

Once Saved Always Saved? Biblical or False doctrine?

By Evangelist Sean Bonitto

“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” James 5:20

“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.” Hebrews 3:12

The doctrine of once saved always saved is promoted by many denominations, preachers, and many in the church world today as a sound Bible doctrine that is firmly grounded in the Word of God.

However, the Holy Bible does not only reject this doctrine in remote circumstances, but in a multitude of passages given by the Holy Ghost to **“...holy men of God”** who, **“spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”** (2 Peter 1:21).

Without further delay we will proceed to examine the very words of the Holy Ghost, the Son, and the Father, concerning the serious error of this doctrine.

The sin of Adam Eve, and the ungodly line of Cain

Beginning at the Old Testament the Word of God teaches that Adam and Eve who at the time before the fall, never committed sin in thought, word, or deed, but had perfect fellowship with the only one true living God, the God of the Holy Bible. They had a free will to obey the commandment of God, or to enter into disobedience, sin and apostasy.

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”(Genesis 2:16-17).

From the very beginning mankind had a free will to chose fellowship with God or sin, disobedience, and separation from God. Adam and Eve unfortunately chose the latter, and committed sin and apostasy by following after Satan's lies, and deception through the lust of the flesh that began in the heart, and was manifested by eating the forbidden fruit(Genesis 3:1-7).

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:15).

After the fall of mankind, through the sin of Adam and Eve, we see man's free will

acknowledged by God Almighty when He speaks to Cain, the firstborn son of Adam and Eve after he offered a sacrifice that was not accepted by God, **“And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him”**(Genesis 4:6-7).

The Choice Of Being A Child Of God Or A Child Of The Devil

The Bible clearly teaches that Cain had the ability to **“doest well”** and **“be accepted”** or to **“doest not well”** and be rejected by God, and therefore allowing sin to have dominion over him, and thus becoming a recipient of God's wrath and judgement (Romans 6:23). The Bible says,

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous” (1 John 3:10-12).

Cain could have been accepted in the sight of God by doing **“well,”** but he decided not to do righteousness, but walk in wickedness, and darkness, thus becoming a child of the devil, and not a child of God (1John 3:10-12).

The Word of God clearly warns the true born again Christian not to follow the example of Cain, by saying, **“Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous”** (1 John 3:10-12).

The Holy Ghost through the Apostle John in His first epistle to the church, warns the true born again believer not to walk in darkness, and sin (1 John 1:5-6; 1 John 2:15-17;etc). He warns that to do so, one would not have fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, but will be walking in darkness, and would receive His judgement and not eternal life.

For **“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth”** (1 John 1:6).

“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:4).

“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now”(1John 2:9).

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15),

“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming” (1 John 2:28).

“Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him” (1 John 3:15)

While many advocates for the once saved always saved doctrine would suggest that most of the aforementioned verses of Holy Scripture refer to false converts, please understand that the epistle is not written to unbelievers but to the true church of God.

The warning is clear that if one who professes to know the Lord Jesus Christ, and continues to walk in wilful sin, and darkness, they do not know God, and they are a child of the devil, who is tragically on their way to an eternity in hell.

Old Testament warnings against living in sin and receiving God's Judgement

This warning is not only echoed throughout the epistle of 1 John but in multiple passages of the Old and New Testament.

The Holy Ghost spoke through the Old Testament prophets were warning Israel, and Judah of God's wrath and impending judgement if they did not repent of their sin, and their wicked idol worship.

This warning began when the Holy Ghost spoke through Moses to the children of Israel,

“Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known”
(Deuteronomy 11:26-28).

This warning was repeated by the Holy Ghost through all the prophets. **“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it”** (Isaiah 1:19-20).

“And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands” (Jeremiah 1:16).

The Prophet Ezekiel goes into specific detail of how a righteous man can lose his salvation by turning away from the Lord, by living sin and rebellion.

“When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand” (Ezekiel 3:20).

New Testament Warnings To the Church against living in Sin and losing Salvation

This warning has continued in the New Testament to the church of God by the Holy Ghost through the Apostles.

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them”(Acts 20:28-30).

The Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul is warning the Ephesian pastors not to be lead astray by false teaching that could damn their souls to an eternity in hell. He also warned them that there will be a turning away even among the Ephesian Pastor's who were present. If they could never lose their salvation the warning would be meaningless, and completely unnecessary.

