

"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16

Can A Christian Sin So As To Lose His Salvation?

The doctrine of "once saved always saved," has caused much controversy in the lives of many. The doctrine suggests that there is no sin that a believer could commit so as to be eternally lost. Can we find such teachings in the scriptures?

Read the passage below and answer the following questions.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 John 1:8-10).

- Who was John addressing when he stated "If we say that we have no sin"?
- What was the Christian told to do when he sins?
- Can the Christian who refuses to confess his sins be forgiven?

"For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they **fall away**, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-6).

- Can a Christian "who was once enlightened", and has "tasted the heavenly gift" fall away?

- What does the phrase "renew them again to repentance" mean?

Over and over again we find warnings against sinning and falling away:

- "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12).
- "Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it" (Hebrews 4:1).
- "looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled" (Hebrews 12:15).
- "But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and *your* "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment" (James 5:12).

[If it's impossible for a Christian to sin so as to be eternally lost, why are there warnings that we can?]

[Did you know that the Bible teaches that we can be lost by the same things that we are saved by?] The Bible teaches that we **are saved by faith** according to John 8:24, "Therefore I said to you that you die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins." But according to 2 Timothy 2:18 the apostle Paul mentions two individuals, who **strayed [away] from the faith**, Hymenaeus and Philetus who also helped to overthrow the faith of some.

In Ephesians 2:8, we learn that **grace saves**, but when we read Galatians 5:4, we learn that a person **can fall from grace**. Can a person fall from grace if he wasn't saved by it?

HAVE YOU STUDIED YOUR BIBLE TODAY?

The Bible teaches that we are **saved in [by] hope**, “For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?” (Romans 8:24) Read Colossians 1:23 and you will [would] learn that, a Christian can be **moved away from the hope of the gospel**.

The Scriptures reveal[s] that we are saved by the **blood of Christ** according to Ephesians 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” But according to Hebrews 10:29, a believer can trample “the Son of God underfoot, and count “the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”

Matthew teaches that **Jesus saves** (Matthew 1:21), but on the other hand, the apostle Peter says that a Christian can also deny him (2 Peter 2:1).

Truth saves according to John 8:32, but James 5:19 says that brethren **can wander from the truth**. “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

The **gospel of Christ has the power to save** (Romans 1:16), but a Christian can stop believing in it (1 Corinthians 15:1-2).

In 1 Timothy 2:3-4, we learn that God saves, but according to Hebrews 3:12 Paul warns Christians not to develop a heart of unbelief causing them to depart from the true and living God.

What does Revelation 2:10 reveal about the crown of life that the Lord has promised? According to John 15:4-6 can a person quit abiding in Jesus?

There's hope for the Christian who falls prey to sin, the Bible tells us what we need to do when we sin (Acts 8:22-23; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9).

The doctrine of “once saved always saved” is a doctrine of men [that has been developed by man]. To teach that a Christian can't sin so as to be eternally lost is to teach something that is not found in Scripture. -Fred Singleton

Some Things You Should Know



You should know that, in New Testament times there was:

- ✓ One family of God (Ephesians 3:15; 1 Timothy 3: 15).
- ✓ One kingdom of Christ (Matthew 16:18-19; Colossians 1:13-14).
- ✓ One body of Christ (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:22-32).
- ✓ One bride of Christ (Romans 7:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-32).
- ✓ One Church of Christ (Matthew 18:16; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4-6).

- ⁵⁷ *You are* my portion, O LORD;
I have said that I would keep Your words.
- ⁵⁸ I entreated Your favor with *my* whole heart;
Be merciful to me according to Your word.
- ⁵⁹ I thought about my ways,
And turned my feet to Your testimonies.
- ⁶⁰ I made haste, and did not delay
To keep Your commandments.
- ⁶¹ The cords of the wicked have bound me,
But I have not forgotten Your law.
- ⁶² At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You,
Because of Your righteous judgments.
- ⁶³ I *am* a companion of all who fear You,
And of those who keep Your precepts.
- ⁶⁴ The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy;
Teach me Your statutes. (Psalm 119:57-64)

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