

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
A CHRISTIAN'S ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

1. REVIEW

A. DISCUSSION: WHY WE ARE TAKING THE TIME TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION,

"CAN A CHRISTIAN LOSE THEIR SALVATION?"

1. ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION:

- a. YES!
- b. NO!
- c. I'M NOT SURE?
- d. WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?

2. NOTE: TEACHING BEFORE DISCUSSION.

3. FYI: GOD'S WORD IS TRUE... BUT IT IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE.

2. RECONCILED WITH GOD

A. Colossians 1:21-22(NASB) And although you were formerly **alienated and **hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds**, yet **He** has now **reconciled** you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach**

1. "you were formerly **alienated** and **hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds**"

a. **EVEN IF WE ARE A RELATIVELY GOOD PERSONS OUTWARDLY, OUR HEART IS SINFUL, AND WE MUST SEE THAT GOD PROVIDES EVERYTHING NECESSARY FOR US TO BE RECONCILED TO HIM THROUGH THE DEATH AND RESSURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.**

1) I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT THE OLDER I GET THE MORE I'M CONVINCED OF MY SINFUL HEART.

b. **APART FROM GOD, OUR MIND WAS/IS HOSTILE TOWARDS HIM AND WE WERE/ARE ENGAGED IN EVIL DEEDS AND ARE ALIENATED FROM HIM.**

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- 1) SO **WHAT CHANGED** OUR STATUS... OUR CONDITION?
 - 2) **JESUS CHRIST GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US, AND IN SO DOING RECONCILED ALL THINGS TO HIMSELF.**
 - i. THAT DOES **NOT** MEAN THAT **EVERYONE IS GOING TO BE SAVED... BUT IT DOES MEAN EVERYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO BE SAVED HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.**
 2. **NOTE: HE HAS DONE IT (THE RECONCILING). WE ARE NOT SAVED BY OUR DOING... WE ARE SAVED BY HIS DOING!**
 3. **WORD PICTURE: FOR RECONCILING**
 - a. **ATOMIC CLOCK** IN THE APOLLO COMMAND ROOM AT THE JOHNSON SPACE CENTER.
 - 1) TOUR GUIDE... "THIS IS THE MOST ACCURATE TIME IN THE WORLD".
 - 2) WHAT DID ALL THE PEOPLE ON THE TOUR DO?...
 - 3) ... AND IN SO DOING... THEY **RECONCILED** THEIR WATCH TO THE ATOMIC CLOCK!
- B. RECONCILIATION IS ALWAYS ONE-DIRECTIONAL.**
1. IT IS ALWAYS **MAN RECONCILED TO GOD**, BECAUSE GOD IS PERFECT, AND SO WE HAVE TO BE **RECONCILED** TO HIM.
 2. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND GOD IS TAKEN AWAY WHEN OUR **SIN IS TAKEN AWAY** WHEN WE PLACE OUR FAITH IN CHRIST... AND WE ARE MADE 100% RIGHT WITH GOD...
 - a. BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN **RECONCILED TO GOD**, AND THEREFORE HAVE PEACE WITH HIM.
 3. WE COULD NOT RECONCILE OURSELVES.
 - a. **JESUS**, THROUGH HIS **DEATH** AND **RESSURECTION**, **DID IT FOR US.**

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- b. **IN ORDER TO PRESENT US BEFORE GOD HOLY, AND BLAMELESS, AND BEYOND REPROACH.**
 - c. **Romans 5:8-11 (NASB) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were **reconciled** to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been **reconciled**, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the **reconciliation**.**
 - d. **DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE CANNOT SIN?**
 - 1) **ABSOLUTELY NOT!**
 - e. **DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE CANNOT BREAK FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD?**
 - 1) **NO!**
 - f. **DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE WILL GO OUR ENTIRE LIFE AND NEVER TURN AWAY FROM GOD?**
 - 1) **NO!**
4. **PROBLEM: Colossians 1:23 (NASB) **if** indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.**
- a. **WHAT PAUL IS **NOT** SAYING HERE IS THAT **OUR SALVATION IS DEPENDENT ON WHAT WE DO AFTER WE ARE SAVED**.**
 - 1) **IN OTHER WORDS, THAT WE CAN **LOSE OUR SALVATION** **"IF"** WE **DON'T CONTINUE IN OUR SALVATION**.**
 - b. ****"IF"** HERE IN THE GREEK IS A FIRST CLASS CONDITIONAL AND IT IS BETTER TRANSLATED **"SINCE"**.**

