

22T05h Always Saved (Part 8)

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 8 of our series "Always Saved", we are going summarize what we have discovered together in the Bible.

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.

Our objective was to look at the big picture of scripture and resolve to our understanding based on the full context of scripture, not use specific scriptures to support our views. Our conversation has been extensive. We looked at verses that supporter of the "once saved, always saved" doctrine use, as well as scriptures which seem hard to reconcile from that perspective. We have challenged the "once saved, always saved" doctrine and looked at each scripture passage 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.

Additionally, we asked these questions,

- Do we have free will?
- What does believing in Jesus require of us?
- Is our security, a Belief or a Relationship?
- What is Apostasy or Falling Away?

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 truth, if your interpretation of the bible reveals a contradiction in the bible, then your interpretation is probably wrong.

I want to be clear before we summarize the findings of this series. The opposite position to "*once saved, always saved*" is not a works based salvation. You cannot earn your way into heaven. Isaiah 64:6 is a beautiful scripture. I like the language in the NLT, *We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.* I love how Isaiah exposes us. Our so called "righteous

deeds” are like filthy rags before God. We can do nothing to earn salvation, only by grace as a free gift of God.

The opposite of an on-time sincere choice is a relationship, continually following the King Jesus.

It really comes down to the interpretation of the word “believe”. But this word “believe” is not the original word in the Bible manuscripts. The Greek words translated as “believe” or “believes” in English all come from the Greek root word “pistis” which means faith, belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness. In most of these new testament scriptures there is a choice described, “pistis” vs. “apistos”, or believe vs. disbelief, or faith vs. faithless, or faithfulness vs. incredulous, or obedience vs. disobedience. Other places Jesus uses confess me vs. deny me. Clear either or statements.

Okay, I get it. You wish to believe that the word “believe” refers to a one-time sincere choice. Then, what about the scriptures which say you need to “endure to be saved” or “abide to be saved” or you need to “do my commandments”?

Or what about the many, many warnings against apostasy or walking away from the faith in the epistles and gospels. If every believer has *eternal security* the moment they believe, then why all the warnings? It would make more sense to focus on getting people to believe, yet significantly more of the bible is focused on warnings and how we should live, rather than a single one-time sincere choice.

Regardless of your perspective, we must reconcile apostasy. I’ve heard it said, these are not “true” believers or they never “truly” believed. Then why is it called apostasy. Apostasy is defined as a renunciation of your belief. You cannot renounce something you never believed. Ezekiel 18:24 (NKJV) *[24“But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die.](#)*

Now you may believe that even if you are an apostate, even if you renounce your faith, even if you are willfully sinning in open rebellion against God, you can still be saved by that one-time sincere choice years ago. But, then what about Jesus’ parables of the Sower, the Talents, the Unforgiving Servant and the Vine Dresser and so many others. I cannot reconcile a branch grafted in as not being a “believer” or “saved.” To be grafted in you have to believe and come into a relationship with Jesus. But then that same branch can be cut-off for not being fruitful and cast into the fire. That does not sound like the burning branch is still saved.

It really comes back to that word “believe” again. So let me ask you, do you believe eating healthy is good for you? Most of us would say yes. Does that belief translate into a healthy you? Only if you actually eat healthy. Knowing it, Believing it does not translate into an outcome without actions. You have to eat healthy to be healthy. Or,

10 years ago you ate healthy and exercised regularly, and you were probably healthy. Does what you did 10 years ago permanently impact your health today. In most cases, No. You would have to keep practicing healthy eating and exercise to still be getting the benefits.

So, Choice #1 was you believe *“once saved, always saved”*. Then you must think the word *“believe”* means one-time sincere choice. Then the word *“endure”* is a problem. Matthew 10:22 the word endure is translated as *“stands firm”* in the NIV and, *“patiently preserved and endured”* in the Amplified bible. I cannot find any way to align *“believe”* to be saved and *“endure”* to be saved based on a one-time sincere choice.

