

22T05b Always Saved (Part 2)

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table.

Once Saved, Always Saved? I'm sure if you are a Christian, you've heard this phrase. But the question we are exploring, "Is this doctrine Biblical"? I'm going to challenge the **"Once Saved, Always Saved"** doctrine to the Bible Test but I'm also going to challenge the alternative view to the Bible Test as the same time. The Bible Test is "does all scripture support your perspective or interpretation?".

Today in Part 2 of our series we are going to apply the Bible Test to Gospel scripture passages which are most often quoted as supporting the doctrine of **"Once Saved, Always Saved"**.

- Mark 16:16;
- John 3:3-36;
- John 5:24;
- John 6:35-40;
- John 6:43-51;
- John 10:28-30;
- John 20:30-31.

I believe we need to look at the big picture of scripture and resolve to an understanding based on the full context of all scriptures, not use specific scriptures to support our views. We will look at each of these scripture passages from our two perspectives about salvation and eternal life,

Choice #1: On-time sincere choice. Nothing more required.

Choice #2: Follow King Jesus. Build a relationship with Jesus.

Remember our other questions as well,

1. Do I have free will?
2. What does believing in Jesus require of us? If anything

Let's Pray. Father God, thank you for you. Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for being you. Guide our discussion today such that your message is spoken. Use me as you will. And if I speak poorly or in error, help the listener to only hear and remember what you want them to not my errant words. I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen

Mark 16 begins with the resurrection (v. 1-8) and then Jesus appearing to His disciples multiple times (v. 9-13). Then the Great Commission (v.14-18), ending with the ascension (v.19-20). Mark 16:16 (NKJV) ***16He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*** So, we are forced to ask the

question, what does Jesus mean in this scripture by “believes” and “not believe” or some other translations use “disbelief”. The Greek word translated as believes is “**pisteusas**” (pist-yoo'-sas) from the root word “**pistis**” meaning faith, belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness and the Greek word translated as “not believe or disbelief” is “**apistēsas**” (ap-is-teh'-sas) from the root word **apistos** meaning unbelieving, incredulous, faithless. So, the main concept Jesus is talking about here is **pistis vs. apistos**, or **believe vs. disbelief**, or **faith vs. faithless**, or **faithfulness vs. incredulous**, or even **obedience vs. disobedience**. These seem to infer an ongoing process rather than a single event. This scripture could be used by both of our perspectives, **Choice#1 & #2** to support there perspectives equally. Let’s keep looking at what the bible says.

Now let’s look at the Gospel of John starting with John 3. John chapter 3 begins with Jesus talking to the pharisee Nicodemus about being born again (v. 1-21). Starting with John 3:14-21 ***14And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their **deeds** were evil. 20For everyone **practicing** evil hates the light and **does not** come to the light, lest his **deeds** should be exposed. 21But he who **does** the truth comes to the light, that his **deeds** may be clearly seen, that they have been **done** in God.”***

This is probably the most famous and well know scripture even by non-Christians. John 3:16... “***whoever believes***” right? Well, the word translated as “believes” is **pisteuōn** (pist-yoo'-on) from the root word **pistis** which means faith, belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness. But please don’t fail to see the message in verses 19-21, “deeds”, “practicing”, “does”, “deeds”, “deeds”, “does”, “deeds” and “done”. All action words, it seems Jesus is very concerned about our actions both good and bad. Again, even this scripture could be used as support by either of our perspectives, **Choice#1 & #2**.

Chapter 5 of John begins with Jesus healing a crippled man (v. 1-15), honor your mother and father (v.16-23) followed by Life and Judgment Are Through the Son (v.24-30). John 5:24 (NKJV) ***24“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*** Again here the word translated as “believes” is translated from Greek word **pisteuōn** (pist-yoo'-on) from the root word **pistis** which means faith, belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness. Again, even this scripture could be used by both of our perspectives, **Choice#1 & #2**.

