

*Pastor's Pen*

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*Castaway*

<sup>27</sup>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. 1 Cor. 9:27

the amplified translation makes the verse even more clear:

<sup>27</sup>But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel *and* things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit [not stand the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit].

People who believe you can't lose your salvation would argue that all Paul is afraid of losing is his reward in heaven. But the tenor of the whole text is much more severe. I can't imagine being unfit unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit and still making heaven. No, Paul's concern was real, and it stands as a stark warning to us all to be careful to stay in the faith all the way to death!

No one is above backsliding, Jesus warned the path was narrow and few walked it. It is a daily walk keep it up!

Pastor Chambers