

Can the Saved be Lost?

by Robert Notgrass

Many believe and teach that once an individual is saved he cannot be lost. However, the Scriptures clearly teach that a child of God can forfeit his salvation and be eternally lost. Many passages speak of the conditional nature of our future salvation. The apostle Paul reminded the Christians in Corinth of the gospel by which they were saved "if" they held fast to the word which was preached to them (1Cor. 15:2). The word "if" places a condition on salvation for the child of God. To the children of God in Galatia Paul wrote, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Gal. 6:9). The word "if" here implies if we as children of God do lose heart we will not reap the reward. The writer of Hebrews declared we are of Christ's household "if we hold fast our confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" (Heb. 3:6). Why do the Scriptures make these conditional statements about salvation if once we are saved we cannot be lost?

The Scriptures point out the conditional nature of our future salvation by giving solemn warnings against apostasy (falling away as to be lost). The apostle Paul in warning the Corinthians against apostasy realized he too could fall away and be lost. He said "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." (1Cor. 9:27). Certainly, if there was a possibility for

the apostle Paul to be rejected, then we too could be. Right after that statement he used the example of the Israelites who fell from God's favor by their disobedience and were not permitted to enter the promised land. Paul's conclusion was, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1Cor. 10:12). The Hebrew writer declared, "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it" (Heb. 4:1). These are solemn warnings against falling away and being lost. Therefore, why give the warnings if once one is saved he is always saved?

The Scriptures also speak of examples of those who did fall away. Among some who became Christians at the preaching of Philip was a man by the name of Simon. When he later became covetous of the apostles' power, Peter told him, "Thy money perish with thee...for thy heart is not right in the sight of God...I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:12-24). Paul wrote to some who had at one time been faithful, but now had turned back to Judaism. He said "Christ is become of no effect unto you . . . ye are fallen from grace." (Gal. 5:4)

These are but a few of the many passages where the Scriptures plainly teach that salvation is conditional based upon our faithful obedience. Only if we are faithful unto death will we receive a crown of life (Rev. 2:10).



JESUS

THE PERFECT LEADER



THE WESTHILL SUMMER SERIES 2015

Compassionate Leader (June 3) • Servant Leader (June 10) • Redeeming Leader (June 17) • Humble Leader (June 24) • Bold Leader (July 1) • Forgiving Leader (July 8) • Visionary Leader (July 22) • Motivating Leader (July 29) • Transformational Leader (August 5) • Prayerful Leader (August 12) • Charismatic Leader (August 19) • Sacrificial Leader (August 26)

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
House to House, Heart to Heart
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

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Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Florence Dickey has been diagnosed with cancer. She will not be taking chemo.

Eula Parrish suffered a stroke Thursday night. She is in Plano Medical Center.

Mildred Wooten had an outpatient procedure to block her headaches last Friday.

Doris Eaton, James Horn's aunt, is on hospice.

Fay Gaines, another of James Horn's aunts, passed away Wednesday night. Please, keep the Horn & Gaines families in your prayers.

Meagan Gould had a body scan Thursday to check some new concerns. Please, continue to pray for her.

Continue to Remember: Yvonne Ainsworth, Mary Beamon, Robert Bess, Don Bowen, Mary Butler, Velma McDougald, Polly Miller, Eula Parrish, Jan Ross, Rita Compton, Sue Dosser, Dalton McCullough, Jayme Shafer.

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Josh Moehring, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, Payton Weaver

Announcements

We are Excited to Announce that we have hired Tim Cooke to be our Seniors minister. He and his wife, Beverly, will be an asset to our work.

"Dear Westhill Family, Thank you for your prayers and sweet cards. Please, keep me on your prayer list." Love, Jan Ross

5th Sunday Format Today! We invite everyone to stay for lunch and fellowship followed immediately by our second service. No 6:00 PM service.

Teacher Meeting this afternoon in the Family Room following the second service. All teachers from 3 & 4 year olds to adults are encouraged to stay and look over the new curriculum for the Fall quarter.

SonShiners Bible Study this Tuesday morning at 10:30 in the Family Room. Please, bring sandwiches for a luncheon together following our study. If anyone needs a ride, contact Tim at 903.641.5515.

SYS in Grandview this Tuesday. We will leave from the building at 5:30 PM.

Leadership Initiative, is this weekend! All young men, aged 13-20, are encouraged to join us July 31 - Aug. 2. **Register online now!*****

Discipleship University at Dripping Springs Church of Christ will be August 7-9. We will leave here at 9:00 AM Friday morning. Register online at dschurchofchrist.com.

"WOW Ladies Retreat: We have 10 open spots left for our retreat Sep. 25-26. Please let us know and pay by Aug. 1, so we can order shirts. See Julie Dilbeck or Lee Owens for room availability and details."

Our Benevolence Program is providing school supplies to underprivileged children at Navarro Elementary. This has opened the door for more volunteer opportunities there this year. If you'd like to volunteer, please sign up in the foyer.

Birthdays This Week

July 26 - Kathy Green, Darrell Olsen

July 27 - Paxton Southard

July 28 - Nancy Sloan

July 30 - Willow Hall

Next Week's Class

Four in a Furnace
Daniel 2-3

Records for July 19, 2015

Bible Class	142
AM Worship.....	241
PM Worship	134
Wednesday	143
Contribution	\$11,508.30

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	James Horn
Opening Prayer	Paul Slaughter
Communion Leader	Brent Stewart
Communion Servers	
Wade Braly	Tim Cooke
David Dilbeck	Brian Hand
James Horn	Clay Jackson
Percell Milton	Greg Olsen
Phil Pillans	Billy Roughton
Billy Roughton	Jose Sosa
Darwin Thomas	Justin Williams
Closing Prayer	Wade Hall
Nursery	Sharon Mahoney & Carolyn Milton
PM Song Leader	Young Men
PM Opening Prayer	Young Men
PM Closing Prayer	Young Men
Wed. Song Leader	Jimmy Horn
Summer Series	Brent Stewart
July Contact Elder	Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228