The statement, **“... I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears”**(Acts 20:31) clearly emphasizes the seriousness of the warning and its eternal consequences, that if not hearkened, will lead to perdition.

Warning to the Christians at Rome of losing salvation

The Apostle Paul warns the Roman believers in Romans 6:1-23, that while one is saved only by the grace of God and not according to our good works(Ephesians 2:8-9), we are not to walk in sin, for to do so would not lead to eternal life, but death and eternal damnation.

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?...For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:1-2, 23).

His warning continues in Roman 8:1-13 not to walk after sin and the lust of the flesh, for to do so they will lose their salvation. **“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit...For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”**(Romans 8:1, 13).

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

The Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 rebukes the Corinthian church for not lovingly executing godly discipline to a man in the church who was committing fornication with, **“...his father's wife”** (1Corinthians 5:1).

In this context the word, “porneia” translated **“...fornication...”** in the KJV is speaking in reference to sexual sin in general, and not specifically to pre-marital unchastity as recorded in in the context of Matthew 19:9.

The church at Corinth continued to treat the man as a born again Christian, and did not acknowledge that his precious soul was at stake. In essence they were practising the doctrine of once saved always saved.

However, the Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul rejected this false doctrine, and warned that genuine repentance from his sin must be accomplished in his life in order to be saved, or he will be lost to an eternity in hell forever.

This fact is evident in 1 Corinthians 5:5 when he writes, “...**deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus**” (1Corinthians 5:5).

The Apostle Paul did not teach that this man was never saved, but acknowledge that he needed godly discipline and correction, in order for him to recognize his need to repent of his sin, in order to escape an eternity in hell, and to be saved in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the next verse, the Apostle Paul warns the Corinthian church that if they do not execute righteous, and loving judgement toward those committing such wicked acts of sin, they all could be in danger of eternal damnation, by allowing sin to enter into their lives. **“Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?”**(1Corinthians 5:6).

The leaven of this man's sin if not dealt with, would have lead to this man's soul being lost in hell, as well as possibly the whole church at Corinth. This fact cannot be denied (1 Corinthians 5:1-6).

1 Corinthians Chapter 6

To prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that this is the clear teaching of Holy Scripture, and that the Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul taught that those living in sin in the church would lose their salvation, and tragically end up in eternal hell fire and damnation, he warns the Corinthian church in the next chapter by saying,

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived:neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (1Corinthians 6:9-11).

It is important to understand that the epistle is written to the church, and that he is warning the church not to be **“deceived”** into believing that they can live in sin and still **“inherit the kingdom of God.”**

The warning is clear and without any confusion at all. It is the warning that a believer can possibly be deceived by believing they are saved while walking in sin, when in reality, if they do not repent, they will lose their eternal soul in hell forever.

If this was not the case, and a believer is once saved always saved, and could never lose their salvation, then why warn the church that they could lose their salvation? Why warn them about being deceived if they could never be deceived?

The answer is clear and simple, the warning was given because they could lose their salvation and be deceived by living in sin, and refusing to repent of their sin and walk in the Holy Ghost(Luke 13:3;Romans 8:1-13).

2 Corinthians Chapter 12

In 2 Corinthians 12:21 the Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul reveals His deep love and concern for the Corinthian church, due to the fact that they were waking in sin, and his fear for their eternal souls that they have not repented of it.

For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed”(2 Corinthians 12:20-21).

The word **“bewail”** is the Greek word, “pentheo” meaning to “grieve” or to “morn.” The reason the Apostle Paul would grieved, and **“bewail many”** over their unrepentant sin, would not be because he desired them to have a closer walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, which of course he certainly desired, but was primarily because they were in danger of losing their souls forever in hell.

This fact is clearly seen in the next chapter of 2 Corinthians 13:5, when the Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul says, **“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”**

The examination was to see whether one was truly serving the Lord Jesus Christ, or that they were not in Christ, but were lost. One was to examine or scrutinize their life according to the Word of God to see if they were in the Bible Believing Christian faith, or if they were indeed walking in judgement.

