

## **Once Saved, Always Saved?**

Some believe that it is impossible for a saved person to ever fall away or lose their salvation.

“They whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.” (*The Westminster Confession-Chapter XVII, Section 1*)

Sam Morris, who was the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Stamford, Texas, is quoted as saying: "We take the position that a Christian's sins do not damn his soul! The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul. . . All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer; and all the sins he may commit from idolatry to murder will not make his soul in any more danger. . . The way a man lives has nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul."

(from *The Possibility of Apostasy*, by C. R. Nichol, pg. 74)

“We believe the Scriptures teach that such as are truly regenerate, being born of the Spirit, will not utterly fall away and perish, but will endure unto the end.” (*The Southern Manual for Baptist Churches*, Edward T. Hiscox editor, pg. 67)

“The Bible teaches that a child of God cannot so act as to be finally lost in hell.” (*proposition defended by A.U. Nunnery in a debate with Guy N. Woods, Parsons, TN; July 2-5, 1946*)

### **What does the Bible say?**

Warnings when there is no danger are meaningless. The Scriptures frequently warn about the danger of falling away.

- 1 Cor. 10:1-10
- 1 Cor. 9:27
- 1 Peter 1:5-11
- 2 Peter 2:20-22
- James 5:19-20
- Other verses:

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It is possible for one's faith to be:

- overthrown (2 Tim. 2:18)
- cast off (1 Tim. 5:12)
- departed from (1 Tim. 4:1)
- made shipwreck (1 Tim. 1:19)
- Other statements:

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What are some 'proof texts' of those who believe in "once saved, always saved"? How would you answer these?

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