

22T05a Always Saved (Part 1)

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

Before we get started I want to say something. Two people can read the same scripture and sincerely interpret it differently. Many of these differences are striking but it is not essential to agree on everything. This is very similar to how two people see the same event but interpret it differently depending on their political affiliation. My objective is not to convince you, since only Jesus can truly do that. I'm not even saying I'm right, but I'm going to share my conclusion based on the research I'm presenting. I reserve the right to change my opinion if new information leads me to reconsider my views.

This conversation is going to be extensive because this is truly a critical conversation and people on both sides of this topic throw many flaming darts and insults at each other. I don't wish to do this. Because of this and the many diverse attitude about this topic, I'm going to share my personal research and opinions. But in the end, it's up to you to decide but I ask you to let the Bible speak to you. Listen to what the Bible says without the baggage of any preconceived perspective, so Jesus can speak to your soul through the Holy Spirit and His Holy word in the Bible.

The discussion we have in this series is going to hinge on our interpretation of the word "believe".

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

Once Saved, Always Saved? I'm sure if you are a Christian, you've heard this phrase. But the question I was asked was, "Is this doctrine Biblical"? Another way this is commonly said is "**Eternal Security**".

The best way to learn a doctrine is to challenge the doctrine to the Bible test. Does the Bible support this perspective or not. In order, for a doctrine to pass the Bible Test it must have a reasonable interpretation for all scriptures. Let me say that a second time. To pass the Bible Test a doctrine must be supported by all scripture. Typically, I would only look at the scriptures that opponents identify to see if a reasonable interpretation can be found to support a doctrine, then the doctrine would pass the Bible Test or at least be neutral.

I'm going to deviate from this a little bit for this research project. 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 at the same time.

Over the next sessions we will look at;

- Part 2: Gospel Supporting Verses (Believe, loose none, snatch)
- Part 3: Gospel Problems (Parables of Vine, Bridesmaids, Plough)
- Part 4: Gospel Problems (Endure, Keep, Stand Firm)
- Part 5: Epistles Supporting (Believe, Grace by Faith)
- Part 6: Epistles Problems (Paul's Letters)
- Part 7: Epistles Problems (Non-Pauline Letters)
- Part 8: Conclusions (Modern Parables)

We will look at every scripture passage from 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.

I attend a church that believes the “**Once Saved, Always Saved**” doctrine. I was sitting in church listening to a discussion about “believers” and how even if they are living in open rebellion against God, they are still saved. Yet, I had just been studying the book of Revelation which talks about Apostasy, and I had been studying the Parable of the Sower with my kids. The doctrine of “**Once Saved, Always Saved**” did not appear to be consistent with either of these scriptures. So, now what.?

I grew up in a church that did not teach this doctrine. I actually never heard this doctrine until I was an adult but I had never really thought about it seriously until recent years. Before we open the bible to test both of these perspectives, I wanted to see if I could identify historically when the “**Once Saved, Always Saved**” doctrine began to be discussed in the Christian Church. The concept of “**Eternal Security**” appears to have originated from Calvin in the 16th century, as part of his T.U.L.I.P. doctrine. But I found many scholars credited Augustine in the 4th century for inspiring Calvin's doctrine. This explains why certain denominations promote this doctrine and others do not. It depends on your denominations view of historical figures like Calvin or Augustine. But of course, this does not answer our question. Does the doctrine of “**Once Saved, Always Saved**” pass the Bible Test, is it supported by the bible, by all scriptures. So, let's begin.

I believe the bible has a consistent message cover-to-cover. If your interpretation of the bible is not consistent with all scriptures, then your interpretation is probably wrong. I can't tell you it's wrong or correct only that it is not supported by all scriptures and it does not pass the BIBLE TEST.

The BIBLE TEST prevents us from picking and choosing what scriptures to believe and which to ignore. This is called Proof Texting. Proof Texting is when you use a scripture to support your point or belief in isolation from other scriptures and ignoring scriptures that don't support your viewpoint. A doctrine is only as strong as the weakest verse or the verse that does not support it.