The word **“reprobates”** is the Greek word, “adokimos” meaning, “a castaway” “one who is rejected.” This same word is found also 1 Corinthians 9:27 when the Apostle Paul said, **“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”**

The word **“castaway”** is “adokimos”, and therefore the Apostle Paul was making sure he was not walking in hypocrisy and sin, that would certainly damn his soul to an eternity in hell, but exercised temperance and the fruit of the Holy Ghost, by walking in the Spirit(Galatians 5:16) and presenting his body **“...a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service”(Romans 12:1).**

Once Saved Always Saved is Rejected Throughout the Holy Scriptures

In every context throughout the Holy Scriptures where the word **“adokimos”** is seen, it clearly refers to the ungodly who rejects the Word of God, and salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ by walking after sin, fulfilling their own lusts, and refusing to repent (Romans 1:28; 2Timothy 3:8; Titus 1:16; Hebrews 6:8).

This fact is clearly seen throughout the New Testament. **“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate(adokimos) mind, to do those**

things which are not convenient”(Romans 1:28).

“Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate(*adokimos*) concerning the faith”(2 Timothy 3:8).

“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate(*adokimos*)”(Titus 1:16).

“But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected(*adokimos*), and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned”(Hebrews 6:8).

Therefore the Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost clearly without any misunderstanding refers to himself of possibly being a “**...castaway**” from the faith, and losing his soul to an eternity in hell, if he walks after the flesh(Romans 8:1), and does not bring his body, “**...unto subjection...**”(1 Corinthians 9:27).

The Apostle Paul clearly understood the seriousness of walking after sin and losing his own soul and salvation as a result of fulfilling the lust of the flesh, and thus no longer remaining in Christ Jesus where salvation is secured, but receiving condemnation(Romans 8:1).

The Apostle Paul continues his warning to the Galatian Christians, who were clearly reminded that while they could not be justified by keeping the law of Moses, or any good works of their own, “**Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ...**” (Galatians 2:16), they were warned by the Holy Ghost through the Apostle to, “**... use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh...**” (Galatians 5:13).

The reason they were warned not to walk after the flesh is because they had the capacity to do so, and if they chose to continue to “**... do such things...**” they clearly, “**...shall not inherit the kingdom of God**”(Galatians 5:21), but will tragically end up in hell forever (Revelation 14:9-11).

The Apostle Paul explicitly warns the Galatians believers of losing their salvation if they continue to walk after sin, and the works of the flesh.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:21).

It is clear from the Word of God that if they could not lose their salvation, or if they were once saved always saved, there would be absolutely no purpose to warn the Galatians of walking after the flesh, due to the fact that they would inherit the kingdom of God regardless of one's sinful and perverse conduct.

However, it is evident that the warning is made so that they do not misunderstand that liberty from the law, and justification by faith alone in the finish work of Christ does not give one the freedom to continue in sin, for in doing so, they are assured by the Holy Ghost that they, “**...shall not inherit the kingdom of God**” (Galatians 5:21), but face “**...a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries**” (Hebrews 10:27).

The Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul finishes his epistle to the Galatians by continuing to warn them by saying, **“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”**(Galatians 6:8).

The deception comes by believing the absurdity that one can sow apples, and reap oranges. In other words, believing that you can continue to sow to your sinful fleshy desires, and never receive the judgment of God, and lose your salvation. It is believing that sowing to one's flesh will reap salvation and everlasting life, when in fact it will not, but only reap corruption and eternal damnation(Romans 8:1;1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21).

There are literally multitudes of warnings throughout the Word of God warning a believer to demonstrate true repentance from sin and to walk in the Spirit (Romans 8:1-13;Galatians 5:16-21; etc).

The warning is clear, and the Bible evidence is certain, that if one continues in sin, they will lose their salvation(1Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:1-11; Hebrews 3:12-14; 1 John 1:5-6; etc).

Further Bible Evidence Against The False Doctrine of OSAS

However, the following verses taken in their proper context will convince all those whose hearts are open to the truth of God's Word to reject the false doctrine of once saved always saved, which in most cases clearly turns, **“...the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ”**(Jude 4).

Matthew 24:48-51

The Lord Jesus Christ talking about a evil servant who at one point begins to walk after sin, and no longer walks in the Holy Ghost. The fact that the individual is a servant points to the fact that at one time, the servant was saved and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. However, the servant is no longer saved, but lost, because of his love for iniquity.