Chapter 6 of John begins with the feeding for the five thousand (v.1-14), Jesus walking on water (v.15-21), followed by a block of Jesus teachings (v.22-59). John 6: 35-40

(NKJV) ³⁵And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹**This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.** ⁴⁰And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Again, even this scripture could be used by both of our perspectives, **Choice#1 & #2**. V. 39 is the verse most who hold the “**once saved, always saved**” view use as a “proof” you cannot lose salvation. And yes, if you believe this doctrine, then this might seem like proof. But, if you don’t hold this viewpoint, then what. Is it not the will of God that all should be saved (1 Timothy 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:9 and Romans 5:18)? So, it’s not God’s will that any of us perish, but sadly many will.

John 6: 43-51 (NKJV) ⁴³ Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

Again “**believes**” in these scriptures is translated from Greek word **pisteuōn** (pist-yoo'-on) from the root word **pistis** which means faith, belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness.

I’m seeing a pattern with the word believe being translated from a form of the Greek word **pistisin** in both the Gospel of Mark and John. Again, every scripture with believe translated from the Greek word “**pistis**” could be used by both of our perspectives, **Choice#1** one-time Belief or **Choice #2** faithfulness to the King.

John Chapter 10 begins with Jesus’ teaching using the metaphor of a Shepherd. the True Shepherd (v.1-6), the Good Shepherd (v.7-21), Shepherd knows his sheep (v.22-30). Chapter 10 ends with the crowd threatening to stone Jesus. John 10: 27-30 (NKJV) ²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. ³⁰I and My Father are one.”

These verses in John 10 are widely contested in how you interpret them. If you believe **“Once Saved, Always Saved”**, then you say see “no one can snatch a believer from Jesus” but to those that don’t believe in **“Eternal Security”** they simply say, walking away or apostasy is not being snatched, it’s a choice. An exercise in “free will”. Not God’s Will. And no force human or otherwise can take us away. No dark forces can take us, but we can however by our own “free will” turn away.

John 20. John Chapter 20 begins with the resurrection, the empty tomb (v.1-10), Mary sees Jesus (v.11-18), Apostles Commissioned (v.19-29), then v. 30-31. John 20:30-31 (NKJV) ³⁰*And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;* ³¹*but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

Well, the word translated as “believing” is **“pisteuontes”** (pist-yoo'-on-tes) from the root word **pistis** which means faith, belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness.

If you believe **“once saved, always saved”**, then you say see these scriptures prove beyond any doubt once we “believe” we are saved.

But those that don’t believe in **“eternal security”** simply say, this is really **“pistis”** vs. **“apistis”** or **believe vs. unbelief** or **faithfulness vs. faithlessness**. These are not events but ongoing activities. Each appear to come with an **“IF”**. If we continue to believe or be faithful, then we have eternal life.

I think we need to reconcile what we’ve studied. So how does **“once saved, always saved”** hold up using these scriptures. Well pretty well but of course these are the scriptures used to support this doctrine. But our other position, **Choice #2** is also consistent with all of these scriptures. All of these scriptures could be used by both of these perspectives, **Choice#1 & #2**. So after, Session 2 no clear cut answer on which perspective about **“once saved, always saved”** is supported by the Bible or not.

Lord Jesus. I love you above all else. Thank you for your word the Bible. I thank you that we can openly read, learn and talk about your word. Even though not everyone will like our conversation, I’m thankful for the study, may it lead us to a stronger, more confident faith in you Lord. I pray in your name Jesus, Amen.

Let me leave you with a couple things today. We have addressed at least one of our questions, do we have free will? I think the scripture clearly talks about free will. All of the verses we just studied appear to require us to make a choice, “believe”, that’s free will.

Now I want to be clear, you cannot earn your way to heaven. The opposite position to **“once saved, always saved”** is not a works based salvation. I contend the opposites here are on-time choice vs. continual following of the King. Next time we will look at scriptures which many say do not support the doctrine of **“Once Saved, Always Saved”**.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join us for the rest of the series "Always Saved" as we dig into the Bible to test the doctrine of "**Once Saved, Always Saved**".

You can email me comments. So until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

LINKS