

CAN SOMEONE LOSE THEIR SALVATION?

Jesse Morrell

(This was a post taken from a message board)

FORGIVEN OF PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE??

At conversion, we are not forgiven of all past, present, and future sins. (Or else we would never need to ask God for forgiveness again). But we are forgiven of past sins (Rom 3:25, 2Pet 1:9) while future willful sins are not forgiven (Heb 10:26-31), future sins would need to be dealt with when they come (Matt. 6:12; 1Jn 1:9)

While God grants amnesty, clemency, or pardon through Christ's blood for our past sins (Rom. 3:25; 2 Pet. 1:9), He does not grant immunity or impunity for future sins (Matt. 18:25-35; Rom. 18:13; Heb. 10:26-31; Jude 1:4). Future sins would need to be forsaken (Lk. 13:3; Jam. 5:19-20) and forgiveness through Christ's blood would need to be sought for if future sins occur (Matt. 6:12; 1 Jn. 1:9), since you cannot be forgiven of what you haven't committed, you cannot be forgiven of what you are not guilty of. If we were "forgiven" of all future sins at conversion, this would be a license to sin (Jude 1:4) and we would never have to ask God for forgiveness again. The atonement is designed to make the forgiveness of forsaken sins, past sins, possible. Forgiveness is always conditional upon repentance. Forgiveness is never automatic or unconditional and certainly never granted to the impenitent or unbelieving.

CONTINUE UNTIL THE END

"From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him." Jn. 6:66

"Paul...speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God." Acts 13:43

"Comfirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith..."
Acts 14:22

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matt. 24:13

"But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house you are, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Heb. 3:6

"For we are made partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence unto the end." Heb. 3:14

"Keep yourselves in the love of God..." Jude 1:21

SIN IS A KILLER:

“For if you live after the flesh, you shall die: but if you through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live.” Romans 8:13

"For if God spared not the natural branches, 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." Rom 11:21-22

“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.” 2Pet 2:21

ABIDE IN CHRIST VS. SINNING

"Abide in me, and I in you. And 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 abideth 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." Jn. 15:4-6

“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.” Heb 3:12

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk, even as he walked." 1 Jn. 2:6

"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." 1 Jn. 3:6

"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." 2 Jn. 1:9

MORE SCRIPTURES FOR CONDITIONAL SECURITY:

Eze. 3:20-21, 18:18-31, 33:12-20; Matt. 6:14-15, 10:22, 24:13, 24:48-51, 25:1-13; Mk. 4:16-19, 13:13; Jn. 6:66, 15:6; Acts 1:25, 11:23, 13:43, 14:22; Rom. 8:13, 11:20-23; 1 Cor. 3:16-17, 6:9-10, 9:27, 10:5-13; 15:1-2; Gal. 5:4-9, 5:19-21, 6:7-9; Col. 1:21-23; 1 Thes. 3:5, 3:8; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 1:5-6; 1:18-20, 3:6, 4:1, 4:16, 5:15; 2 Tim. 2:12, 4:9-10; Heb. 2:1, 2:3, 3:6, 3:8-15, 3:18-19, 4:1, 4:11, 4:14, 6:1, 6:8, 6:11-12, 6:15, 10:23, 10:26-31, 10:35-39, 12:14-15, 12:25; Jas. 1:13-16, 5:19-20; 2 Pet. 1:9, 2:20-22, 3:17; Rev. 2:4-7, 2:10-11, 2:17, 2:25-26, 3:2-5, 3:10-12, 3:16, 3:19, 3:20, 21:8, 22:15

THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT LOST HIS SALVATION:

We have the example of the unforgiving servant who was forgiven of his unpaid debt, but then later had his debt reinstated because of his immoral conduct (Matt. 18:23-35). This parable clearly shows how the Lord can graciously pardon an individual and then later execute the punishment that they deserve.