“But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”(Matthew 24:48-51).

Matthew 25:1-13

The Lord Jesus Christ teaches about the ten virgins that were all clearly saved and knew the Lord. However, the foolish no longer continued to remain in Christ, but decided to walk after sin and the flesh. They clearly once knew the Lord, this is why the Lord says, **“I know you not”**(Matthew 25:12), and not **“I never knew you”**(Matthew 7:23). If they believed the once saved always saved false doctrine it clearly did not work for them. It cost them their eternal souls.

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. (Matthew 25:1-13)

John 15:4-6

The Lord Jesus Christ makes it clear that if one does not continue to abide(meno-to stay, remain)in Him He will, “..cast them into the fire..”(John 15:6).

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (John 15:4-6).

James 5:19-20

Notice the word, “**Brethren**” below clearly refers to believers not unbelievers. Also it is clear that unbelievers cannot “**err**” or go astray from the truth they never received.

Therefore it is clear that believers can depart from the truth, lose their salvation and be eternally lost in hell, or be restored and saved by repentance and faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ. Once saved always saved is completely rejected.

“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20).

Hebrews 3:12-14

The context of these verses begins with “**Take heed, brethren...**” clearly warning believers not unbelievers of the danger of walking in sin and having an “**evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God**” (Hebrews 3:12-14).

Notice that one can only be a partaker “of Christ” if they continue to remain in Him. If they do not they cannot be a partaker of His salvation, nor have fellowship with Him.

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from

the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end” (Hebrews 3:12-14).

Hebrews 10:26-27

Notice the words below, “...if we sin wilfully..” where the Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost includes himself by using the word, “we” is clearly teaching (*as he has in his previous epistles Romans 8:1-13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Galatians 6:7-8*), that if a believer walks in wilful habitual sin he no longer is saved and serving the Lord Jesus Christ, but is headed for hell fire and damnation, unless he repents(1 John 1:9;1 John 2:1-2).

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries”(Hebrews 10:26-27).

Hebrews 12:5-8

Many advocates for the false doctrine of once saved always saved use Hebrews 12:5-8 in an attempt to justify their position. They believe that the chastisement of the born again believer is evidence that one can live in sin and still continue to be saved.

However a careful exegesis of the passage, along with rightly dividing the Word of God by keeping the aforementioned verses in its proper context, along with the context of the rest of Holy Scripture, clearly reveals that Hebrews chapter 12 not only teaches completely against the doctrine of once saved only saved, but warns the church if they live in sin and without holiness, “...no man shall see the Lord”(Hebrews 12:14).

It is clear from the Word of God that the chastisement of the believer in Hebrews chapter 12 does not condone sin or teach that one can continue in sin and still be saved, but that the chastisement is only for the purpose of turning back the believer to the Lord for salvation “...that we might be partakers of his holiness” (Hebrews 12:10).

The Bible says, “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as sons...” (Hebrews 12:7).

Therefore if one receives the correction or chastisement and manifests genuine repentance they will remain in Christ Jesus. However, if they will not endure or receive the chastisement they will no longer be sons, but, “...bastards, and not sons.” (Hebrews 12:8).

This fact is clear by the context of the passage by saying, “Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?” (Hebrews 12:9).

Why must we be “...subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?” if we can never lose our salvation? The reason is simple and evident, that if a believer does not receive the chastisement of God and his correction by repenting of his sin, he will not live or have everlasting life, but die in his sin and go tragically to an eternity in hell (Romans 6:23;Romans 8:1-13).

“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds

of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:13-14).

There can be no doubt as to the clear teaching of the passage that warns the believer to turn away from sin or face the judgement of God. Hebrews 12:14 warns the believer, **“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”**

Hebrews 12:15 tells the born again Christian to beware by saying, **“Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.”**

Notice it clearly teaches that one can **“fail”** or fall short **“of the grace of God”** which clearly means that they are no longer abiding in Christ, and receiving God's grace through repentance and faith in Him, but are now outside the Lord Jesus Christ, and will receive His wrath and judgement unless they repent.

Hebrews 12:16 teaches that we can sell our birthright as a child of God by walking in sin such as fornication, like Esau who sold his birthright for **“...one morsel of meat...”** (Hebrews 12:16).

