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QUESTION BIBLE STUDY

Question No 3: Can Christians Lose Their Salvation?

VIEW NO. 1: YES, CHRISTIANS CAN LOSE THEIR SALVATION

A. CHRISTIANS CAN LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON 2 PETER 2:1, 21, AND HEBREWS 6:4-6, "BACKSLIDDEN BELIEVERS."

"But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them - bringing swift destruction on themselves." 2 Peter 2:1

→ Peter states that false prophets, who "denied the Master who bought them" had brought swift destruction upon themselves. This appears to suggest that those whom the Master "bought" can lose their salvation (swift destruction).

"It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them." 2 Peter 2:21

→ Peter further states that "It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them" (2 Peter 2:21). This too seems to imply that true believers (those who have known the way of righteousness) can lose their salvation.

"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace." Hebrews 6:4-6

→ The passage in Hebrews, which refers to those who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and have fallen away is referring to true believers. If they are not "brought back" they are doomed.

B. CHRISTIANS CAN LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON MATTHEW 12:22-32, THE UNPARDONABLE SIN.

"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come".

→ This passage states that anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. It seems to indicate that even true believers may inadvertently commit the unpardonable sin, and therefore lose their salvation.

C. CHRISTIANS CAN LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON JOHN 15:1-6, THE "BURNED BRANCHES."

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned." John 15:1-6

- This passage states that anyone who does not abide in Christ will be thrown into the fire and burned.
- It suggests that believers will spend eternity in Hell if they don't abide in Christ.

VIEW NO. 2: NO, TRUE CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION

A. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON JOHN 10:27-29, NO ONE CAN SNATCH THEM OUT OF THE FATHER'S HAND.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one." (Jn. 10:27-30 NIV)

- Believers are secure in the hand of Jesus and the hand of the Father.
- Jesus teaches that "they shall never perish" and no one is able "to snatch them out" of His or the Father's hand.

B. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON EPHESIANS 1:13; 4:30, BELIEVERS ARE SEALED

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit," (Eph. 1:13 NIV)

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Eph. 4:30 NIV)

- The Holy Spirit seals believers until the day of redemption.
- Losing one's salvation would involve breaking God's seal before the day of our final redemption.

C. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON ROMANS 8:33, NO ONE CAN CHARGE THEM

"Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies." (Rom. 8:33 NIV)

- No one can charge God's elect with anything that could cause them to lose their salvation.

D. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON ROMANS 8:28-30, THEY ARE PREDESTINED BY GOD

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified." (Rom. 8:28-30 NIV)

→ God has begun a process that leads from predestination to glorification without any possibility for loss).

E. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON 1 CORINTHIANS 12:13, THEY ARE PLACED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body-- whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free-- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink" (1 Cor. 12:13 NIV)

→ The Holy Spirit places believers into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

→ Nothing can undo the Holy Spirit's work.

→ There is no evidence in Scripture that believers are ever removed from the universal body of Christ.

F. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON HEBREWS 7:25 AND 1 JOHN 2:1

"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." (Heb. 7:25 NIV)

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One." (1 Jn. 2:1 NIV)

→ The Lord Jesus continually intercedes for believers, and that is sufficient to keep us saved.

G. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON ROMANS 8:38-39, GOD'S INCREDIBLE LOVE FOR HIS OWN

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:38-39 NIV)

→ Nothing can separate a believer from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. State your view in detail: After carefully examining the above views, in light of the scriptures, state which view you support, and why. Include the scriptures you used.
2. Explain in detail why you reject the other view.
3. Application: Explain in detail how your conclusions affect your life?
4. Send your responses to Mike Taylor at: taylorms@sbcglobal.net.
5. Check out responses of others at: www.taylornotes.info/one.

