

SALVATION LOST OR FORFEITED?

By: Phillip Hayes

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, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. [Hebrews 6:4-6]

Since you are born again with a completely new spirit and your born again spirit is sealed until the day of redemption, is it possible to lose your salvation?

There are many people that believe in a doctrine called, "once saved, always saved". The idea here is someone could go forward in a church service and repeat the sinner's prayer. The minister would then pronounce them saved and born again. This person never goes back to church, never prays, never reads God's Word, lives ungodly for forty years, dies and still goes to heaven. Once saved, always saved is a false doctrine. The lifestyle indicated is not the actions of a person with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The seed of God's Word is sown into the heart of every born again person, and they will bear the fruits of their experience. *"But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."* [Matthew 13:23]

There are extremists who believe God predestinated some to be saved, and some to be lost. This teaching takes away free will and distorts the sovereignty of God. Some teach there is no such place as hell, and there is no punishment or penalty for sin after this life. Others teach the ultimate salvation of all mankind, suggesting that every person will eventually be saved whether they believed in Christ or not. One can certainly find all kinds of teaching!

The Truth is what we are seeking for. As far as the Word of God is concerned no one can be saved without faith in Jesus Christ. *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” [John 14:6] “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” [Acts 4:12]*

The question is concerning those already in Christ. Can a born again Christian lose their salvation?

Throughout our ministry we have addressed the issue of sin. Sin can and will be forgiven if one asks for forgiveness. This is a no-brainer. Please remember, Christ has already forgiven you! But can a person go so deep in sin that they cannot obtain forgiveness?

Our scripture in Hebrews chapter six is a classic example and suggests rather candidly that a person can become reprobate and forfeit their salvation.

In Hebrews we find eternal redemption and security, but when the sacrifice of Christ is voided, there isn't any other sacrifice. Jesus Christ is not going to suffer the shame and agony of the cross again. His one sacrifice was sufficient forever!

To fall away strongly suggests that a person would have to renounce their salvation. Personally, I cannot imagine a truly born again person rejecting their faith. It may be possible, but in my opinion would be very, very rare.

From what we have learned, the ability to sin is not only possible but probable in any born again person's life. Although our spirits are sealed and free from sin, our souls are subject to sin. Sin will blur your ability to perceive who you are in the spirit. If you continue long enough in sin Satan will get an advantage over you and will try to get you to renounce your faith in Christ.

I can remember years ago how the thought came to my mind that there is no God. This is after I was born again! This thought was very strong and I really had a battle casting it down. I did of course. I mention this because I want you to know your enemy will resort to anything to defeat you. Satan wanted me to accept his suggestion. If I had, I would have surrendered my salvation to him as I would have automatically renounced my faith!

Satan is the god of this world. If you allow him, he will blind you to the great salvation God has freely given to all through the Gospel of Christ. *"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."* [2Corinthians 4:4]

Another scripture that gives us more understanding on how one can be lost is found in Hebrews chapter ten: *"For if we 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?" [Hebrews 10:26-29]

Notice what one would have to do in order to be lost. The writer describes willful sin as when one troddens under foot (to trample down or reject) the Son of God; counts the blood of the covenant an unholy thing, and does despite to the Spirit of grace. This is all unimaginable for a born again Christian to commit.

Committing a sin doesn't cause you to lose your salvation. You are saved by grace, but you can throw away your salvation by rejecting God and renouncing your salvation. Salvation is not something you just misplace accidentally. You don't lose your salvation, you deliberately reject it! Losing something is far different than giving something away.

Please be careful! Sin can and will harden your heart and Satan can use it to blind you where you will renounce your faith in God. Once you do this, it's impossible for you to be renewed again to repentance.

In my opinion, God has made it extremely difficult for anyone to lose their salvation. The reason He has done this is because of His great love. He loves you more than you could ever imagine. However, He will not make you love Him or believe in Him. You are a free moral agent with the God given ability to make your own decisions.

The warnings I have referred to in Hebrews is for mature Christians, not babes in Christ. As a baby in Christ I made a lot of stupid mistakes. I thought many times, "What's the use of trying to serve God." Many times I have walked in the flesh and obeyed it. Many times I have sinned

and have come short of the glory of God. Yes, as a babe in Christ, we all make terrible mistakes and say things we shouldn't.

These warnings in Hebrews are not for those of you that have been frustrated and have backslid on God. No! You were immature and did those things ignorantly. God will graciously forgive you. However, after you are truly born again, baptized in the Holy Ghost, mature and enlightened in the knowledge of the Word, operated in the gifts of the Spirit and then openly reject the Son of God; you are accountable and the penalty is most severe as is clearly stated.

God has always given mankind a choice. Today, we still have a choice. We can live or we can die. *"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."* [Deuteronomy 30:19]

Although I believe you must deliberately reject or forfeit your salvation to be lost, I must warn you that Satan can deceive you into renouncing your faith. You can believe a lie and be damned!

Salvation is only received and kept through faith in Christ and what He accomplished on the cross. You can make the sacrifice of Christ of none effect by turning to legalism and trusting in your own works of righteousness.

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. [Galatians 1:6-7]

The Galatians were removed from Christ because they accepted a perverted gospel that demanded they keep

the Old Testament laws and observe the various feasts and sabbaths.

