

**GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS!** – Calling saints in Christ, (in our homes and with one another in Church), to walk in the Steps of Jesus! (1 Peter 2:15-25) Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ!

## **8 19 25 V1n15 ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED — WHAT**

**IT MEANS!** (Edited from Michael Jeshuran, a Brother in Christ, living in Bangalore, India)

**QUESTION:** “Are you telling me that if someone just accepted Jesus as his Saviour and still lives in sin, that he is still eternally secure and on his way to heaven”? **NO, that is NOT what this doctrine teaches!** Then what does it mean? To understand what it means, we **MUST** understand how one becomes a Christian in the first place. Basically, there are different types of ‘Christians’ – **[1] There are Preacher-made ‘Christians’**, those who were “sprinkled” in infancy and thereby made members of a “church”; **[2] AND there are those who have reached the ‘age of accountability’ and are persuaded by some adult** like a pastor, a Sunday School teacher, a Camp counselor, or an evangelist... or a parent to ‘make a profession

of faith' ... AND BECAUSE THESE CHILDREN have repeated a 'sinner's prayer— the adult then pronounces them saved!

**Tragically, Holy Spirit conviction of sin and repentance are bypassed.** [MOREOVER, NO ONE SEEMS CONCERNED THAT,

**(1) John 2:23, 24 declares** that "many believed in His name but Jesus did not commit himself unto them," **or that (2) John**

**12:42 says** that "many believed on Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him lest they be put out of the synagogue, for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God!" -- this shows how much their "believing" was worth!]

**SADLY, multitudes of 'Christian' workers and their**

**converts** believe that salvation is simply a matter 'praying a sinner's prayer and then embracing 'once saved, always saved'... WHICH is really only, 'once you've prayed the prayer; you are saved.' **AND SADLY, THE GREAT MAJORITY** of these 'converts' grow up and remain in a lifestyle of self and sin ... AND with a FALSE ASSURANCE that they 'are saved!'

**[3] GENUINE God-made Christians, on the other hand, are miracles of grace, the products of Divine workmanship [Ephesians 2:8-10].** They are a Divine creation, brought into existence by the supernatural work of God. The new birth is “not of blood (by natural descent), nor of the will of the flesh (his own ‘free-will’), nor of the will of man (the preacher’s persuasion), but OF GOD” **(John 1:13).**

NOTE: Even these ‘God made’ Christians may initially be deluded into thinking that they became Christians because they ‘accepted Christ into their heart, by their own free-will etc’. But as they begin to read the Word of God and are taught by the Holy Spirit they will begin to see that just as they had nothing to do with their natural birth, even so they contributed nothing to their spiritual birth! **GOD’S WORD IS CLEAR:** “Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures”! [James 1:18]. **And they realize the truth of Jesus’ Words –** “Ye have chosen not Me, but I have chosen you”! [John 15:16] These ‘God made Christians’ the Bible calls ‘elect’ or ‘sheep’.

(Matt 18:11) The Lord Jesus came to seek and to save these lost sheep. Now notice carefully, it does not say that Jesus will try to save these sheep. But that He will save them! “And thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins”! [Matt 1:21]

**Another thing to bear in mind is that their repentance and the faith with which they believe are both gifts of God and a fruit of regeneration.** A man does not believe the Gospel and get saved, but believes the gospel because he is saved. The Apostle says, that “the gifts and calling of God are without repentance”! [Romans 11:29] This just means that God did not give these gifts in the first place because of any merit which He saw in them and neither will He take back these gifts on account of any demerit.

**But to return to the question – “What if they sin”?** The Scriptures declare that when God saves His elect, He creates within them a ‘new nature’. This is what the Apostle calls the ‘new man’. [Eph 4:22-24] This ‘new man’ has but one goal in life –To stop sinning and do righteousness. Paul said – “I

delight in the law of God after the inward man". [Rom 7:22].

He has been born of God, **and therefore cannot practice sin!**

Please notice, that I did not say that he cannot sin, but that he cannot practice or habitually live a sinful life. And the reason

he cannot practice sin is because God's seed is in him. **John**

**said** – "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, [As a lifestyle!]

because he is born of God". [1John 3:9] There is a big

difference between falling into sin and practicing sin. The

worldly people and the 'nominal' Christians can and do

practice sin without any conviction. But not so the true child of God!

HOWEVER, when God creates the 'new nature' in his elect

sheep, He does not remove or eradicate the old nature, but

leaves the old nature in them until the resurrection. And in-

spite of the introduction of the new nature, the old wicked

nature in the Christian has not changed one bit. It is as wicked

as it was before the Christian was regenerated. And it strives

with all its power to make the Christian sin and rebel against God.

So, the Christian often groans – “O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?!”... but follows on to proclaim: **I thank God** through our LORD JESUS CHRIST! [Romans 7:24-25]

**MOREOVER, WITH GENUINE SAINTS,** God uses the rod, chastises them, brings them to their senses and grants them the power to forsake sin! [see Psalm 89:30-35] A saved Christian is a member of God’s household, and God sets His own house in order before He goes after the heathen! “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God”? [1Peter 4:17] And again – “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”. [1Cor 11:31,32] So, to paraphrase all that is said above – “A true Christian will not and cannot continue in sin! But even if he should be taken in a

sin, as David was, then God will go after them, chastise them and bring them to repentance! His promise is – “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely”! [Hosea 14:4]

**So, is the true Christian eternally secure? He sure is!** A true believer can fall into error, even very serious doctrinal error. A true believer can fall into sin, even very serious sin.