Hebrews 12:17 warns the believer that as Esau **“...would have inherited the blessing”** but **“...he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance...”** so will the believer also be rejected as a child of God, and not receive the blessing of everlasting life, but the judgement of eternal damnation in hell if he decides to continue to live in sin, and refuses to truly and completely repent of sin, and to, **“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance”** (Matthew 3:8).

Finally Hebrews 12:26 warns the believer that if the children of Israel did not escape when they refused the instruction of Moses who spake the Word of God against sin, neither will the believer escape the judgement of God, if he believes that he can live sin (thus believing the once saved only saved false doctrine), and refuse, reject, and deny the Lord Jesus Christ who came from heaven (John 3:13; Hebrews 3:1-19).

“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven” (Hebrews 12:26).

And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace

with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled (Hebrews 12:5-15).

1 Corinthians 11:31-32

As we have observed in Hebrews chapter 12 that the chastening of the Lord does not at all teach that one can live in sin and continue to be saved, nor does it teach that one can never lose their salvation.

This fact is clear in 1 Corinthians 11:31-32.

1 Corinthians 11:31-32 is in harmony with Hebrews chapter 12 as all of the Holy Scriptures contained in the Holy Bible are in complete harmony, and reveals that the chastening of the Lord is clearly for the purpose that true born again Christians would genuinely repent of their sin, so that, **“...we should not be condemned with the world,”** (1 Corinthians 11:31-32) and tragically go to an eternity in hell, the Lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15).

“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world” (1 Corinthians 11:31-32).

1 Timothy 4:16

The Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost instructs the young Pastor at Ephesus, brother Timothy to **“Take heed”** both in conduct and doctrine, not to attain salvation, but to remain saved in Christ Jesus and to lead precious souls to salvation. If he does not do so it is clear he will not be saved but lost, and will also lead others through his false teaching or ungodly sinful conversation to the Lake of fire.

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Timothy 4:16).

These aforementioned verses, along with a multitude of others clearly teach without a shadow of a doubt that the doctrine of once saved only saved is not only false doctrine, but in many cases a damnable heresy (2 Peter 2:1-1-22).

OSAS Error Vs Heresy

To be perfectly clear, there are those who believe in the once saved always saved doctrine that are clearly in error, but are not in heresy. They do not believe that one can sin and still be saved which is clearly what the Bible teaches (Romans 6:1-23; Romans 8:1-13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19:21).

However, they are in error by believing that the true believer who is saved by repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and are walking in the Holy Ghost can never lose their salvation, when the Holy Scriptures clearly teach that they can, if they decide to walk after sin and the flesh(Galatians 5:16-21; 1 Timothy 4:16; James 5:19-20).

This error is used by Satan to create a damnable heresy, meaning that it has moved away from the clear teaching of Holy Scripture, to the point where it now has the capacity to damn precious souls to an eternity in hell (2 Peter 2:1-3).

The once saved always saved doctrine moves from error to heresy when one teaches that a born again Christian can continue to live in sin, walk in sin, and continue to abide in sin without any genuine repentance and still be saved. This doctrine is blasphemous, wicked, and damnable, by turning God's grace into lasciviousness, or a license to sin, and completely denies the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible clearly teaches that those who teach this false doctrine are, **“...ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Jude 4).

The Apostle Peter under the inspiration of Holy Ghost, utters the same condemnation of those who propagate this heresy, along with other heresies that lead souls to damnation.

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction”(2 Peter 2:1).

The Assurance Of Salvation And The Assurance Of Damnation

Those who propagate the once saved always saved doctrine confuse and take out of context the sound doctrine of Biblical assurance for the genuine born again Christian (John 10:27-30).

They use verses which clearly teach about the assurance of the believer's salvation(John 3:16-21; John 10:27-30), as means of attack against other verses of Holy Scripture that also teaches, and warns the true believer of losing his salvation(1 Corinthians 6:9-11), and is assured of certain damnation and perdition to an eternity in hell, if he walks after the flesh and does not continue to abide in Christ by walking after the Holy Ghost(John 15:5-7; Romans 8:1-13) .

John 10:27-30

An example of this is seen in John 10:27-30. This is perhaps the most popular verse used to justify the once saved always saved doctrine.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.

