

22T05g Always Saved (Part 7)

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 7 of our series, we are going to concentrate on the New Testament non-Pauline Epistles which appear not to support the doctrine of "once saved, always saved".

- Hebrews 3:12-14, 6:4-8, 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

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?

These epistles are called non-Pauline because they are not written by the Apostle Paul. Although some scholars think he might have written Hebrews. We don't actually know since the author of Hebrews is not stated.

Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians, so keep in mind the intended audience as you read. This is a very high level outline of Hebrew is,

- Superiority of Christ
- Superiority of New Covenant
- Exhortations that Result

Starting with Hebrews 3:12-15 (NKJV), ¹²*Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;* ¹³*but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.* ¹⁴*For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,* ¹⁵*while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*

Hebrews 6:4-8(NKJV), ⁴*For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. ⁷For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; ⁸but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.*

Hebrews 10:26(NKJV); ²⁶*For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,*

Hebrews 10:35-39(NKJV); ³⁵*Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ³⁷"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. ³⁸Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." ³⁹But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

These three passages from Hebrews use "rebellion", "fall away". Then this statement in Hebrews 10:26 *"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins"*. If you believe *"once saved, always saved"* then what. Why the warnings if there is no consequences.

Now James. I know everyone who believes *"once saved, always saved"* just moaned. Yes James. It's in the bible too. Most attribute this letter to James the half-brother of Jesus. James 2:14-17(NKJV), ¹⁴*What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? ¹⁷Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

I know you have heard it before, James is saying if you have no fruit what proof is there that you have faith. No we are not saved by works but if we follow Jesus earnestly then our actions should show evidence of our faith. There are no part-time Christians, only full-time, all the way followers of Christ.

James 5:19-20(NKJV), ¹⁹*Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,* ²⁰*let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

James concludes his letter with statement about those *“among you wanders from the truth”*, again this sounds like a falling away. Regardless, I’m not sure how to interpret the book of James from the *“once saved, always saved”* perspective. Maybe dead faith does not mean lost salvation, but I’ll let you be the judge.

Next let’s read a few passages from 2 Peter. Of course, this is one of the two letters from the Apostle Peter included in our Bibles. Both of the letters from Peter are worth spending time in but for today let’s look at, 2 Peter 1:5-11(NKJV), ⁵*But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,* ⁶*to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,* ⁷*to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.* ⁸*For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁹*For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.* ¹⁰*Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;* ¹¹*for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

And also this from 2 Peter 2:18-22(NKJV), ¹⁸*For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.* ¹⁹*While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.* ²⁰*For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.* ²¹*For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.* ²²*But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”*

One last passage from 2 Peter 3:17(NKJV); ¹⁷*You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;* ¹⁸*but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Again, Peter reminds us to be steadfast, and don’t stumble. Peter stresses that if we stumble its worse for us than those that never believed. That does not sound good to me. If I still have salvation then how is it worse for me. This is perhaps the most difficult group of scriptures to reconcile if you believe *“once saved, always saved.”*

Now Jude. Most attribute this letter to Jude the brother of Jesus. The letter begins, *“Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James”* Jude begins with a

greeting (v. 1-2), contending for the faith (v. 3-4), Apostates (v.5-19), Maintain your life with God (v.20-25). Jude is very concerned about people's apostasy or walking away from the Jude verse 24-25 (NKJV) *²⁴Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.*

The entire letter from Jude is talking about apostasy and warning us not to stumble. Jude thought it was important to stay focused on Jesus, I doubt the concept of our one-time sincere choice can be reconciled with this letter. If "*once saved, always saved*" is true then why all these warnings.

Now, let's look at the last book of the Bible, the Revelation of Jesus Christ written by the Apostle John while an exile on the island of Patmos. Most of us know this book as the "end of the world" book. But it's much more. It was written to seven actual churches in Asia. Specifically. Ephesus the loveless church (v. 1-7), Smyrna the persecuted church (v.8-11), Pergamos the compromising church (v. 12-17), Thyatira the corrupt church (v. 18-29) and followed by churches in Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea in Chapter 3.

The church in Ephesus is first, Revelation 2:4-5 *⁴Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.*

Next, the church in Smyrna, Revelation 2:10 *¹⁰Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

Next, the church in Pergamos, Revelation 2:14-16 *¹⁴But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*

Next, the church in Thyatira, Revelation 2:20-23 *²⁰Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. ²²Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.*

Next, the church in Sardis, Revelation 3:1b-5 ...*“I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ²Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. ⁴You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*

Jesus is being clear to each of these churches they must do something to remain in him. Faithfulness, Service, Commitment etc.

Let’s pray. Heavenly Father thank you for the Bible. Thank you for these letters. 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. These New Testament letters in the Bible are amazing and we can learn much from them. But it is important to remember to who and why they were written. 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 verses 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”.

If you liked the message, please share the link with a friend. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me.

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