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- 1) ... SINCE you continue in the faith...
- 2) PAUL PERSONALLY KNOWS THEY ARE CONTINUING IN THE FAITH.
- 3) **BUT** HE INDICATES THAT IT IS NOT A GIVEN THAT EVERY PERSON IS GOING TO CONTINUE EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY BELIEVING IN JESUS.

c. WE NEED TO THINK CAREFULLY HERE BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES TO OUR SALVATION AND SIN THERE ARE ONLY THREE CHOICES:

- 1) ONE IS THAT YOU ARE SAVED AND NEVER TURN AWAY FROM JESUS.
- 2) ANOTHER IS THAT YOU ARE SAVED AND LOSE YOUR SALVATION BECAUSE YOU HAVE TURNED AWAY.
- 3) OR, YOU NEVER WERE SAVED IF YOU SHOULD TURN AWAY.

C. THERE IS MUCH SCRIPTURE THAT TALKS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL IN EACH OF US TO NOT FINISH WELL.

1. Colossians 2:8 (NASB) See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

a. SO... CAN A CHRISTIAN BE DECIEVED?

1) YES!

2. DOES THAT MEAN THAT HE HAS LOST HIS SALVATION IF HE SHOULD DIE IN THAT STATE OF DECEPTION?

a. NO!

3. DOES THAT MEAN THAR HE WAS NEVER SAVED BECAUSE HE DIES IN A STATE OF DECEPTION?

a. NO!

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4. **IT JUST MEANS THAT A PERSON WHO IS "IN CHRIST" AND WHO HAS BEEN SAVED CAN TURN AWAY FROM GOD.**
 - a. **THEY CAN BE HELD CAPTIVE BY SIN AND DECEIT.**
 - b. **BUT GOD DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE CHRISTIAN.**
3. **Luke 8:5-8 (NASB)** "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled underfoot and the birds of the air ate it up. "Other *seed* fell on rocky *soil*, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. "Other *seed* fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. "Other *seed* fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

A. FOUR GROUPS ARE MENTIONED IN THIS PARABLE.

1. **SEED BESIDE THE ROAD**
 - a. **THE PARABLE IS THIS, THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD, AND THOSE BESIDE THE ROAD ARE THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD.**
 - 1) **THEN THE DEVIL COMES AND TAKES AWAY THE WORD FROM THEIR HEART SO THEY MAY NOT BELIEVE.**
 - b. **IT COULD NOT BE CLEARER... THIS GROUP IS NOT SAVED.**
 - c. **THAT'S NOT TRUE OF THE OTHER THREE SOILS THAT ARE MENTIONED.**
2. **SEED ON THE ROCKY SOIL.**
 - a. **"Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.**
 - b. **BUT... DID THEY BELIEVE?**
 - 1) **YES!**
3. **SEED AMONG THORNS.**

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a. "The *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have **heard**, and as they go on their way they are **choked with worries and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to maturity.**

1) **THEY ARE CONSTANTLY CONFLICTED.**

b. **THEY ARE NOT SINGLE-MINDED IN THEIR DEVOTION TO CHRIST NOR IN THEIR DEPENDENCE ON HIM.**

c. **BUT... DID THEY BELIEVE?**

1) **YES!**

4. **SEED ON GOOD SOIL**

a. **Luke 8:8 (NASB) "Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great."**

b. **DID THEY BELIEVE?**

1) **YES!**

c. **DID THEY PERSEVERE?**

1) **YES!**

d. **DID THEY PRODUCE FRUIT?**

1) **YES!**

B. **SO... FOUR KINDS OF SOIL, AND ONLY ONE OF THEM WERE NOT SAVED.**

1. **BUT... IN TWO OF THE THREE THAT WERE SAVED THERE IS EITHER NO FRUIT, OR THE FRUIT DOES NOT LAST TO MATURITY BECAUSE OF:**