While it is clear that the Lord Jesus Christ is mentioning the security of the believer in Christ Jesus, and that they shall never perish in hell when they truly repent and trust Him by faith alone for

their salvation, He is teaching that they will never lose their salvation and never perish, only if they continue to abide and remain in Christ.

If they chose not to abide in Christ and walk in sin, they will lose their salvation and perish tragically in an eternity in hell. This is clear from the Lord's statement five chapters later,

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned” (John 15:5-6).

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Unfortunately, many use John 10:27-30 to justify the false doctrine of once saved always saved by isolating those verses from the rest of Holy Scripture, and thus not **“...rightly dividing the word of truth”**(2 Timothy 2:15).

Whether the advocates of the once saved always saved doctrine realize this or not this is the very tactic that Satan used towards the Saviour by attempting to make Him **“cast”** himself **“down”** from the Temple, when he perverted the Word of God by isolating and ignoring the rest of Holy Scripture to justify his false doctrine when he quoted Psalm 91:11-12,

“And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone”(Matthew 4:6).

However the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ rightly divided the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15) and put Psalm 91:11-12 in proper context with the rest of Holy Scripture by quoting, Deuteronomy 6:16, **“Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”** (Matthew 4:7).

Unfortunately Satan continues his deception and perversion of the Holy Scriptures by continuing to isolate, and ignore the rest of the Holy Scriptures.

He continues to promote false doctrine through the cults such as the Jehovah Witnesses who use verses such as John 14:28, to attempt to teach the damnable heresy that the Lord Jesus Christ is not God. They do so by isolating the verse in which the Saviour says, **““Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.”**

The statement by the Lord Jesus Christ, **“...for my Father is greater than I”**(John 14:28) may seem to suggest that Christ is not equal to the Father and therefore He cannot be God.

However, this is clearly not the case. For when one rightly divides the Word of Truth and takes John 14:28 into proper context with the rest of Holy Scripture, as the Lord did when tempted of the devil, we immediately realize that John 14:28 does not teach against the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, but only reveals a statement of the Saviour on earth after He , **“...made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:”** (Philippians 2:7).

At the same time he was clearly equal to the Father, **“Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God”** (Philippians 2:6), for He was and is God, for **“...God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory”** (1 Timothy 3:16).

Therefore when the Lord Jesus Christ said, **“...for my Father is greater than I”**(John 14:28), he clearly was speaking in reference to when He left the glories of heaven, and became a servant by making himself of **“no reputation”** through emptying himself of the ability to independently use his divine attributes for a time in order to die on the cross for the sins of the world (Philippians 2:7), while at the same time never emptying himself of being God (John 1:1,14).

This fact is clearly seen in John 17:5, **“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”**

Therefore the Jehovah Witnesses are in great error, and are promoting a blasphemous doctrine that will damn their precious souls to an eternity in hell unless they repent and trust the true Lord Jesus Christ of the Holy Bible for their salvation (Luke 13:3;John 3:16-21; 2 Corinthians 11:1-4,13-15). **“...for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins”** (John 8:24).

John 10:27-30 In Context With The Rest of Holy Scripture

Therefore John 10:27-30 must also be properly examined, and taken in context and in harmony with the rest of Holy Scripture. Therefore when rightly divides the Word of Truth, they must come to the conclusion that the true born again Christian will **“never perish”** on the condition that they continue to remain or **“abide in Christ”**(John 15:6) and **“...walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit”** (Romans 8:1).

However if one lives after the flesh they will lose their salvation and tragically perish in hell, and die in their sins, **“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live”** (Romans 8:13).

“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:14).

Exhortation and Conclusion

The false doctrine of once saved always saved has tragically lead multitudes to eternal damnation in hell, and will unfortunately continue to do so. This is due to the clear rejection of God's Word, and the clear warnings to the Church of God in the Holy Scriptures to walk in the Holy Ghost, and to avoid to walk after sin, and the flesh which will lead to the Lake of fire (Romans 6:23;Romans 8:1-13;1 Corinthians 6:9-11;Galatians 5:19-21).

Friend, if you have believed the false doctrine of once saved always saved, you need to immediately reject it, and receive the Word of God by obeying the Holy Scriptures which commands every true born again believer to **“...lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls”** (James 1:21).

“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 5:6).

International Deliverance Ministries
internationaldeliveranceministries.org

*All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.