

e-concepts

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Does the Bible Warn Us that We Could Lose Our Salvation?

By Dave DeWitt

It's true there are many warning passages in the Bible. For example:

- (1) Moses and the Old Testament prophets warned the Jews that if they didn't keep God's law they would not be blessed in the land of Israel. *"But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall surely perish..."* (Deuteronomy 30:17-18).
- (2) Jesus warned people not to think they are saved because they are religiously active. He said, *"not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'"* (Matthew 7:21-23, see also vv. 13-14).
- (3) We are warned that if we are not living like a believer, it could be we aren't one. *He has now reconciled you...to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast* (Colossians 1:21-23).
- (4) Jesus warned the Pharisees that rejecting Him as the Messiah was blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and that such rejection shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. *Any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven* (Matthew 12:31). Rejecting Christ is also unpardonable for us. If we go through life and die rejecting Christ, we will not be forgiven of our sins.

It's true there are many warning passages in the Bible. But no passage warns us about losing our salvation. There are many people who think they are believers, but they are just religious. For these people, it will seem like they lose their salvation. But we must also understand that the salvation promise is simple. *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God...* (John 1:12, see also John 3:16 and 5:24).

Paul said, *...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world that we might be holy and blameless before Him* (Ephesians 1:4). In Romans, he wrote, *He also predestined us to become conformed to the image of His Son* (Romans 8:29).

So saved people are saved because they chose to receive Christ alone by faith alone as a substitute for their sin. They are also saved because those same people were chosen. But they were not just chosen to be saved, they were chosen to be "holy," "blameless," and to be "conformed to the image of His Son." The problem with the lack of security doctrine is one of misunderstanding God's purpose for writing the Bible. God did not write the Bible just to get people saved. Our salvation is only a necessary means to an end. The real end, or purpose, for which God wrote the Bible, was to reveal Himself to us so that we might be conformed to the image of His Son. His desire is for us to stop sinning and practice holiness (Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 2:10; and 1 Peter 1:16).

God talks about more in the Bible than salvation. He also tells us why He saved us. So if we bring a mental context of salvation to every passage we read, we are going to misunderstand many of those passages.

Can a Christian stop believing? Of course he can! But he cannot stop being saved. Why? Because that sin, like all sin, is already paid for and removed from him. Of course, it is likely that if a person has stopped "believing," it is because that person never trusted Christ in the first place. We should never assume a person is saved because of some previous religious or emotional experience. Yet, how eternal is salvation? Salvation is eternal life, and eternal life is just that—eternal (1 John 5:13).

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