HOW TO TEST YOUR ANSWER

- Did I automatically jump to a previous view I held without carefully examining the related scriptures?
- Did I read my view into the scriptures (eisegesis) or was I careful to read out of scripture (exegesis)?
- Did I carefully examine the context of scripture verses?
- Does my view line up with the Bible's teaching as a whole?
- Did I interpret scripture using scripture?
- Did I depend completely on extra-biblical material without carefully examining related scriptures?
- Does my view agree with the consensus of other Christians? (See www.TaylorNotes.Info/one)

Question No 3:
Can Christians Lose Their Salvation?

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After carefully examining the two viewpoints proposed in Question Three of Mike Taylor's class, I have selected the view "**VIEW NO. 2: NO, TRUE CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION.**" I believe this viewpoint follows the Holy Bible. In this paper in section: **I. DIFFERENT VIEWS PROPOSED**, I have listed the two viewpoints and explained in detail why I rejected the viewpoint and described why I do not believe it follow the Holy Bible. I identified the viewpoint ,that I believe does follow the Holy Bible. In section **II. MY VIEWPOINT SUPPORTED** I have listed the View No. 2 and the verses listed in the question. I was not clear what it was only that the scripture supported the view. In summary the last section: **III. TEST MY ANSWER** I responded to each question in order to test my viewpoint selected. In section: **IV. APPLICATION** describes how I have in the past and I pray I will in the future walk forward applying the application of this viewpoint in my life.

I. DIFFERENT VIEWS

VIEW NO. 1: YES, CHRISTIANS CAN LOSE THEIR SALVATION

View No. 1: Does not line up with the Biblical Christian viewpoint.

After researching the question if a Christian believer can lose their salvation or not, it seems that each denomination is very clear why they believe what they believe. Therefore, it is my responsibility to be educated and extremely clear about what I believe in and why.

I would like to also make note, that aside from Biblical support one way or another, there are also many reasons why a person may still have doubts about their salvation. They may have accepted Christianity but in actuality they may have never accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. This would plant doubt in your mind, if you do not totally trust the love and total acceptance by Jesus Christ. In addition, I have found through my life that it takes perseverance to differentiate the thoughts I believe in and stand strong in what you do believe in. Satan does his best to create confusion and disharmony.

I chose to respond to the scriptures noted to reject Total Salvation by offering Bible based answers to the different scriptures which have been not accurately used to support the fact that one cannot lose their salvation - marked as "**Support Salvation**" or a rejection of the scriptures read incorrectly.

A. CHRISTIANS CAN LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON 2 PETER 2:1, 21, AND HEBREWS 6:4-6, “BACKSLIDDEN BELIEVERS.”

Support Salvation- Billy Graham

“..... the question is, are these people who are guilty of a real fall irretrievably fallen and eternally lost, or is this fall a temporary condition that will, in the final analysis, be remedied by their restoration? In the case of a person such as Peter, we see that his fall was remedied by his repentance. However, what about those who fall away finally? Were they ever truly believers in the first place?

Our answer to this question has to be no. First John 2:19 speaks of the false teachers who went out from the church as never having truly been part of the church. John describes the apostasy of people who had made a profession of faith but who never really were converted. Moreover, we know that God glorifies all whom He justifies (Rom. 8:29–30). If a person has true saving faith and is justified, God will preserve that person.

In the meantime, however, if the person who has fallen is still alive, how do we know if he is a full apostate? One thing none of us can do is read the heart of other people. When I see a person who has made a profession of faith and later repudiates it, I don't know whether he is a truly regenerate person who's in the midst of a serious, radical fall but who will at some point in the future certainly be restored; or whether he is a person who was never really converted, whose profession of faith was false from the start.

This question of whether a person can lose his salvation is not an abstract question. It touches us at the very core of our Christian lives, not only with regard to our concerns for our own perseverance, but also with regard to our concern for our family and friends, particularly those who seemed, for all outward appearances, to have made a genuine profession of faith. We thought their profession was credible, we embraced them as brothers or sisters, only to find out that they repudiated that faith.

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/can-christian-lose-their-salvation/>

→ The passage in Hebrews, which refers to those who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and have fallen away is referring to true believers. If they are not “brought back” they are doomed.

