belonged to the king

himself. This is the same concept described in the Bible to explain this special ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is the Greek word “*sphragis*”. *Strong's Greek and Hebrew Dictionary* defines signet as “*fencing in or protecting from misappropriation; by implication the stamp impressed (as a mark of privacy, or genuineness), literal or figurative*”. The Holy Spirit is that seal of the believer’s salvation keeping him secure until he reaches Heaven. This role is consistent and in harmony with the work of both the Father and the Son.

So it is evident that the entire Trinity is involved in keeping the believer saved. He is held in the Son's hand, enclosed by the Father's hand, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory”
(Ephesians 1:13-14).

“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Ephesians 4:30).

9. Salvation is permanent because, when a person trusts Christ, he becomes part of the body of Christ.

The moment a person believes in what Christ did for him on the cross, he is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. He becomes one with Christ and every other believer in the body. Altogether we become "body parts" such as eyes, ears, etc.

(1 Corinthians 12:12-26). The thought of parts "coming and going" is inconceivable and even preposterous. Yet, this would have to be the case if a believer could lose his salvation. No. Once you become part of the body of Christ you are forever a part of the body of Christ. Paul described this new relationship as follows:

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (1Corinthians 12:12-13).

10. Salvation is permanent because everlasting life is a gift--not a reward.

Unlike all other religions of the world, Biblical salvation does not depend on a person's performance.

Every other religion in the world bases salvation on the individual's good works, and thus on the performance of the individual. We see this in Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and in many "Christian" religions, such as Catholicism, Church of Christ, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, etc. However, the Bible is clear. *Salvation is a free gift.*

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Let me again state the obvious. A gift is not a gift if it has to be earned.

And so the truth becomes clear. If a person is not saved by performance, then whether he lives faithfully or not has no bearing on whether he will go to Heaven. Yes, of course, the believer *ought to be faithful*, but that is not the issue in salvation. Your salvation is totally dependent on *GOD'S faithfulness*--not yours. If you are depending on your good works to get you to Heaven, then you are *trusting in your faithfulness* for your salvation. If you are struggling to "hang on", you do not understand that Biblical salvation is a gift. It is not something to be *achieved*, but rather it is something to be *received* by faith. The Bible says,

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

11. Salvation is permanent because it is God who keeps us saved.

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:4-5).

When you call a hotel to make a reservation, the clerk at the front desk makes the reservation for you. You make your trip fully trusting that, when you arrive at that specific hotel, there will be a room set aside for you. In fact, you would be surprised if there were no reservation for you when you arrived. You *fully expect and believe* that there will be a room waiting for you when you arrive, and you have a right to that expectation. After all, it has been promised to you!

The sad truth is most people have more trust in Holiday Inn than they do in the Lord Jesus Christ!

They live their entire lives fearing that they do not have reservations in Heaven even though *God has promised* them over and over to every one that would simply place his trust in Jesus Christ. There is no greater power in the universe than God, and it is He Himself who keeps our heavenly reservation. We need only trust Him and believe what He says about our eternal home.

12. Salvation is permanent because God cannot lie.

If Jesus Christ Himself said that you have (present possession) everlasting life the moment you trust Him as Savior, is it true or not? The fact is, God cannot lie so it *must* be true. Stop and ponder this truth for a moment. Paul's epistle to Titus states,

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" (Titus 1:2).

God promises eternal life to those who believe. Will you believe God who cannot lie, or will you believe man, who *is* fallible and prone to error? The Bible says,

"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God

hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:9-12).

And so it is clear that when you put your faith in Jesus Christ you are saved forever. You are safe and secure for all eternity. This is God's way of salvation and His promise to you. Just as natural children born of human parents are those parents' children from that point on, likewise once God gives spiritual birth to *His* children, they are His children forever. Nowhere in the Bible can we find a single verse that speaks of a believer becoming "unborn" once he has been born into God's family. Nor does the Bible teach that a person can be born again, and again, and again. The Scriptures are abundantly clear that once a person is saved, he is saved forever. He has *everlasting life!* It is the Lord who keeps a person saved after he has trusted Christ as personal Savior, and not he himself. The believer is "preserved in Jesus Christ". This is "eternal security".

It is evident that if it were up to each of us to keep ourselves "preserved" for Heaven, then we are in very feeble--even *impossible* hands! We cannot keep

ourselves saved any more than we can save ourselves to begin with. The Apostle Paul said it eloquently in Galatians,

"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"
(Galatians 3:13).

Believers are kept eternally by the power of God alone.

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time
(1 Peter 1:5).

Since it is God who keeps and preserves, believers can never be lost once saved.

ARE YOU SURE OF HEAVEN?

While reading this booklet you may have come to the realization that you have been trusting in your good works to get you to heaven. You cannot be saved that

way. Please take some time to read and understand the following truths:

The Bible tells us that we are all sinners, less perfect than God.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23).

To sin is to *miss the mark* of God’s perfection. We have all violated His word and broken His commandments. The price that God demands for payment of sin is death. If you choose to pay for your own sin, you will have to die and spend forever separated from God in Hell.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

God's Word also says that no sin can enter Heaven because Heaven is a perfect place and sin would bring death. Man must be sinless in God's eyes to enter Heaven.

“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life” (Revelation 21:27).

There is absolutely nothing you can do to obtain the sinless perfection God requires for eternal life. No amount of good works or sincerity can give you the righteousness needed. The Bible says,

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Because God loves you, He sent His Son Jesus Christ-- God in the flesh-- to earth to take your place and make the complete payment for all your sin. Three days later, he came back from the dead proving the payment was accepted by God the Father.

“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8).

All you must do to possess everlasting life is believe, or trust, that Jesus Christ alone paid the price for your sin.

“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” (John 3:16).

God promises that if you put your trust in Christ alone you will receive, at that very moment, everlasting life. He cannot lie. Because He has promised it, on the

authority of God's Word, you can be sure of going to Heaven today.

*"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 John 5:13).*

Why not, right now, trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior? If you do, He will give you eternal life and you will be *secure forever*.

If you have any questions concerning the permanence of salvation, please feel free to contact me.

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