a. **TEMPTATION**

b. **WORRIES, RICHES, AND PLEASURES OF THE WORLD.**

2. **THERE IS NO PERSEVERANCE.**

4. **PERSEVERANCE**

A. **John 15 IS ABOUT "ABIDING" = PERSEVERING.**

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1. JESUS IS TALKING TO ELEVEN **SAVED** MEN, AND HE IS SAYING, **IF YOU DO NOT ABIDE IN ME, YOU WILL NOT BEAR FRUIT**. Jesus is talking to 11 saved men, and He's saying, **if you do not abide in me, you shall not bear fruit**.
 - a. **HE DID NOT SAY, IF YOU DO NOT BEAR FRUIT, YOU WILL NOT BE SAVED!**
 2. **HOWEVER... THERE IS NOT NECESSARILY ANY FRUIT IF A CHRISTIAN IS NOT ABIDING/PERSEVERING IN CHRIST.**
- B. **Galatians 1:6 (NASB)** I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;
1. **PAUL NEVER QUESTIONS THE SALVATION OF THE PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH IN GALATIA.**
 - a. **BUT... HE DOES SAY THAT HE IS AMAZED THAT THEY ARE SO QUICKLY DESERTING HIM WHO CALLED YOU BY THE GRACE OF GOD FOR A DIFFERENT GOSPEL.**
 2. **THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIANS DESERTING CHRIST FOR FALSE TEACHING.**
 - a. **BUT ... PAUL DOES NOT SAY THAT THEY LOST THEIR SALVATION.**
- C. **Galatians 4:9 (NASB)** But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?
1. **A CHRISTIAN CAN GO BACK TO THEIR FORMER MANNER OF LIFE.**
 - a. **BUT... PAUL DID NOT QUESTION THEIR SALVATION.**
 - b. **BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT GOD DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE CHRISTIAN**
- D. **Galatians 5:1,4 (NASB)** It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.... You

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have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

1. **NOTE: PAUL DID NOT QUESTION THEIR SALVATION.**
2. **BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT GOD DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE CHRISTIAN**

E. **Ephesians 4:14 (NASB)** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

1. **BUT... WE COULD BE... THAT IS PAUL'S POINT.**

F. **Ephesians 6:10-11 (NASB)** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

1. **THE IMPLICATION IS THAT WE CAN BE WEAK AND FALL VICTIM TO THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL**
2. **BUT... PAUL DID NOT QUESTION THEIR SALVATION IF THEY DID FALL VICTIM TO THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL.**
3. **BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT GOD DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE CHRISTIAN**

G. **Colossians 2:8 (NASB)** See to it that no one takes you captive through **philosophy** and **empty deception**, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

1. **BUT... PAUL DID NOT QUESTION THEIR SALVATION IF THEY DID FALL VICTIM TO PHILOSOPHY AND EMPTY DECEPTION.**
2. **BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT GOD DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE CHRISTIAN**

H. **1 Thessalonians 3:2,5 (NASB)** and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,... For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

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1. IF EVERYONE IS GOING TO PERSEVERE TO THE END **WHY WOULD WE NEED TO BE STRENGTHENED AND ENCOURAGED IN OUR FAITH?**
 - a. **THE ANSWER... WE WOULD NOT NEED TO BE STRENGTHENED AND ENCOURAGED IN OUR FAITH**
 - b. **NOTE: THERE IS THE POTENTIAL OF TURNING AWAY FROM OUR FAITH.**
 2. **BUT... PAUL NEVER QUESTIONED THE THESSALONIANS SALVATION... AND NEVER HINTED THAT THEY COULD LOSE THEIR SALVATION.**
 3. **BECAUSE GOD DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE CHRISTIAN**
 - a. **WHAT HE DID SAY WAS THAT THEY COULD BE TEMPTED.**
- I. **1 Timothy 1:18-19 (NASB)** This command I entrust to you, Timothy, *my son*, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, **keeping faith** and a good conscience, **which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.**
1. **THEIR FAITH... NOT THEIR SALVATION!**
 2. **BECAUSE GOD DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE CHRISTIAN**
- J. **1 Timothy 4:1 (NASB)** But the Spirit explicitly says that **in later times some will fall away from the faith**, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,
1. **BUT... THERE IS NO MENTION OF LOSING THEIR SALVATION.**
 2. **BECAUSE GOD DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE CHRISTIAN**
- K. **1 Timothy 6:10 (NASB)** For **the love of money** is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have **wandered away from the faith** and pierced themselves with many griefs.
1. **BUT... NO MENTION OF LOSING THEIR SALVATION.**
 2. **BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT GOD DOES NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE CHRISTIAN**
- L. **OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE SAVED AND WANDER AWAY FROM THE FAITH.**

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1. **YOU ARE STILL SAVED, BUT YOU HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM THE FAITH.**
 - a. **IN CHRIST YOU ARE STILL HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS AND BLAMELESS.**
 - b. **YOU HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM THE LORD... BUT GOD HAS NOT TURNED AWAY FROM YOU.**
2. NO WONDER PAUL SAYS...
 - a. **1 Corinthians 10:12 (NASB) Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.**