Support Salvation- Ligonier Ministries– R. C. Sproul

“..... if the person who has fallen is still alive, how do we know if he is a full apostate? One thing none of us can do is read the heart of other people. When I see a person, who has made a profession of faith and later repudiates it, I don't know whether he is a truly regenerate person who's in the midst of a serious, radical fall but who will at some point in the future certainly be restored; or whether he is a person who was never really converted, whose profession of faith was false from the start.

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<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/can-christian-lose-their-salvation/>

B. CHRISTIANS CAN LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON MATTHEW 12:22-32, THE UNPARDONABLE SIN.

→ This passage states that anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. It seems to indicate that even true believers may inadvertently commit the unpardonable sin, and therefore lose their salvation.

Support Salvation- Mike Taylor Christianity II Class Notes

“Are believers in Christ eternally secure? Scripture gives ample support for eternal security. The Holy Spirit places believers into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). There is no evidence in Scripture that believers are ever removed from the universal body of Christ. The Holy Spirit seals believers until the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13, 4:30). Losing one's salvation would involve breaking God's seal before the day of our final redemption. God has begun a process that leads from predestination to glorification without any possibility for loss (Rom. 8:28-30).”

Mike Taylor Notes, Christianity – Understanding What Christians Believe,

<http://www.taylornotes.info/christianity-ii-classes>.

C. CHRISTIANS CAN LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON JOHN 15:1-6, THE “BURNED BRANCHES.”

Support Salvation - Billy Graham

Question: “If we repent of our sins (like the Bible says we're supposed to do), does this mean that if we ever commit another sin, we'll lose our salvation? I worry about this.”

Graham responded by assuring the believer that God does not revoke our salvation, no matter what we do: “One of the devil’s oldest tricks is to make us believe that God will turn against us and take away our salvation if we ever commit another sin. But it simply isn’t true!”

“The reason is because when He died on the cross, Jesus Christ became the final and complete sacrifice for all our sins—without exception. Remember: Jesus Christ was without sin, because He was God in human flesh—and God cannot sin. But on the cross, all our sins were transferred to Him, and He took upon Himself all our guilt and all our condemnation,”
<https://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/can-you-lose-your-salvation-billy-graham-answers.html>

II. MY VIEWPOINT SUPPORTED

I believe that **VIEW NO. 2: NO, TRUE CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION** is Biblically sound.

VIEW NO. 2: NO, TRUE CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION

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- B. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON EPHESIANS 1:13; 4:30, BELIEVERS ARE SEALED
- C. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON ROMANS 8:33, NO ONE CAN CHARGE THEM
- D. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON ROMANS 8:28-30, THEY ARE PREDESTINED BY GOD
- E. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON 1 CORINTHIANS 12:13, THEY ARE PLACED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- F. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON HEBREWS 7:25 AND 1 JOHN 2:1
- G. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION BASED ON ROMANS 8:38-39, GOD’S INCREDIBLE LOVE FOR HIS OWN.

I am including a separate section which identified how the major “known” so called “Christian” faiths believe with regards to Salvation, can it be lost?

“The doctrine of eternal security deals with the question: Can salvation be lost? Christian denominations have divided on this subject since the time of the Protestant Reformation.

- **Anglican/Episcopal** - "Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble." (BCP, 1979, p. 298)
- **Assembly of God** - Assembly of God Christians believe salvation can be lost: "The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost." (AG.org)
- **Baptist** - Baptists believe salvation cannot be lost: "All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end." (SBC)
- **Lutheran** - Lutherans believe salvation can be lost when a believer does not persist in the faith: "... it is possible for a true believer to fall from faith, as Scripture itself soberly and repeatedly warns us ... A person may be restored to faith in the same way he or she came to faith ... by repenting of his or her sin and unbelief and trusting completely in the life, death and resurrection of Christ alone for forgiveness and salvation." (LCMS)
- **Methodist** - Methodists believe salvation can be lost: "God accepts my choice ... and continues to reach out to me with the grace of repentance to bring me back to the way of salvation and sanctification." (UMC)
- **Presbyterian** - With reformed theology at the core of Presbyterian beliefs, the church teaches that a person who truly has been regenerated by God, will remain in God's stead. (PCUSA; Reformed.org)
- **Roman Catholic** - Catholics believe salvation can be lost: "The first effect of mortal sin in man is to avert him from his true last end, and deprive his soul of sanctifying grace." Final perseverance is a gift from God, but man must cooperate with the gift. (CE)"

