

Can A Christian Lose Their Salvation?

I have a question for you: Can a Christian lose their salvation? It's a trick question, really, because you can not lose what you do not yet have! The apostles Paul and Peter gave the correct perspective on salvation: it is something we have *hope* for, to be received in the future. According to Paul, during this mortal life we have "the hope of salvation" and are "appointed . . . to obtain salvation": Paul wrote:

- "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:8,9; Paul did not tell them they were already "saved.")

Here's Peter, saying we "shall be" saved - in the future:

- "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." (Acts 15:11)

In fact, Jesus tells us we must endure to the end to be saved:

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

We'll be saved - saved from ever perishing in death - when we actually receive immortality, the promised gift of eternal, life at Jesus' return. Paul explained this in 1 Corinthians 15:42-54 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17. That's when death will be "swallowed up in victory" as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:54. Short of receiving the gift of eternal life, we will surely perish in death, losing everything, very much unsaved!

Salvation - eternal life - is a grace promised to us, to be received at Jesus' "revelation" or return:

- "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life" (1 John 2:25)
- "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;" (1 Peter 1:13)

Regrettably many professing Christians do not understand that justification and salvation are two different things, at different times, and presume they have already been saved. Notice how Paul separated justification - now, in this mortal life - from salvation - in the future.

- "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." (Romans 5:9)

In this mortal life we may enter **justification,** but we will not be **saved** until later, when we actually receive eternal life at Jesus' return.

"By his blood" a person may enter justification; "through him" that person shall be saved. "Through him" means through a relationship with Him. Remember Jesus' words about those who had preached in His name, and had "cast out devils," and had "done many wonderful works"? Jesus warned what he would say to them:

- "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:23)

So, what is justification? To be in justification means to be in good standing with God, to be in a right relationship with God, to be reconciled or "made right" with God. Those who are in justification are in God's grace or "goodness."

Is it possible for us to leave justification and no longer be in God's grace and goodness? Yes, and we have many warnings not to let that happen. God does not keep us on leashes. We have free will and we can fall away from justification. We can "fail of the grace of God." We can choose to no longer abide in Him, and then be "cast off" and a branch and "burned." Even after knowing Jesus we can end up in a worse spiritual condition than we ever were before. We are urged to "give diligence to make our calling and election sure." We are urged to "take heed" to "continue in his goodness, otherwise thou also shalt be cut off" - cut off from God's grace, no longer having hope of salvation.

Here are some of the warnings:

- "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." (Jesus, in John 15:6)

- "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;" (Hebrews 12:14,15)

- "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 Peter 2:20-22)

- "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." (2 Peter 1:10,11)

- "For if God spared not the natural branches [the Israelites], take heed lest he also spare not thee.

Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." (Romans 11:21,22)

- "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." (Hebrews 4:1)

As you're probably aware, many who believe they are already "saved" - done deal - dismiss or reinterpret these verses, saying they could not possibly refer to losing salvation, because, after all, they have already been saved. Well, no, they may be in justification, but they are not saved yet. The verses actually refer to falling away from justification and grace, without which we will never even see salvation.

I couldn't tell you how many times people have quoted verses like John 6:39 to me and insisted the verse means no one will be lost:

● "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."

The verse does not say none will be lost. The verse says it's the Father's *will* - intention or desire - that none be lost. Men have been defying God's will since the beginning, and will continue to do so until the end.

I've skipped over one very important topic, because it would make this video too long. So I'll make a sequel to this video. Question is, *How* do we enter justification with God? How do we enter His grace and mercy?

There are many strident voices out there insisting saving grace comes by "faith alone." But they are wrong. Their error begins with a misunderstanding of what Jesus finished on the cross. Every professing Christian needs to understand what Jesus finished on the cross, because if you get *that* wrong, you'll get the rest wrong. I'll put a link to that sequel in the endscreen of this video. Hope you look at it.