But what about our Choice #2, you do not believe *“once saved, always saved”*. Then, you must think it is all about a relationship with Jesus not a one-time sincere choice. Then the problem is the word *“believe”*. What does believe mean. We established earlier that the word believe is translated from several variations of the Greek word *“pistis”* which means faith, belief, trust, confidence; fidelity, faithfulness. Some scholars say is more like obedience than a mere belief. But what if we decide the word believe is correct then what. Well what does the word believe mean. Websters dictionary has several definitions but I think the best is *“to hold an opinion, think”*. So, using this definition, if you don't believe in *“eternal security”*, you must think it's more about a relationship. We must continue to believe to be saved. We must be focused on Jesus, not looking back. This is not works to be saved, this is more about your focus. Focused on Jesus to be saved vs. not on Jesus to be? I'll leave the rest up to you.

Let's look at it another way. How do each of these perspectives affect salvation?

- Choice #1, you say the prayer and your good, right?
- Or Choice #2, you say the prayer and intentionally continue to build your relationship with Jesus, your King.

As with many doctrines, if I don't believe it and it happens to be true, IF you are a Follower of Jesus then it's still good for you. You still get all the blessings. But if it's not true and you've chosen complacency with a false confidence in a one-time sincere choice, then what? I fear the outcome may not be secure.

Believe does not always translate to action and without action we typically don't get the benefits. That is how it works in every other part of life, so how can we think a single act of belief permanently guarantees an outcome. We are not victims of a one-time decision.

God loves us so much He allows us to choose. It is a choice; you take up your cross daily and follow Jesus.

We have to choose to walk in the light or in the darkness, every day. It is a choice. You cannot be a follower of Jesus while showing no interest in Him, let alone if you are in active open rebellion against His commands.

There is only one logical conclusion. I cannot reconcile the doctrine of “once save, always saved” or “eternal security” with the bible, with logic or with witnessed facts in our lives. God loves us and He yearns for a relationship with us. What a miracle! The Creator of everything, wants a relationship with us. Choose Him, then walk with Him, Learn from Him, Follow Him. It is the best life you can have and as a “free gift” you get to spend eternity with the one you love, Jesus. You can have confident assurance as a follower of the King. If you have never read the book Pilgrims Progress by John Bunyan, I urge you to do so. Or there are several movie renditions. I’ll attach a link to one after this video. As you read or watch, think about the questions we’ve asked and how the character “Christian” would answer them.

There is nothing you can do to earn salvation, just stay focused on the one who freely gives to those that call on His name. And they we will be called the sons and daughters of God.

Matthew 7:21 *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven”*. Please, Hear Jesus’ words, these people called Him Lord, Lord but still do not get to enter heaven. They did great things in the name of Jesus but still do not get to enter heaven. Why? They seem to know Jesus, believe in Jesus after all they did things in the name of Jesus. So why no entry to heaven? Could it be they did not really love Jesus. We all say a lot of things we don’t truly believe; we even do things without our heart truly being in it. Love Jesus, it is not an idea or concept, it is a way of life. Love is an action word. Loving Jesus requires us to be obedient to Jesus. That’s how we show Jesus, we love him. Live loving others as Jesus loves them, that is the standard Jesus gave us. Love is an action word. Love them.

I’ve been told you can tell what you love by how you spend your time and money. So what do you love most? Your checkbook and calendar don’t lie. You cannot hide behind doctrines or teenage conversion moments. 1 John 3:18. *Let us love not only in word or speech but in action and truth*. Join me following the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, Our Savior, Lord and King Jesus. Amen.

Let’s pray. Heavenly Father thank you for the Bible. 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. Regardless of your opinion about this doctrine, the Bible is clear as followers of Jesus we have things to do. Being obedient to our king, King Jesus is about doing what He has commanded us to do. Our focus must be on Jesus. If it’s not then I’m not sure how we can believe we will be rewarded in the end. But of course you have to answer that for yourself. Someday we will stand before Jesus, I’ll leave it up to you.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today. 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.

Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.