<https://www.learnreligions.com/comparing-christian-denominations-beliefs-part-1-700537>

The past two papers submitted with questions we included additional religions other than Christian viewpoints discussed, therefore I have included two additional beliefs and their viewpoint about salvation in order to provide a well-rounded look at this question:

Jehovah's Witnesses

“Yes. Just as a person saved from drowning could fall or jump back into the water, a person who has been saved from sin but fails to keep exercising faith could lose out on salvation. “

<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/what-is-salvation/>

Mormon's

Looking at the actual website for Mormons they do not have anything listed specifically with the word's "salvation".

I did find a website that explains why:

“By definition the Mormon church teaches that the gospel is the Mormon church system and its doctrine. The church and its doctrine becomes the good news--their gospel.

For the Christian it's not an organization but a Person who represents the gospel, and that Person is God's only begotten son, Jesus Christ. It is the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ that embodies the gospel for the true Christian. Jesus is man's savior. The Bible tells us that JESUS is the only way to God the Father.

By contrast, Brigham Young says: "No man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial Kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph. . . ." "He reigns there as supreme a being in his sphere, capacity, and calling as God does in heaven." So for the Mormon, Joseph Smith has become the savior.

For the most part, the Mormon has never clearly understood the gospel of Jesus Christ because his church has so distorted Christian teaching. The outcome of this distortion is that Joseph Smith has stripped Jesus of His gift to mankind and he, Joseph, has taken the rightful place of our Lord and Savior. The Bible simply teaches that man must humble himself and receive the work Jesus did for him at the cross.”

Compare Major Beliefs of 7 Christian Denominations May 2, 2017

<http://www.leaderu.com/orgs/probe/docs/mormon1.html>,

<https://www.learnreligions.com/comparing-christian-denominations-beliefs-part-1-700537>

III. TEST MY ANSWER

Did I automatically jump to a previous view I held without carefully examining the related scriptures?

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I did know before researching this question, what I believe. I did take time to investigate what other “Christian” religions believe and other widely known faiths. I believe it is very important that I am educated and that I am able to specifically address a question such as salvation should I be given the opportunity to talk with someone of another faith.

Did I read my view into the scriptures (eisegesis) or was I careful to read out of scripture (exegesis)?

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My same answer would be above, I knew in advance what I believed in, but I did research to understand what and why another persona may believe differently.

Did I carefully examine the context of scripture verses?

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YES

Does my view line up with the Bible’s teaching as a whole?

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I came to this same conclusion in both questions one and two, I would have to say from all honesty I am taken back after finding firmly held viewpoints of the Holy Spirit that do NOT follow the Holy Bible and yet give the idea that they are Biblically held viewpoints. I have experienced living and believing faiths that were not Christian. At that time, I had no idea that the viewpoints taught to me and I that believed at that time did not support themselves but were from a person and not from God. Since I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, I have made extra efforts in my life to use the Holy Bible as my “source” and I am shocked to read that is it OK, to even bluntly hear a group discredit the Bible. So, my answer is that I do make extra efforts so that my view does line up with what the Bible teaches.

Did I interpret scripture using scripture?

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Yes, this is necessary to logically go from step to step theologically.

Did I depend completely on extra-biblical material without carefully examining related scriptures?

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More then with the first two questions, I looked for outside sources from the internet in order to “understand” why they believe so differently then I.

Does my view agree with the consensus of other Christians?

