

The FALSE Doctrine of “Eternal Security”:
“Once Saved Always Saved”
(a doctrine of First Baptist Church of Glenarden)

The bible warns us about false teachers, false prophets, “doctrines of devils”, and the “spirit of error”. Yet Christians (including ministers) are still prone to the deceptions of false doctrine. The practice of false doctrine, such as “once saved always saved”, has caused tremendous damage to Christians. It gives them a license to continue living in sin. Their soul is in jeopardy. So it’s imperative that “eternal security” doctrine be removed from our churches.

The “eternal security” doctrine is a part of soteriology (the doctrine of salvation). This doctrine has been a highly controversial subject for many decades. It’s known by several descriptive names: “Perseverance of the Saints”; “Once Saved Always Saved”; or “Preservation of the Saints”.

Protestant denominations base their doctrine on Calvinism, Arminianism, or a mixed theology. Arminianism is the theology that opposes the “eternal security” doctrine. Arminians declare a believer CAN lose their salvation. Methodist, Holiness, and Pentecostal denominations embrace this theology. Freewill Baptist have a modified Arminian doctrine that’s inaccurate. Most Baptist churches teach OSAS. Charles Stanley, Billy Graham, and other popular teachers embrace this doctrine. Yet don’t be fooled by one’s popularity. Even the false prophets in the Bible were well-known. (Luke 6:26)

This presentation will reflect the “true doctrine of grace” and refute the “eternal security” doctrine. Each doctrine opposes the other. Yet only one doctrine is right in the eyes of GOD! Only the RIGHT doctrine can save your soul from hell.

The Bible is the infallible word of God. Yet it’s subject to interpretation of the reader. That’s why there are different views and theologies. So if there’s any theological conflict, it stems from a misinterpretation of the Bible.

“Eternal Security” doctrine assumes that a believer can never lose their salvation. It falsely proclaims the gift of salvation can NEVER be lost or taken away. Teachers of this doctrine believe salvation is unconditional and guaranteed to continue. They believe God will keep them and preserve their faith. So believers don’t have to work to maintain their salvation. They can sin and remain saved. OSAS teachers claim a believer’s future sins were covered by the blood of Jesus. Yet this presentation contains a portion of the biblical evidence that refutes all of these FALSE teachings.

STOP! Before reading any further, you need to pray. Ask God to prepare your heart, open your eyes to see the truth, and give you understanding of the scriptures. Pray that “your mind will be open to receive in accordance to His will”. [a pause for prayer]

Let’s see what the bible has to say concerning the issue of “eternal security”. Can a “saved” person lose their salvation? Yes! Listed below is the biblical evidence that

proves “salvation can be lost”: (Parallel scriptures follow the initial scripture.)

- Jesus was referring to believers when He said, “every tree that does not bear good fruit” will be “cut down and thrown in the fire”. Matthew 3:10, 7:19; Luke 13:7,9; John 15:6
 - Jesus warned the disciples to “fear God” because He can destroy their “soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:4-5
 - If anyone (including a believer) denies Jesus, he will “deny them before God”. Matthew 10:33; Luke 9:26 (Peter denied Jesus 3 times!)
 - Jesus told the disciples their offenses (sin) would get them “cast into hell fire”. Matthew 18:8-9, 5:28-30; Mark 9:43,45 (If they go to hell, they’ve lost their salvation.)
 - Believers who do not help the poor and needy “will be cast into everlasting fire”. Matthew 25:40-46 (Jesus was speaking to His disciples.)
 - Jesus used the prodigal son parable as an example for believers. A father’s son became “lost” due to sin. Luke 15:21, 24, 32 (The son was restored after he repented. vs.21-22)
 - Those who don’t abide in Jesus “will be cast into fire”. John 15:6 (addressed to believers)
 - Sin will cause the spiritual “death” of a CHRISTIAN. Romans 6:16, 6:23a, 8:13; James 1:15 (Quantity doesn’t matter. A spiritually dead person is not saved.)
 - If a believer “lives after the flesh”, he will “die”. Romans 8:13; Galatians 6:8
 - Paul admonished believers saying: “fear God because He may not spare you”. Unless you “continue in God’s goodness, you will be cut off”. Romans 11:21-22; John 15:2
 - According to Paul, God will destroy believers who defile their temple. 1 Cor. 3:17
 - Paul said to believers, “the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God”. 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Galatians 5:21; Ephesians 5:5 (Paul warned them about certain behaviors.)
 - Paul said he himself had to discipline his body; So he won’t “be a cast away”. 1 Cor. 9:27 KJV
 - Believers who do “works of the flesh will NOT enter God’s kingdom”. Gal. 5:19-21
 - According to Paul, certain behaviors will EXCLUDE believers from God’s kingdom. Eph. 5:3-7; Rev. 22:15 (The “tree of life” is in heaven.)
 - If a Holy Spirit filled believer falls away, it’s NOT possible to renew him again. At the end, he’ll be burned in hell. (Hebrews 6:4-8) (vs. 7-8 uses symbolic text)
 - If a believer sins after receiving knowledge, they will face “judgment and raging fire” of hell. Hebrews 10:26-27 NIV; 2 Peter 2:20-21
 - If a believer hates his brother/sister in Christ, he will NOT have eternal life. (1 John 3:15) (a hater = murderer)
 - Homosexuals will “suffer the vengeance of eternal fire” in hell. Jude 1:7 (addressed to believers)
 - Jesus rejected the churches of Ephesus, Pergamos, Sardis, and Laodecia. He warned them to “repent”. Why? Jesus disliked their “works”. Revelations 2:2-5, 7; Rev. 2:13-17; Rev. 3:1-5; Rev. 3:15-21
 - Anyone (including believers) who commits a sin listed in Revelations 21:8 will go to hell. ie, liars, homosexuals, whores, etc. (1 Cor. 6:9; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:5; Rev. 21:27)
- Additional Scripture References: Matthew 7:21-22 (Luke 6:46, 49); Matthew 13:41-42; Luke 9:62; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Gal. 5:4 (fallen from grace); Rev. 3:5; Rev. 22:19

