

After reading some of your posts on the issue of OSAS, I feel that it is important to give you some issues to ponder about. I shall try to refrain from reiterating what the rest have said so far (because you are bored of repetitions too yeah?), but put my point across swiftly and straightforward.

It is the opinion of most Apologetics Ministries that OSAS cannot stand upon careful scrutiny of scriptures. We all know, as Christians, that the Bible is the most trustworthy and final source of authority, and it is “profitable for teaching, rebuking and instructing”. In the light of scriptures, it is very clear that OSAS cannot stand, from an unbiased view. Think about the following points:

1. Would we be as desperate to reach out to backslidden Christians, or even Homosexual Christians if we believed that they were on their way to heaven still? True, they might be losing God’s plan for them on this earth, but still that doesn’t seem much of a motivation.

The Christian is never desperate to reach out to others. It is not my job to save someone. As Jesus has said on several occasions, no one comes to the Father except that he be drawn, not pulled or pushed by me. With his reference to the “backslidden” or homosexual Christian, Davyd races down the very trail the others keep going. If a person is in continuous sin, and they can do this without any sense of conviction from God then that person, it is pretty safe to say, does not belong to God. They are not saved. Their issue isn’t being brought back to God. Their issue is to get to God in the first place.

2. How then would we explain the many parables like the 10 virgins waiting for the bridegroom (Matthew 25:1-13). It is clear that all of them were Christians, but only 5 (wise ones) “trimmed their lamps” and the other 5 (foolish ones) which didn’t were left by the bridegroom because they were not prepared. As the Bible says, “...and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.” (Matthew 25:10) Moreover, Jesus rejected their entry into heaven i.e. salvation, because “he did not know them” (Matthew 25:12), and properly instructed us not to be like the foolish men, but to “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” (Matthew 25:13)
3. How do we explain the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30? It is obvious that the servants being referred to here were also Christians (servants of God), where God made a distinction between his active, growing servants, and those who were backslidden or lukewarm. The 2 active servants reaped double their own talents that God gave them i.e. the first returned 5 more, the second returned 2 more, while the last servant merely “hid his talent in the ground” (Matthew 25:25). As follows, God was glad with His first 2 servants, but not His last one. What did he tell his last servant? He chastised him, and turned him away from His Kingdom i.e. salvation, “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.” (Matthew 25: 30)

From here, we know that this place is “Hell” and that even Christians are eligible. Something to think about... they were basically just not using their talents! From here, we can see that Jehovah God is a very strict God.

4. How do we explain the parable of the servants in Luke 12:35-48? It is even clearer here when Jesus told us Christians to “Let our loins be girded and our lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks.” (Luke 12:35-36) The Bible goes on to talk about the lukewarm, backslidden Christians or Christians who are leading a sinful lifestyle in Luke 12:45-46, “But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of the servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful.” Notice that God will put these group of Christians together with the unfaithful, which means they will be denied of their salvation and entry into heaven. The unfaithful should also include those who are unbelievers.
5. How could we then explain the 7 churches in Revelations 2 as I have quoted earlier, and where God says he will spew the lukewarm Christians out of His mouth, and this seems in keeping with the parables mentioned above, that those who do not keep their lamps burning will be left behind. If you read through the passage in Revelations again regarding these 7 churches, it is about 7 groups of believers that God is coming to judge. The nature of the judgement that we see taking place does not presume that all are being saved, and so merely a determination of how much reward you should get based on your good works over and above basic salvation. Instead, verses like “If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent” (Rev 2:5), and “If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth” (to those Christians who still hold the teaching of Balaam (Rev 2:16), and “...and I will strike her children dead.” (referring to Christians who still tolerate Jezebel as mentioned earlier) (Rev 2:23), and “If you will not awake, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.” (Rev 3:3) and even to the Church of Laodicea, where God said to the Christians in that church that “So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth.” (Rev 3:16) shows that believers will be losing their salvation, and this is a frightening thought.
=> A further point to note with regards to the 7 churches... notice that the majority of Christians who will be able to receive salvation are only from the Church of Philadelphia.
6. So in terms of application, although there shouldn't be unnecessary fear about “Have I lost my salvation?”, “What does it take to lose my Salvation?”, at least this is better than both individuals and churches being lulled into a false sense of security, that no matter what we do or how far we have wandered away from God, or how much sin we are living in, we will still be saved.

7. My conclusion of when one will lose his salvation is that the individual himself will know whether his lamp is burning or is dry. Also, just to clarify, I definitely do not believe that one can be saved by works, but only by believing in your heart, and confessing with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and your personal Saviour, that one can receive salvation. However, to be a believer means to be a disciple of Christ, which is why God instructs us to “make disciples of all nations” because the sheep that he will be separating from the goats on judgement day are believing Christians constantly desiring to follow Christ and His Word, sometimes failing but daily repenting Christians.

To end off, I would like to reiterate the words of Paul in his 1st letter to the Corinthian Church, who has forewarned us about such ideas in future:

“By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.” (1 Cor 15:2)

Christians in today’s society have focused too much on the tremendous love of God, that they have forgotten the strictness of God. We have to know that the God in the OT is still the same as the God in the NT because he never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Bible never contradicts itself too, and in the light of all biblical evidence, OSAS cannot stand.