

Once Saved Always Saved

Once saved always saved, is a popularly held belief and has been around for a long time, but is it accurate according to the Bible? Let's define what once saved always saved means as it is commonly taught. It means once someone becomes a Christian they are forever saved and nothing they do from that point on can change that. In this lesson we will look at many scriptures to see if the Bible teaches this doctrine or not. If the teaching is found only outside the Bible, then it is a man-made doctrine and we ought to not fall into the trap of believing it. If it is a teaching we do find in the Bible then it would be true because God is the author of the Bible.

Scriptures

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 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” This verse clearly teaches that on the day of judgement some people will not be in Heaven. Even someone that is a believer in Jesus can be lost. Why is that you might say? Because not everyone that believes in Jesus obeys His commandments. Some people profess to believe in Jesus, but go on about their lives NOT living according to His will. Belief must be backed up by obedience or it is for nothing. Thus, at one point in life someone could be doing God's will and thus be saved, but later stop and be lost. We will see an example of this in Acts later. So, we know from this verse that at least some people that unfortunately wrongly believe they are in good standing with Jesus are in fact not.

Mark 13:13 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” To be saved is to endure to the end, whenever the end may be. I could be a Christian and doing God's will for 20 years but then stop for the last year of my life. Thus, I would not be enduring to the end and sadly be lost. So, I was once saved but did not stay saved until the end, which is NOT what once saved always saved teaches.

Acts 8:9-25 “But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said

unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God maybe purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me. And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.” This is the example in Acts we spoke of earlier. In this example, Simon clearly believes and becomes a baptized Christian, so he is at that moment saved. However, he later sins and Peter teaches Simon he is in error because of his sinful desire for power. At that point Simon is lost. If Simon did not repent from his sin he would have been lost and missed out on Heaven even though previously he had been washed from his sins and saved. Thankfully, Simon repented of his sin and once again moved into a saved state. We don’t know what happened to Simon the rest of his life, but his example teaches us that we can move in and out of the state of being saved depending on if we are or are not obedient to God. It also teaches us if we are not in good standing with God, we can change our ways and God will forgive us.

Romans 11:19-22 “Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.” How can one really read this verse and miss the fact it destroys the doctrine of once saved always saved? It says continue in His goodness or thou shalt also be cut off. If you can be cut off, you can be saved and turn away from God only to be lost.

1 Corinthians 9:27 “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” One should remember these words are written by the Apostle Paul, and he tells he would be cast away, or lost, if he does not do what he should. Does anyone believe Paul was not a Christian when he wrote this? If he was a Christian when he wrote this, he is clearly writing, through the inspiration of God, that if he does not do what he should he could be lost. So, Paul directly refutes the doctrine of once saved always saved.

1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” Paul, once again through inspiration from God, is writing to tell us that some will depart from the faith. If one can leave the faith than, clearly one can return again to a lost state. Paul directly refutes the doctrine of once saved always saved again.

Hebrews 6:4-6 “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame” The writer of Hebrews tells us that a Christian can fall away. The enlightened are

Christians, and he is telling us if such a one falls away there is no second sacrifice, (such as Christ's death on the cross), coming to save them. If one can fall away, then they must be able to go from a saved to a lost state. Now such a person can repent and turn back to God and once again be in a saved state, but not until they repent and change their life.

Hebrews 10:26 “For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins” If we can sin after we become Christians because we choose to commit such acts, then we can also fall away. Someone choosing to take part in sin is not in a saved state even if they were once a Christian. Please remember though, a fallen Christian can always turn their life around and go back to God as long as they take care of their situation before their death.

James 5:19-20 “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” How can one “err from the truth” if they were not once a Christian? This scripture tells us a Christian can turn from the truth and lose their soul. Hopefully, that person will repent before it is too late.

2 Peter 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour 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 turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire” What a clear picture Peter gives us here. Just as a dog can vomit and re-eat its food or a clean pig can become dirty again. So can one once clean from the pollution of sin become polluted again. A Christian can fall back into sin and need to clean up their life again.

2 Peter 3:17 “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness” To be able to be led away from Christ one would first have to have been in Christ. If one can be in Christ and be led away, then one can lose salvation if they do not correct their lives.

Revelation 2:1-5 “Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent” Jesus is talking to the church at Ephesus and tells them they have “left their first love” and warns them if they do not repent, he will “remove” their candlestick. Friends, Christ is telling Christians, (those who were once saved), to repent or be lost, (which means they are NOT always saved). Friends, Christ directly refutes the false and very dangerous doctrine of once

saved always saved. You must either accept this doctrine is wrong or go take it up with Jesus on judgment day. I think it is safe to say we will not win a challenge against Jesus.

Conclusion

Friend, the Bible not only does NOT teach once saved always saved, it REFUTES it. At this point it is clear God is not the author of this doctrine which makes it a false teaching that will not lead you to Heaven. Perhaps you already knew this, if so wonderful, continue to follow God's teaching and not man's teaching. If you did or perhaps still do believe in this man-made doctrine, I hope you will reconsider and remember God is the author of salvation not man.