

22T05d Always Saved (Part 4)

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 your perspective provide a reasonable explanation for all scripture.

Today in Part 4 of our series "**Always Saved**", we are going to concentrate on the Gospel scriptures which challenge the doctrine of "**Once Saved, Always Saved**".

- Matthew 7:15-23,
- Matthew 10:22-33
- Matthew 24:4-24
- Matthew 25
- Mark 13:13-22
- Luke 12:8-10,

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

Remember, the bible has a consistent message, cover to cover. If your interpretation of the bible is not consistent with all scriptures, then you should review the basis for your opinion. Or maybe you need to check your Bible translation.

Don't fall into the trap of Proof Texting. Don't just pick and choose what scriptures to believe and which to ignore. The Bible Test requires that our perspective provides a reasonable explanation for all scriptures, not just the few that we like.

We are looking at each scripture passages from two perspectives about salvation and eternal life,

- **Choice #1:** On-time sincere choice. No business left to do with God.
- **Choice #2:** Follow King Jesus. We need a relationship with Jesus.

Also, keep in mind two questions.

- Do I have free will?
- What does believing in Jesus require of us?

Therefore, as we read these scriptures, we must keep in mind all scripture, not merely focus on these few verses in isolation.

Matthew Chapter 7 begins with teachings “judge not lest you be judged” (v.1-6), “seek and you will find” (v.7-12), “narrow is the way” (v.13-14) then “you will know them by their fruit” Matthew 7:15-20 (NKJV) ***15“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20Therefore by their fruits you will know them.***

There are a lot of warnings in Jesus’ teachings, but His metaphor about fruiting trees should catch our attention. If you don’t bear “good fruit”, you may be cut down and thrown into the fire. Now, many argue about this warning but at the very least, Jesus is telling us we will have to account for the things we have done.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV) ***21“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’***

There are a lot of powerful scriptures but this one is a grave warning. Jesus tells us that many will think they deserve access to heaven, they will think they did things in Jesus’ name but He will say I never knew you. *“knew” is more like, I never got to know you. Or I would say it this way, **‘I don’t have a relationship with you’.***

Matthew Chapter 10 begins with Jesus sending out the twelve (v. 1-15), then coming persecutions (v. 16-26) followed by series of teachings (V.27-42) Matthew 10:22 (NKJV) ***22And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.*** And Matthew 10:32-33 (NKJV) ***32“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.***

Luke 12:8-12 is a near parallel to Matthew 10:32-33. Luke 12:8-9 (NKJV) ***8“Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. 9But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God***

Again, Jesus is stressing you need to make a clear choice, no gray areas. You confess Me or you deny Me. Confess is translated from the Greek words “**(h)omologēsei**” (om-ol-og-eh'-seh) and “**(h)omologēsō**” (om-ol-og-eh'-so), meaning to speak or to agree, and deny is translated from “**arnēsētai**” and “**arnēsomai**” in Matthew and “**arnēsamenos**” (ar-neh'-om-ahee- nos) and “**aparnēthēsetai**” (ap-ar-neh'-thēs et ai) in Luke, all meaning, to deny or say no. This is very much like the discussion we had

on “pistis” vs. “apistis” in Part 2 of this series. **Believe vs. disbelief, faithfulness vs. faithlessness, obedience vs. disobedience** and now **confess vs. deny**. Jesus is warning us there is no gray area here. You are either on His side or you are not. You can't be a “sort-of” follower. You either follow or you don't.

If you believe **“Once Saved, Always Saved”**, then you say this cannot be about salvation. But if you read it literally, then what does “endures” mean. The word **“endure”** is a problem. In Matthew 10:22 the word endures is translated **“stands firm”** in the NIV, **“patiently persevered and endured”** in the Amplified bible. Endures is translated from the Greek word **“upomeinas”** (oop-om-en'-es) meaning to stay or wait or endure. The root words are **“hupo”** (hoop-o') meaning by, under or about and the word **“menó”** (men'-o) meaning to remain, abide, stay, wait. So, if we use the Greek word **“upomeinas”** (oop-om-en'-es), I don't know how I can align **“believe”** to be saved and **“endure”** to be saved based on a one time sincere choice. I cannot find a clear way to reconcile this scripture, if you believe **“Once Saved, Always Saved”**.