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I am saddened to find that so many other religions tend to use false words to support their viewpoints. This causes other people to blindly believe and many people, I do not believe have the ability to stand back to look at a question such as Salvation and can be influenced by those not representing the Bible as it is written.

#### **IV. APPLICATION**

The application of researching and identifying with Biblical scriptures that we can NOT loose our salvation has supported my belief prior to this time of research. Because I have spent the days of research I can more easily recite or know scriptures to back up the fact that we cannot lose our salvation. This will help not only me in my further research but in speaking with others. Thank you for the opportunity to write this paper.

## Bibliography

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<https://www.christianheadlines.com>, <https://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/can-you-lose-your-salvation-billy-graham-answers.html>

# Can Christians Lose Their Salvation?

Answer from Bruce Clarke:

I believe that View 2 is the correct view. Christians cannot lose their salvation.

**Can Christians lose their salvation? The answer to this question is that a true believer can never lose their salvation. They are eternally secure. Once saved always saved!** It is dangerous when people say we can lose our salvation, which is what Catholicism teaches.

It is dangerous because it is close to saying that we have to work to keep our salvation. Throughout Scripture it talks about a believer's salvation being eternally secured, but there are still many people who will deny this.

- "If we could lose our eternal salvation it wouldn't be eternal."
- "If you could lose your salvation, you would." – Dr John MacArthur
- "If a person professes faith in Christ and yet falls away or makes no progress in godliness, it does not mean that he has lost his salvation. It reveals that he was never truly converted." – Paul Washer

**Think about this, why would it be called eternal salvation if you can lose your salvation? If we can lose our salvation, then it wouldn't be eternal.**

John 5:13 states "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

John 3:15-16 states "that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 5:24 states "I assure you: Anyone who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life."

**Salvation was God's purpose and covenant with us. Would God go back on His promise? Would God predestine someone to be saved then unsave them? No! God chose you, He will keep you, and He will work in your life until the end to make you more like Christ.**

Romans 8:28-30 states "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified."

Ephesians 1:11-12 states "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 1:4 states "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."

**What or who can take believers out of the hand of the Lord? What or who can take believers out of the love of God in Jesus Christ? Can our sin? Can our trials? Can death? No! He saved you and He will keep you! We are not able to keep ourselves, but the Almighty God can and He promised us that He will.**

John 10:28-30 states "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Jude 1:24-25 states "To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."

Romans 8:37-39 states "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 Peter 1:4-5 states "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."

**Is Jesus lying? Was Jesus teaching something that is false?**

John 6:37-40 states "All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

## **Our eternal salvation is sealed by the Holy Spirit.**

Ephesians 4:30 states “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

**So can you believe in Christ and live like the devil? Of course not! A true believer does not live in a lifestyle of sin. They are a new creation. They didn't change themselves, God changed them. Christians don't desire to live in rebellion. They desire to follow the Lord. Before I was saved I was wicked, but after I was saved I knew nothing about the verses that say we couldn't willfully sin. I just knew I couldn't go back to those things. Grace changes you. We don't obey because it saves us, we obey because we are saved.**

Romans 6:1-2 states “What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?”

Romans 6:6 states “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.”

Ephesians 2:8-10 states “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

**Grace and eternal security is not a license to sin. In fact, people prove that they are not God's children when they live in a continuous state of wickedness. Sadly, this is most people who profess to be Christian.**

Jude 1:4 states “For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”

Matthew 7:21-23 states “Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord! will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven. On that day many will say to Me, Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name? Then I will announce to them, I never knew you! Depart from Me, you lawbreakers!”

1 John 3:8-10 states “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

### **Jesus’ sheep hear His voice.**

John 10:26-27 states “but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

**Many people are going to say, “well how about the apostate people who professed to be Christian and then turned away from the faith?” There is no such thing as a former Christian. Many people are just full of emotion and religion, but they are not saved. Many false converts show signs of fruit for a while, but then they fall away because they were never truly saved to begin with. They went out from us because they were never truly of us.**

John 2:19 states “They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.”

Matthew 13:20-21 states “The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.”

