

2007 Fall Newsletter
Detroit Bible Students
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Can We as
Saved Christians
Lose Our Salvation?

*A concept that is held by many Christian people is that eternal salvation
IS ASSURED once we have accepted Christ as our personal Savior
and have become a "new creature" in Christ.*

*But if this were so, that
once we have received God's grace, it is impossible to lose it . . . **THEN . . .***

. . . **WHY** does Paul say, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest. . . I MYSELF SHOULD BE A CASTAWAY?"
1 Corinthians 9:27

. . . **WHY** can some RECEIVE "THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN?" 2
Corinthians 6:1

. . . **WHY** must we be "FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH" to receive a "crown of life?"
Revelation 2:10

. . . **WHY** does Peter say, "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 therein, and overcome, THE LATTER END IS WORSE WITH THEM THAN THE BEGINNING. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to return from the holy commandment delivered unto them?"
2 Peter 2:20, 21

. . . **WHY** are we told that only "he that ENDURETH TO THE END shall be saved?" Matthew 10:22.

. . . **WHY** are we told "For it is IMPOSSIBLE for those who were once

enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, . . . If they shall fall away, to RENEW THEM AGAIN UNTO REPENTANCE?" Hebrews 6:4-6

. . . **WHY** must we KEEP OURSELVES in the LOVE OF GOD? Jude 21

. . . **WHY** are RESURRECTED SAINTS the only ones upon whom the "SECOND DEATH hath NO POWER?" Revelation 20:6

. . . **WHY** are we told "IF WE SIN WILFULLY after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there REMAINETH NO MORE SACRIFICE FOR SINS, He that despised Moses' law died without mercy . . . OF HOW MUCH SORER PUNISHMENT . . . shall he be . . . worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing?" Hebrews 10:26, 28, 29

. . . **WHY** are we told "IF WE BE DEAD with him, we shall also live with him: IF WE SUFFER, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, HE ALSO WILL DENY US?" 2 Timothy 2:11-13

. . . **WHY** are we told "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? SO RUN, THAT YE MAY OBTAIN?" 1 Corinthians 9:24

. . . **WHY** are we told "add to your faith virtue . . . knowledge . . . temperance . . . patience . . . godliness . . . brotherly love . . . charity . . . he that lacketh these things is blind, . . . and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins . . . give diligence to MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE, for IF ye do these things ye shall never fall?" 2 Peter 1:5-10

From the above Scriptures it becomes readily apparent that heavenly salvation is dependent on more than JUST BECOMING a Christian. Faithfulness unto death will be required for all who will obtain the crown of life. [Revelation 2:10] Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

As we consider these Scriptures, the question comes to mind: What is implied by being faithful unto Death?

The Apostle Paul told the brethren at Rome in his letter to them, [Romans 12:1,2,] "I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, present your bodies a living sacrifice, wholly acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world, but be ye TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, that you might prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

To the Ephesians he said, "Walk worthy of vocation wherewith ye are called...walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind...walk in love...walk as children of light...walk circumspectly." [Ephesians 4: 1, 17; 5:1, 7] We must also study the scriptures which "are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness]that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

2 Timothy 3:15-17

In Hebrews 11:1 we are told that "without faith it is impossible to please God." The Apostle James expands on this saying, "Faith without works is dead." [James 2:20] From this some have thought that there is a conflict between James and Paul regarding grace and works. But rightly understood they are seen to be in full harmony.

The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2: 8,9 says, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” But he goes on to say, (vs10) “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” And in Philippians 2:12 he warns, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

In explaining his ministry to King Agrippa, Paul said that he went “...throughout all the coasts of Judea and then to the Gentiles that they should repent and turn to God and DO WORKS MEET FOR REPENTANCE.” Acts 26:20

It is by grace that God provided for our salvation through the sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son, Christ Jesus, who died “a ransom for all.” It is by grace that we are called to be associated with him as members of Christ’s body, his Bride, his Church. None of these things came because of our worthiness.

Once we have accepted the call, however, we must prove faithful. We cannot think that since we have professed our acceptance of Jesus we may then go on with our lives however we will. Jesus said, “No man, having put his hand to the plough and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62) This is where our works come in—works of repentance, demonstrating to our Heavenly Father our appreciation of his grace and our deep sorrow for sin and our desire to please and honor him. Just as a parent would look to his child to see efforts to recover from an incorrect course, the Lord watches us to see if we are trying to be pleasing to him.

“By their fruits you shall know them,” says our Lord [Matthew 7:18-21]. Fruits are not grown instantaneously, in a fit of ecstasy or only when death looms before us. Fruits are cultivated and grown slowly over time. The Christian’s walk is a process of developing the fruitage of the Spirit; “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.” [Galatians 5:22, 23] Through prayer and study of his word, the faithful child of God seeks direction in righteousness.

Thus this class is called by our Lord a "little flock," [Luke 12:32] for “strait (difficult) is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life and few there be that find it.” [Matthew 7:14]. These are a "peculiar people zealous of good works" [Titus 2:14], who the scriptures describe as overcomers and to whom are promised the position of joint-heirship with Christ in his kingdom. [Revelation 3:20; 20:6, Romans 8:17].

These will be the ones who, with Christ, their Head, will bless all the families of the earth as we are told in Galatians 3:8,16,29. “And the Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the nations by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, ‘In you all the nations shall be blessed.’...Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed,’ who is Christ. ... And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.”

Obadiah 21 refers to these as “saviors” that “shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD’s.” We find this class who have been redeemed from the earth also spoken of in Revelation 14:1-5. They are also those who will be “priests of God and of Christ

and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”
[Revelation 20:6]

Who will be the recipients of these blessings?—the “residue of men” [Acts 15: 14-18]—the heathen who have never heard of the Grace of God, those who died before our Lord's first advent, and even the so-called "carnal" Christians. All these will be taught of God, who in this life, have been blinded by the god of this world, Satan. [2 Corinthians 4:4] and therefore unable to see and understand the glorious message of the gospel. But “blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear.” Matthew 13:16

The Apostle Paul told Timothy, “For therefore, we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of *all men*, especially of those that believe.” [1 Timothy 4:10] The Apostle John clearly states that Christ “is the propitiation for our sins: *and not for ours only*, but also for the sins of the whole world.” 1 John 2: 1,2 “As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” [1 Corinthians 15:22]

With this prospect before us “what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.” [2 Peter 3:11] Let us not be one of those of whom the Lord spoke when he said, “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Please join us for a Bible lecture:

Sunday, December 16, 2007, 11:30 a.m.
Speaker: Wade Austin, Los Angeles, CA
Subject to be announced

Sunday, January 13, 2008, 11:30 a.m.
Speaker: Norm Zandler, Detroit
Topic: “I Shall Not Want—An Examination
of the 23rd Psalm”