**HOWEVER, a true believer will not** totally abandon Christ and die in his sins or become a total apostate to the point where he “stops believing” the gospel or even teaches contrary to the gospel. ... **How come?** Because, the Lord who saved them, is not only the Author of their faith, but He is also the finisher of their faith! [Heb 12:2] And BECAUSE they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time! [1Pet 1:5]

GOD HAS delivered us **(past)** from so great a death, and doth deliver **(present):** in whom we trust that He will yet deliver us **(future)”!** [2 Cor 1:9,10]

Hallelujah! One of the most comforting truths revealed in the Word of God to the believer is his ‘Eternal Security’ in Christ!

There is nothing more comforting to a soul troubled with sin, than to know that the Christ in whom he hath placed his trust, shall save him to the end, [IN SPITE OF] his own corrupt flesh, the temptations of the world, and the devil who goes about as a roaring lion seeking to devour him!

As the Lord Himself assured – “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”. [John 10:27-29] The nature of the change which occurs in regeneration, guarantees the eternal security of God’s elect. If Christ had gone to the cross just to give us life, conceivably we could commit a sin and lose that life; **but because He has given us eternal life**, by the very nature of that which is eternal, it must be forever and ever. “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life” [Jn. 3:36]. Not will have or may have (if he behaves), but hath right now! [see



also 1 Jn 5:13]. The 'new birth' is a spiritual resurrection, a passing from death unto life [Jn 5:24].

**Writing to the saints in Ephesus the apostle Paul said,** "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; [Eph. 2:4-6; see also Col. 2:12].

This is the resurrection that Jesus spoke of to Martha before He raised Lazarus from the dead. He said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me **shall never die** [Jn. 11:25,26].

The infinite, eternal love of God for His people is a guarantee that they can never be lost. This love is not subject to fluctuations but is as unchangeable as His being. It is also gratuitous, and keeps faster hold of us than we of it.

GOD'S LOVE for His redeemed is not founded on the attractiveness of its objects. "Herein is love, not that we loved

God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins," I John 4:10.

"God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life," Rom. 5:8-10.

Here the very point stressed is that our standing with God is not based on our deserts. It was "while we were enemies" that we were brought into spiritual life through sovereign grace; and if He has done the greater, will He not do the lesser? The promises of Christ assure us of our eternal security in Him. Jesus declared, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" John 10:28. **Here we find that our security and God's omnipotence are equal; for the former is founded on the latter.** God is mightier than the whole world, and neither men nor Devil can rob Him of one of His precious jewels. It would

be as easy to pluck a star out of the heavens as to pluck a saint out of the Father's hand. **Their salvation stands in His invincible might and they are placed beyond the peril of destruction.** ... In principle, if one could be lost, all might be lost, and thus Christ's assurance would be reduced to idle words.

**When we are told that** "There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, who shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, **if possible**, even the elect," Matt. 24:24, the unprejudiced believing mind readily understands that it is impossible to lead astray the elect.

The mystical union which exists between Christ and believers, is a guarantee that they shall continue steadfast. **"Because I live, ye shall live also,"** [John 14:19].

**The Lord says these words to His elect, His chosen, His sheep and not to "every man who ever lived.** The effect of this union is that believers participate in His life. Christ is in us, Romans 8:10. **It is not we that live, but Christ that liveth in us!** [Gal 2:20]. Christ and the believers have a common life

such as that which exists in the vine and the branches. The Holy Spirit so dwells in the redeemed that every Christian is supplied with an inexhaustible reservoir of strength.

Here, then, are very simple and plain statements that the Christian shall continue in grace, the reason being that the Lord takes it upon Himself to preserve him in that state.

Surely no Spirit-taught Christian can doubt that this doctrine is taught in the Bible.

### **Now for a final word.**

The meaning of this doctrine must be clearly understood. **It does not mean that** every churchgoer or even every church member is certain to persevere to the end in his or her faith, **or that everyone who** has made a public profession of faith is eternally secure, **or that all who seem to us** to be true believers will never fall away from the faith.

**What the doctrine of the perseverance or 'Eternal Security' of true believers does mean is this:** those who have true faith can neither totally nor finally lose that faith.

The Bible makes it clear that God will never permit those to

whom He has given true faith to fall away from that faith. True believers persevere not because of their strength but because of God's unchangeable mercy. Believers persevere only because God in His unchangeable love enables them to persevere!

**HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH!**

Grace and Peace to all Saints in Christ!

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**EVERY SATURDAY \*\*\* 8:00am,** — Men's Bible Study! *(Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits!)*

**[8/23/25 – Ephesians 6:18-20, PRAYING ALWAYS!]**

**NEXT Ladies Bible Study, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 @ 11:00am**  
**(LADIES Bible Study, from JOB!) (NO CHILD CARE.)**

**\*\*\*EVERY TUESDAY: LADIES PRAYER MEETING FROM 10:00 to 10:30am, come in back door, under drive-thru awning, go IN THE IMMEDIATE FIRST ROOM ON THE RIGHT!**

**\*\*\* Tuesday Evenings, Southside Young Adult Group; Bible Study, (EXODUS), @ 7:15pm, at Jaden & Rhi's home**

**WEDNESDAYS: 6:30pm — (Come in Back double door, under Drive Thru Awning) \*\* Adult MEN'S Prayer Service**

**\*\* Young FAMILIES STUDY/Prayer Service**

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**\*\*\* LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD (by MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING) For Church Ministry and/or MISSIONS:**

**SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 / OR... TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:**

**<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>**