**Does Hebrews 6 teach that you can lose your salvation? No! If it was true, that would mean that you could lose your salvation and not be able to get it back. You can taste the goodness of the Word and not be saved. This passage is talking about people who are so close to repentance. They know everything and they agree with it, but they never truly embrace Christ. They never truly repent. They were so close. Picture a cup about to overflow with water, but right before the water starts to overflow someone throws all the water out. They fall away! Many people see this verse and say, “oh no I can’t be saved.” Let me tell you right now that if you couldn’t be saved you wouldn’t even think about being saved. It wouldn’t even cross your mind.**

Hebrews 6:4-6 states “It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the

goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.”

**Does 2 Peter 2:20-21 teach that believers can lose their salvation? No! Hell is going to be more severe for people who knew the most. It is going to be more severe for people who heard the Word of God and the gospel time and time again, but never truly repented. This verse shows that they returned to their old ways and were never truly saved in the first place. They were unregenerate pretenders. In the next verse there is a reference to dogs. Dogs are going to hell. They are just like dogs who return back to their vomit.**

2 Peter 2:20-21 states “If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.”

**Now regarding the question .... can a Christian backslide? Yes, but a true believer will not remain that way because God is working in them. If they are truly His, God will discipline them out of love. They will come to repentance. Did they lose their salvation? No! Can a Christian struggle with sin? Yes, but there is a difference between struggling with sin and diving head first into it. We all struggle with sinful thoughts, desires, and habits. That is why we must continually confess and forsake our sins. There is growth in the life of a believer. A believer wants to be more and desires to obey. There will be a growing in holiness. We are going to grow in repentance. We are not going to say, “if Jesus is this good, I can do whatever” because He who began a good work will finish it. We are going to bear fruit.**

Philippians 1:6 states “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

John 1:7-9 states “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

**God will keep you firm to the end. We are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ forever.**

Corinthians 1:8-9 states “He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Application in my Life:**

I take great comfort in knowing that I cannot lose my salvation. I do not believe in works to get me saved or keep me saved. It is only by the grace of God that I am saved and He will not take that from me. Sure, I must continue to go through sanctification the rest of my life, but that will continue to make me a better Christian and increase my faith. I ask God continuously to keep me in tune with the Holy Spirit so that I may walk with God and hear his promptings. If I had to continue to worry if I could lose my salvation if I did something really wrong, that would be living in fear of God, not his joy.

### **QUESTION No. 3 CAN CHRISTIANS LOSE THEIR SALVATION?**

ANDY BACHTEL

I think that the ONLY THING that you can LOSE is the FEELING. Let's say, God is LOVE. Love cannot BE at all times be SERIOUS because love is HUMOROUS. It takes a TRUE WILLINGNESS to Believe that love may say something that would not mean what the words just say. The UNFORGIVABLE SIN might just mean you get on the naughty list, it just really HURTS you more by doing that. And that you 'CANNOT BE SNACHED FROM HIS HAND, is a more Truth say than God seeming to be, I can't come up with the word, Mike. It's what Obi-Wan called Anakin Skyywalker, he was of the DARK SIDE. Convinced of something that just ain't...I hope for THE BEST cause if it don't go the way human thoughts are thought, it's gonna BE BETTER 'coz GOD is LOVE and loves EVERY ONE OF US.

*Added later:*

Because God wants every one of the human friends that he created, it's just the way human is, is to come up with a negative regarding God's choice. The Devil is all kinds of help in that way. Something like a muddy-footprint on the carpet. Once you wash all that mud(devil) off, it's the same as before. NOTHING can do, to LOVE. If anything, it'd just be seeming, like some GOOD FEELING. God is All-Knowing, the Devil is feeling, but WATCH-OUT, IT IS GODS POWER ALLOWING THOSE FEELINGS TO SEEM KNOWING. You do not lose Salvation.