I believe we need to look at the big picture of scripture and resolve to an understanding based on the full context of scripture, not use specific scriptures to support our views. The Bible should be clear to understand on these topics or it is not meant to reveal the answer to us.

So, as we begin our bible study into the scriptures on the **“Once Saved, Always Saved”** doctrine, I think we need to keep a couple of other questions in our minds as we study.

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

The first thing I set out to do was identify the verses in the bible that address this issue. I typed **“Once Saved Always Saved”** verses into my internet search and got a lot of results.

I compiled a list of 50 scripture passages which we must all be able to interpret from one of our two perspectives on **“Once Saved Always Saved”** if either perspective is to be considered credible.

GOSPELS: Matthew 7:15-23, 10:22-33, 13:1-35, 18:21-35, 24:4-24, 25:31-46; Mark 4, 13:13-22, 16:16; Luke 8, 9:62, 12:8-10; John 3:3-36, 5:24, 6:35-40, 10:27-30, 15:1-17; 20:30-31;

EPISTLES: Romans 2:6-8, 5, 6, 8, 10:9-10, 11:11-31; Ephesians 1:13-14, 2:8-13, Colossians 1:23-24, 2:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 Timothy 1:19, 4:1-16, 6:10; Hebrews 3:12-14, 4:1-2, 5:19-20, 7:25, 10:26-39; James 2:14-17, 5:19-20; 2 Peter 1:10, 2:1-22, 3:17; Jude 1:24-25; Revelation 2, 3, 13, 22:19;

OLD TESTAMNENT: Isaiah 64:6; Ezekiel 18:24, 33:13-18;

Obviously, this is a lot of scripture spread out over nearly every new testament book and in the old testament. And to be honest I had no idea what these scriptures would reveal to us.

As per my typical method we will start with Jesus' words in the Gospels and Revelation. But before we get started I want to reiterate something. The bible has a single unified message throughout the 66 books with at least 40 different authors. The bible is the inspired word of God and as such has no contradictions. One simple rule, if your interpretation reveals a contradiction in the bible, then your interpretation is probably wrong or your translation has an error.

Remember our two perspectives; **Choice #1**: On-time sincere choice. vs. **Choice #2**: Follow King Jesus. How do each of these affect salvation?

Now let's think about our two perspectives. Now let's assume **“Once Saved, Always Saved”** is true. You believe **Choice #1**, you say the prayer and your good, right? Nothing more required. But what if you believe **Choice #2** and you focus on building your relationship with Jesus, you remain focused on Jesus, following Jesus. IF **“Once Saved, Always Saved”** is **TRUE**, then both of you would still be “saved”. But I'll contend the person with the **Choice #2** perspective has a fuller more satisfying life focused on King Jesus.

Now let's assume **“Once Saved, Always Saved”** is **NOT** true. If you believe **Choice #2**, you focus on building your relationship with Jesus with the understanding you can only receive the “free gift of salvation” if you remain focused on Jesus, following Jesus. But what if you believe **Choice #1** and you don't focus on building a relationship with King Jesus, then what. I fear you could be at risk of being told “I never knew you by the King” (see Matthew 7:21-23).

It appears that in either case, having **Choice #2** perspective is better for you. So, what is the benefit of the **“Once Saved, Always Saved”** doctrine? I know some will argue “because it's right!” or “it gives us assurance kind of like fire insurance” and they may be right. I think we will discover what the Bible has to say in this series.

Lord Jesus. You are the one I love above all else. Thank you for wanting me and loving me, even though nothing I can do will ever deserve your Love. Help us to listen and read the Bible with an open mind such that we can hear your message for us. I pray in your name Jesus, Amen.

Let me leave you with this today. As with many man-made doctrines, if I don't believe it and it happens to be true, it's still good for me as a Christ Follower. But, if it's not true however, I fear for many who have chosen complacency and not followed King Jesus.

I've been told you can tell what you love most by looking at your checkbook and calendar. Or basically how you spend your time and money show what you truly love. So let me ask you, What or Who do you love most? Just look at your bank account and calendar. Don't give an excuse.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join me 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. See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

LINKS