In the gospels, Jesus taught several parables that illustrated the mysteries of God’s kingdom. God’s standards for “eternal salvation” are revealed, also. Teachers of OSAS

either misunderstood or ignored the following parables:

The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32); The Sower (Luke 8:5-15); The Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9); The Faithful and Wise Steward (Luke 12:45, 46; Matthew 24:45-51); The Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:21-35); The Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13); The Talents (Matthew 25:24-30).

Contrary to the OSAS teachings, it is possible for Christians to fall away from grace. Apostasy (a departure from the faith) is clearly shown throughout the New Testament. The “falling away” of the saints MUST occur before the return of Christ”. (2

Thessalonians 2:3) The following scriptures refute the “eternal security” doctrine that claims God will preserve a Christian and their faith:

Matthew 24:10-11; Mark 14:27; Luke 8:13; John 6:66; Galatians 1:6, 5:4; 1 Timothy 4:1, 1 Timothy 6:10; Hebrews 6:4-6; James 5:19 ; Revelations 2:4-5.

Scriptures reflecting the possibility of saints falling away include 1 Timothy 1:19, Hebrews 3:12-13, 2 Peter 1:10, and 2 Peter 3:17.

(Salvation is based on “faith”. So if you fall away from the faith, you’ll lose your salvation.)

None of the above scriptures reflect a “continuous” or “guaranteed” salvation (as stated by OSAS teachers). If correctly understood and not ignored, the scriptures prove a believer’s “salvation CAN be lost”. This possibility was shown in the teachings of both Jesus and Paul. Therefore, no one can rightfully say a Christian can not lose their salvation.

Before a doctrine is created, we must prayerfully review, understand, and weigh ALL the scriptures pertaining to a subject. The bible has 100’s of scriptures pertaining to “salvation”. Yet many do not contain the words “saved” or “salvation”. There are scriptures referring to “hell” that don’t have the word. There are also scriptures relating to “eternal life” that don’t have those words. So we must have “spiritual discernment” to recognize and consider all relative scriptures. Otherwise, we won’t have a correct understanding of “salvation”.

Yet there’s another problem plaguing today’s churches: Ministers who are carnal and those who aren’t called to preach will NOT get knowledge from God. This is one of the reasons for the multitude of false teaching in our churches.

The teachings of Jesus Christ represent the “highest norms and standards” for bible interpretation. Before reaching a conclusion, we must compare our thesis with the teachings of Christ (to ensure proper application). OSAS teachers failed to do this. Instead, they avoided or misunderstood the teachings of Christ (including several parables). OSAS teachers ignored the reality that sin causes the “spiritual death” of Christians. They also ignored God’s stipulations for eternal salvation.

The scriptures used as a basis for the “eternal security” doctrine have been grossly distorted . All of its references were misused or misinterpreted. These include scriptures, such as John 3:16, John 10:28, Romans 8:38-39, Romans 11:29, Ephesians 1:13,

Colossians 1:22, and Jude 1:24. OSAS teachers failed to discern and consider the contrary scriptures. Many of their scriptures reflect only a “partial truth” about salvation . (The conditional passage reflecting the full context was ignored.) OSAS teachers have twisted selected scriptures into a doctrine that pleases them and fits their own beliefs. (2 Peter 3:16c) Yet the doctrine of Christ refutes and overrules all of their scripture references!

I’ve been challenged by ministers and seminary students who were unsuccessful in proving their “eternal security” beliefs. They were successful in showing me one thing: Hermeneutics and other bible classes do NOT guarantee “correct” interpretation of scripture and doctrine development. The theological interpretation process has lead to the oversight of many important and relevant scriptures. In the midst of being “technical”, ministers have missed what God was saying.

Teachers of eternal security/OSAS have avoided tons of scriptures and contrary evidence. Their theology is based upon “selective literalism” NOT the full picture of God’s word. The OSAS teaching is a FALSE doctrine and heresy ! Why?

- OSAS does not reflect the truth of God’s word.
- The doctrine of Christ, Paul, and others clearly refute this teaching.
- This doctrine is contrary to the biblical message concerning salvation.

OSAS teachers are not abiding in Christ’s doctrine; Therefore, they have no fellowship with God. (2 John 1:8-9 NKJV, NLT) Their soul is in jeopardy for ignoring God’s truths and preaching a “false gospel”. (Galatians 1:8-9) Their destructive heresy will lead to their own destruction. (2 Peter 2:1)