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 3:1-3]

They had begun in the Spirit. They had received the Spirit and had been born again, but they were trying to be perfect by the flesh. Don't be foolish my friend. Accept by faith what Jesus has already done for you! You cannot win or work for your salvation; it is the gift of God.

You cannot be born again, then lost, then born again again! You cannot be saved, then lost, then saved again. You cannot go in and out of the body of Christ. You cannot be translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God, translated back into the kingdom of darkness, and then back again into the kingdom of God. This doesn't make sense spiritually or otherwise. Either you are saved and born again, or you are not!

This article was taken from a chapter in our book, "Spirit, Soul & Body". I pray you will allow the Holy Spirit to open your understanding of this wonderful revelation. It has revolutionized my life and I know it will yours.

Knowing that God has already given me everything I need to achieve the full potential He has promised me is the greatest revelation I have ever received from Him.

Our book, Body, Soul & Spirit is available by requesting it or as a free download on our web site: www.WOFCL.com

Man

"The Crowning of God's Creation"

Man is the crown of God's creation. Greater and more wonderful than the stars in the universe is the wonder of man himself. Look at our bodies first of all and see how wonderfully God has created them.

Doctors tell us that the human brain has 30 billion nerve-cells, each operating at a potential of nearly one-tenth of a volt of electricity. Those over 35 years of age lose 1000 of these nerve cells every day - and these cells are never replaced. Yet the main functions of the brain carry on till the end of life - even though there is a slight loss in the sensitivity of the five senses.

Did you know, that each of our eyes has 130 million little rods for black and white vision and 7 million cones for colour vision? These are connected to the brain by 300,000 nerve fibres. The human eye can receive 1.5 million messages simultaneously! To duplicate the function of one eye, mechanically, it would require 250,000 television transmitters and receivers!

Consider the ear! The auditory nerve is only three-fourths of an inch long and has the diameter of an ordinary

pencil-lead. But it has 30,000 electrical circuits within it. If we were to compare the human ear with a piano, whereas the piano key-board has 88 keys, the key-board of our inner ear has about 1100 within the same frequency range. In other words, it is so sensitive, that it can pick up 12 different tones between any two keys on the piano.

Now look at the heart and the blood-vessels. We don't usually think of them until they give us some trouble! But that heart which God has put within our bodies beats 40 million times every year, without any lubrication and without taking a vacation. Even though you didn't realize it, your heart beat within your body 100,000 times yesterday, pumping blood through 100,000 kilometers of blood-vessels from your head to your feet. Your body also produced more than 172 billion red blood-cells just yesterday to replace damaged and worn out cells. Isn't it a miracle that you are alive today!

Consider the glands. The thyroid gland in our body requires only 1/5000th of a gram of iodine daily. Yet, if that microscopic amount had been lacking in you when you were a baby, you would certainly have been mentally retarded!

The pituitary gland is even more wonderful. Its daily output of hormones weighs only one-millionth of a gram. Yet even a slight increase or decrease in this output in a person, in his growing years, would make him physically and mentally abnormal! The reason we're healthy today is

because the intricate working of our body-mechanism has been so perfect.

Truly as one Bible writer has said, "I will praise you Oh God, for I am wonderfully made!". The construction of the human body and the perfect balance that God has planned in it is indeed amazing. Of course, some of these marvels found in the human body are found in the bodies of animals too.

But then, man has a soul inside his body. A soul which constitutes his personality and that consists of his mind, his emotions and his will - a mind that thinks and reasons, emotions that make us feel, and will-power that enables us to make decisions. Animals have brains, but cannot reason. Man can think, put down his thinking in writing and thus pass on his knowledge to future generations - something animals can never do. (Birds still make their nests just like their ancestors did, thousands of years ago). Man's intellect is a part of God's image within him. It is a small bit of that supreme intelligence that is found in God.

But there is yet more to man. Man has not only a wonderful body and an even more wonderful soul. He has something far deeper and more wonderful than even his body and soul - a spirit. This distinguishes man from all the rest of creation on earth. This spirit in the deepest part of our being tells us that there is a God - a Supreme Being to whom we are morally accountable. It is not only the

wonders of creation that teach us that there is a God. The spirit within us also tells us the same thing.

It is neither civilization nor education that teaches us that there is a God. It is not even religion. If you visited uncivilized people in the jungles of this world, you would find even among those barbarians a sense of God. They worship some object or the other because there is a spirit within them that tells them that there is a Supreme Being to whom they are accountable. They have a conscience within them that convicts them of wrong done. No animal has such innate feelings of guilt. You can train an animal to feel guilt; but no animal automatically feels guilt. Only man feels moral guilt because he alone has a spirit and a conscience. This is why all over the world people have some form of religion. But you never come across a religious monkey or a religious dog!

Man was created for something beyond his life's span on earth. God has placed within each of us a longing for something higher and greater than we can ever get on earth.

Man is a creature of eternity. Evolutionists may say that there is no difference between men and animals. Yet in every country, the law recognizes that killing a baby is a far greater crime than killing an elephant. An elephant may be huge, but a small baby is far more precious because it is made in the image of God. Man is the crown of God's creation. He was created to have fellowship with God.