DENISE BROADWELL

For me, if one is a Christian they will obey God, they are not happy when they sin, they would feel remorse and conviction. A true Christian would want to please God and make him known to others

I believe that true Christians that believe and accepted Jesus from the very beginning cannot lose their salvation. I feel eternal life is eternal life! Salvation is a free gift giving from God and we can't earn it it is a gift. We ought to be recognized by our works to please God. I agree with the Scriptures based on first Corinthians 12:13, we are all baptized by one spirit, and nothing can undo the holy spirit's work. We are sealed until the day of Christ returns.

1 John 2:1 Says that if anybody sins we have an advocate with the father, Heb 7:25 Jesus the righteous one and he intercedes for us, to keep us saved. That is very comforting since he knows our human weakness and tendencies to sin.

1 Jn. 2:1 if we love God we won't deliberately sin but if we do, Jesus comes to our defense in father God.

Romans 8:38-39 is written that we are sealed, for I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, height nor depth, or anything else in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God.

I believe that about sums it up.

What beautiful promise we have from God.

### One Question #3

I support view 2. Christians cannot lose their salvation. My answer is based on Eph. 1:13, as well as Rom. 8: 28-30. There are many other scriptures that confirm my understanding. In Eph. It says we are promised salvation after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of our salvation, if we also believe in Christ Jesus we were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of Promise. If we in fact "Believe", we have received the Holy Spirit, and are therefore covered with the righteousness of Christ, and forever one with Jesus.

Since we are all sinners by nature, we will sin. Because we believe that Christ Jesus is the son on God, who gave His life for the forgiveness of our sins, and we are truly sorry for the sins we have committed, repent of them and accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit will come upon us. It is my belief, if we truly mean these things we are saved. To my knowledge, there is no sin a believer can commit that will not be forgiven. Since God the father, through Christ Jesus, predestined and called us to his purpose, our lives are foreknown to Him before we are born. God knows every sin we would, commit in our lifetime. We would have not accepted Christ and received eternal salvation. Had we not been called, Justified, and Glorified by God the Father, we would have never accepted Christ, and the Holy Spirit would not have come upon us.

Since the Holy Spirit is one with all believers, He will reveal the truth to us, which is the written word, the scriptures. The Holy Spirit will give us all we need, as God the Father continually, molds believers into being Christ like, in all we do. If a believer backslides, and falls away from their relationship with Christ, the Holy Spirit will continually convict and lead us back on the path of righteousness. No matter the sin, how many, how severe, how long we are apart from our relationship with Christ, we will not lose our Salvation. Christ will never leave us, the Holy Spirit will not depart from us.

I have read all the scriptures presented in view 1, how Christians can lose their salvation. In each situation, the scriptures illustrate believers who have "lost their way" Sins and behavior not consistent with living our lives serving Christ Jesus. The flesh is weak. We will always be tempted by the flesh and the world. We are not of the world. The Holy Spirit will always be with us and never leave us, once we have accepted and serve Christ. In every scripture presented, we are shown the ways we as believers should not conduct ourselves. We are shown the consequences of a believer caught up in our old sinful ways, and life without Christ being first in our lives. Surely there are consequences for sinful behavior. Missing out on the joyful life abiding in Christ for one. I can find no scripture presented, that says anyone who does these things will lose their salvation. Each instance implies consequences, but none that I can see, says we will lose our salvation. Even speaking against the Holy Spirit. The sin is unforgivable, but I see nowhere where it says the penalty will be losing your salvation.

Jim Langell

Having the knowledge that I am set aside for Glory, and eternal life because of my salvation in Christ, I have a peaceful mind and thankfulness that I am chosen and destined for glory that gives me a security that is hard to describe. Set apart from the world, it seems easy to separate sinful behavior from Godly behavior. Always being mindful to try to be pleasing in the sight of God, in every thought, and behavior throughout my days. I am truly one with the Trinity, and so grateful for the relationship I have with our God. Since the day I received salvation, I must say my life has so much more understanding and perspective of the world, and how I relate to all people. With patience and forgiveness, secure in knowledge God is always with me. My life is filled with joyfulness.