Matthew chapter 24 begins with Jesus predicting the destruction of the Temple in v. 1-2 and then Jesus answers the disciple question about when and how the Temple will be destroyed in v.3-14. Starting with Matthew 24:9-14 (NKJV) ***9“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.***

And Matthew 24:23-25 (NKJV) ***23“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. 24For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25See, I have told you beforehand.***

Mark Chapter 13 is a close parallel with Mathew 24. Then Jesus says in verse 13 ***“But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”*** That word endures is used again.

This is a sad commentary on us humans. Jesus tells us that when the trials come, ***“the love of many will grow cold”*** or ***“deceive... even the elect”***. Most scholars would call this **“apostasy”** or **“falling away”** which is paralleled in Revelation. So, what does **“apostasy”** mean from the Oxford dictionary, ***“the abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief.”*** If you believe **“Once Saved, Always Saved”** then you have to believe that even if someone curses God, renounce their faith in God, they are still destined for heaven. Even though the last place they want to be is with God. This seems to go against “free will” and common sense. But that has to be the “belief”. Now if you don't hold the view of **“Once Saved, Always Saved”** this is easy to understand and interpret. If you stop following Jesus, then you are no longer a follower and are outside the promises made to the followers of Jesus.

Matthew chapter 25 begins with parable of the bridesmaids (v.1-13), parable of the Talents (v.14-30) and then Jesus tells that the “son of man with judge the nations” (v.31-46). Matthew 25:31-46 (NKJV) *³¹“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ ³⁷“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ ⁴¹“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ ⁴⁴“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ⁴⁵Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

This is another sobering scripture. Jesus divides people into two groups righteous and unrighteous, but did you see the reason. This is not believe and disbelief. This was done according to their actions, what they did for the King. If you believe **“Once Saved, Always Saved”**, then how do you account for the actions Jesus is clearly expecting His “righteous” to do.

If you believe **“Once Saved, Always Saved”**, then you must say see these scriptures have nothing to do with salvation. But those that don’t believe in **“Once Saved, Always Saved”** simply say, if you don’t endure and follow Jesus then why would you expect the reward.

I want to characterize the verses we’ve studied from the Gospels,

- Relationship - Matthew 7:21-23
- Endure - Matthew 10:22, 24:13, Mark 13:13
- Fruit - Matthew 13:1-35, Mark 4, Luke 8
- Unforgiving - Matthew 18:21-35
- Service - Matthew 25:31-46
- Commitment - Luke 9:62,
- Faithfulness - Mark 16:16, John 3:3-20/36, 5:24, 6:37-39,

- Follow – John 10:27-30
- Remain – John 15:1-17

Father God, thank you for giving us your word the Bible. Thank you for giving us resources and wisdom to understand you words. Help us to read your Bible with no preconceived ideas, so we can see the message you want us to see. Thank you for this time studying your words in the Bible, Lord Jesus. I pray all these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.

Let me leave you with this today. This walk through Jesus' words in the Gospels appear to be consistent in theme and message. Remain, Follow, Endure, Service, Commitment, Faithfulness, Fruit. These are not events but ongoing activities. The opposite position to **"Once Saved, Always Saved"** is not a works based salvation. I contend the opposites here are on-time choice vs. following the King.

What about our questions.

First, do we have free will? I think so, all scriptures we have studied in all the sessions so far appear to require us to make a choice, that's free will.

Second, what does believing in Jesus require of us? The words I've listed before seem to indicate we have to do something to remain or abide in Christ. Jesus says, **"if you keep my commandments"** (John 15:10). So, I'll let you be the judge.

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 and feedback anytime. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.

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