THE APOSTLE JUDAS LOST HIS SALVATION:

Anyone who is a disciple of Jesus Christ is saved. That is because in order to be a disciple of Jesus a person needs to forsake everything and follow Him (Luke 14:33), they need to love God more than family (Luke 14:26), they need to pick up their cross and die (Luke 14:27).

Judas was a disciple of Jesus Christ (Matt 10:1). Therefore Judas forsook everything to follow Jesus. Judas loved God more than his own family. Judas picked up his cross and decided to live a crucified life.

Judas was not only a disciple, but Judas was an Apostle who Jesus chose specifically to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons (Matt 10:1). That was the mission Jesus picked Judas for.

In fact, scripture says Judas was a friend of Jesus in whom Jesus trusted (Ps 41:9, John 13:18). And that is also evidenced by the fact that Judas was the money keeper (Jn 13:29).

But somewhere down the line Judas became a backslider. Judas began to steal and abuse his position (John 12:6). Judas chose to forsake Jesus and thereby forsake his own salvation.

Jesus Himself said that He lost Judas (Jn 17:12) and Acts 1:25 even said that Judas fell from His apostleship by transgression. Judas failed to accomplish and fulfill His Apostleship, failed to do what Jesus picked him to do - to take the gospel to the world like the rest of the Apostles (Matt 10:1). It would have been better for Judas if he was never born (Matt 26:24).

Jesus was deeply troubled by these new developments in Judas (Jn 13:12) and even expressed surprise that someone he picked would become a devil (Jn 6:70). Nevertheless the Sovereign Lord was able to adopt these new circumstances into His plans (John 13:27). (Sovereignty is not that God causes all things, but that God is able to work with all things, that God can use all things, that God can incorporate all things into His plans. That is the genius of God.

Jesus told Judas that He was shedding His blood for him (Lk. 22:14-20), and previously told Judas that His name was written in the Lamb's book of life (Lk. 10:20). But then later, after having his name written in Heaven, we see that Judas became a devil (Jn.

6:70), and therefore it would have been better for him to have never been born (Mk. 14:21). Judas fell from his Apostleship by his transgression (Acts 1:25) and his name was blotted out of the book of life (Ex. 23:33; Rev. 3:5). So we can see that the atonement does not automatically or unconditionally save anyone. Many of those for whom Christ died will ultimately perish for their sin because they choose to continue in their sin (Heb. 10:26-31) instead of sinning no more. It's possible to deny the Lord that bought us and thereby fall into condemnation (2 Pet. 2:1). The wrath of God is impartial (Deut. 10:17; Col. 3:26; 2 Pet. 1:17), so anyone who willingly and knowingly sins is under condemnation (Rom. 1:18, 2:6-11) because God must uphold and enforce His Laws as long as He is loving and caring, as long as He hates sin because He's benevolent.

Judas is a terrible example of how a genuine disciple, even an Apostle, still has a freewill and therefore can backslide into sin, forsake the Lord, abandon the faith (Jn 6:66), and thereby forfeit his salvation, and become cut off (Romans 11:21-22) after being adopted in.

If Judas could lose his salvation (not only a disciple but also an Apostle) then any Christian could lose their salvation.

Therefore let us work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Php 2:12). Let us continue in the love of God (John 15:9). Let us persevere unto the end (Matt 24:13). Let us continue in the faith (Acts 14:22). Let us continue in the grace of God (Acts 13:43).

"Judas was sincere, when Christ chose him to the apostleship." John Fletcher

"Judas was at first a child of the kingdom and heard it said to him with th disciples, 'You shall sit upon twelve thrones' but at last he became a child of hell" St. Chrysostom

"For both Saul and Judas were once good...Sometimes they are at first good, who afterward become and continue evil; and for this respect they are said to be written in the book of life, and blotted out of it." St. Ambrose

All Quotes from: An Equal Check to Pharisaism and Antinomianism by John Fletcher, Volume Two, pg 202, Published by Carlton & Porter