

Daily Devotional, July 21, 2020

'Once Saved, Always Saved', (Romans 11:22, NKJV)

“Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.” (Romans 11:22)

Today I was on my way home from work scanning the radio dial, and I came across a Roman Catholic apologist who was denying the Bible doctrine of “once saved, always saved.” This person’s denomination teaches that committal of a mortal sin can negate God’s salvation work in a believer. One of the verses they appeal to is that of our text, so we will begin there. But our text is set within the context of the national rejection by Israel of Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah. The individual application is made on the basis of belief and unbelief, not whether one is in a particular individual state of sin or not. It was the because of the “**unbelief**” of Israel that Gentiles became partakers of the covenant promises to Israel (**Romans 11:20-23**). While some will preach the awful heresy that genuine believers can lose their salvation based on ignorance of context, both the same and others will preach it without the understanding that there are many false professors who never were genuine in the faith (never saved), such as the rocky ground hearers “**who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away**” (Luke 8:13). For some, their faith or lack thereof is tested, and found wanting. Consider that the Bible is crystal clear on the matter. To be sure, there will be fruit as evidence of true conversion to Christ. But the salvation is a gift, sealed by God the Holy Spirit Himself. What God has sealed, let no man unseal (Cf. Revelation 5:5). Read the following, and find peaceful reassurance that your salvation, Christian friend, is secure in Christ and cannot be lost.

1. “**Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life**” (John 5:24).
2. “**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one**” (John 10:27-30).

3. “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14).
4. “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25).
5. “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified” (Hebrews 10:14).
6. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:3-5).
7. “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:11-13).
8. “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:4-6). Context is king here. The writer of Hebrews is addressing Jewish believers who were tempted to also try to keep the Law in addition to accepting Jesus as Messiah. The writer uses hyperbole to demonstrate the fact that such a thing is “impossible.” In fact, the writer points out that it is just as “impossible” for someone to believe and then fall away as it is “impossible” for Jesus to be re-crucified (no apologies to those who engage in a mystical re-crucifixion sacrifice each and every mass). This verse actually proves that it is “impossible” for a Christian believer to lose position and salvation before God. Clearly the writer was not contradicting his later and clearer statements in Hebrews 7:25 and 10:14. “Once Saved, Always Saved” is true Bible doctrine.