

22T05f Always Saved (Part 6)

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've been exploring, "Is this doctrine Biblical"? Another way this is commonly said is "*Eternal Security*".

Today in Part 6 of our series, we are going to concentrate on the New Testament Pauline Epistles which appear not to support the doctrine of "*once saved, always saved*".

- Romans 2:6-8, 6:1-4, 8:1, 11:11-31,
- Colossians 1:23-24, 2:14;
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3;
- 1 Timothy 1:19, 4:1-16, 6:10.

Before we start today, I want to explain I'm not trying to convince you one way or the other on this topic. What I wish is for us to differentiate between man-made doctrines and truths from the Bible. The man-made doctrine may be true, only God knows. But truths in the Bible are supported by all of the Bible. Any doctrine is only as strong as the Bible verses that don't support it.

Again, I believe we need to look at the big picture of scripture and resolve to an understanding based on the full context of all scripture, not use specific scriptures to support our views. Today, we will challenge the "*once saved, always saved*" doctrine to interpret scriptures which do not necessarily support it. We will look 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.

Keep in mind a couple questions.

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

Before we start Romans, a little background is necessary. Paul is writing to the Church in Rome. He is talking to "believers". This is a very high level outline of Romans is,

- Justification By Faith
- Salvation is Freedom from (Wrath; Sin; the Law; Death)
- The Transformed Life (Conduct, Authority, Fellow Man, Weak Brethren)

Romans 2:1-11 has the section heading in the NKJV "God's Righteous Judgment". I think we need to read this whole section so we can understand the context of the other verses in Romans. Romans 2:1-11 (NKJV) *¹Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. ²But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. ³And do you think this, O*

man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶who “will render to each one **according to his deeds**”: ⁷**eternal life to those who** by patient continuance in doing good **seek** for glory, honor, and immortality; ⁸but to those who are **self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, ⁹tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; ¹⁰but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹For there is no partiality with God.**

I know this scripture out of the KJV which says, “judge not least ye be judged”. This is an often miss quoted and miss used scripture but I’m not going to get into that in today’s discussion. Let’s see what Paul says here in verses 6-8, God will judge us “**according to his deeds**”, “**eternal life for those who seek**”, “**self-seeking and do not obey the truth**”. These look and sound like warnings. Remember he is writing to “believers” in Rome, why so many warnings if we have “**eternal security**” as soon as we believe.

Throughout this letter, Paul is stressing that salvation is a gift of grace, a free gift to all men. But obviously, we have to accept the gift to receive it. Again, let’s continue in Romans 6:1-4 (NKJV) ¹**What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

This is a passage we need to reconcile from both of our perspectives. I think Paul is pretty clear that we cannot intentionally continue to sin and just rely on grace. “**Certainly Not**” is his words. We should walk our talk. I find it difficult to reconcile this from the “**once saved, always saved**” perspective for this scripture. If you believe “**once saved, always saved**” and you made that one-time sincere choice, then you can live in open rebellion against God and still have “**eternal security**” relying on grace to cover your many sins. Paul says, **Certainly Not**.

Romans 8:1(NKJV) ¹**There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** And Romans 11:19-31 (NKJV) ¹⁹**You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. ²¹For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. ²²Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴For if you were cut**

out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

So, let's look a little more closely at Romans to get a better perspective of the context Paul was writing. Romans 2:6-8, *"according to his deeds", "eternal life for those who seek", "self-seeking and do not obey the truth"*.

- Romans 5:1- free gift came to all men
- Romans 6:23, sin so Grace can abound, NO
- Romans 8, do not walk by flesh, God loves you
- Romans 10:9-10, "Whoever calls...saved"
- Romans 11:19-31 "Do not be haughty"

This does not look like a one-time choice. I said this last time but I want to repeat it. In my own words, Yes, salvation is a free gift available to all men who do not walk according to the flesh but call on the lord. But don't be proud as to sin willfully and perceive to have grace to cover all your sins. Because if God cut off others for unbelief so too, will He you.

If we have *"eternal security"*, then why all the warnings about what we do and how we live?

Now I'm going to read several passages from some of Paul's other letters quickly.

Colossians 1:21-24(NKJV),²¹*And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled* ²²*in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—* ²³***if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.***

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV), ³*Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless **the falling away comes first**, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,* ⁴*who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

1 Timothy 4:1-16(NKJV), ¹*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times **some will depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and*¹⁶*Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

1 Timothy 6:10(NKJV); ¹⁰*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, **for which some have strayed from the faith** in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

- Colossians "continue, grounded, steadfast"

- 2 Thessalonians Falling away,
- 1 Timothy “some will depart from the faith” and “have strayed from the faith”

If you believe “once saved, always saved”, then what is “falling away”, “departing from the faith”, “strayed from the faith”. Are these still saved? Or did they never sincerely believe. That does not appear to be Paul’s point. There is no indication of insincere belief. Paul is stressing the need for steadfastness, continuing. To depart or stray from the faith would require a person to have faith in the first place. I cannot fall away if I’m not in to start with. All of these are very difficult to reconcile with using the insincere conversion approach.

Let’s pray. Heavenly Father thank you for the Bible. Thank you for the letters of Paul. Help us to read, study and pray about the contents of these letters, so you can help us to understand your message. I pray that we can ignore the many voices and opinions, so we can hear your voice and your message without all the preconceived ideas. Thank you, Lord, for guiding our study and I pray in your name Jesus, Amen.

Okay, let me leave you with this. Paul’s letters in the Bible are amazing and we can learn much from them. But it is important to remember who and why he was writing. When we read portions of these letters, we must keep the purpose and context in our minds so that we don’t try to use a verse here or there to support our view while ignoring the ones that don’t support our viewpoints. Departing and Straying from the faith, falling away and other such phrases appear to speak of those who believed but then departed from the faith. This sounds to me like someone who no longer believes. But I’ll leave it up to you to reconcile these verse from your chosen perspective.

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”.

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See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.