

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 6

Perseverance of the Saints

INTRODUCTION: One of the fundamental Baptist doctrines through the years has been the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints or, as some call it, the preservation of the saints or the security of the believer. In other words, Baptists have been taught and believed that the Bible teaches that a person who is genuinely converted will always be a Christian. Let us ask the question: Can we lose our salvation? Let us answer it from the Scriptures.

I. THERE ARE SOME THINGS A CHRISTIAN CAN LOSE.

1. A Christian can lose his joy. In Psalm 51:12a, David cried, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation." Notice, he had not lost his salvation, but he had lost the joy of it.
2. A Christian can lose the fullness of the Spirit. Samson had once known the power of the Holy Spirit, but lost his power.
3. A person can lose his fellowship with God. In Psalm 51:11a, David cried, "Cast me not away from thy presence."
4. A Christian can lose his influence.
5. A Christian can lose his peace.
6. A Christian can lose his reward. The Bible teaches us that salvation is by grace, but rewards are earned. The Christian by his life may lose his rewards.

II. THE ONE THING A CHRISTIAN CANNOT LOSE: HIS SALVATION.

1. A Christian cannot lose his salvation because God Himself has said so. (John 10:28; John 5:24; Jude 24)
2. A Christian cannot lose his salvation because the life that God gives is eternal life. (John 3:16; John 3:15; John 3:36)
3. The Christian cannot lose his salvation because he is kept by God. (I Peter 1:5) The word "kept" in this verse means to "guard" or "walk guard around."
4. The Christian cannot lose his salvation because he cannot fall if he is sure he is saved. (II Peter 1:10)
5. The Christian cannot lose his salvation because he is sealed until Jesus comes. (Ephesians 4:30) There are five things for which sealing is used:
  - 1) The seal is for preservation. When a person does canning, he seals the can until the day it is opened. We are preserved until the day the graves open.
  - 2) The seal is to prevent molestation. In other words, no one can molest something that is sealed. A letter is sealed to prevent anyone's opening it.
  - 3) The seal is for presentation as a gift. We are a gift from Christ to God, sealed unto the day He opens us. (Jude 24)
  - 4) A seal is for destination. It means "not opened until it arrives." We cannot be opened until we arrive before God.
  - 5) A seal is for possession. Only the owner can open it. I Corinthians 6:19 says that we are owned by Christ and only He can break the seal. What security this is!
6. The Christian cannot lose his salvation because he is set apart. (Ephesians 1:14) The word "earnest" in this verse means "down payment." God has given us the Holy Spirit as a down payment on our salvation. If any Christian can fall and not receive the fullness of his salvation when the body is resurrected, God would lose the Holy Spirit because He has been placed as the earnest or the down payment on our salvation.
7. A Christian cannot lose his salvation because Jesus is our advocate. (I John 2:1) Jesus intercedes for us when we sin. He picks us up.

III. SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER CONCERNING THIS DOCTRINE.

1. How about the person who says he is saved, but lives constantly in sin? The answer to this is in I John 2:17-19. It proves he was never saved at all. Notice the words in verse 19, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us..."

2. Does the unfruitful, backslidden Christian enjoy the same rewards as the good Christian does? The answer is, “No.” In I Corinthians 3:12-15, we have the story of a man whose works are burned at the Judgment Seat. He himself is saved, but his works are burned.
3. What happens to a person who is born again, but goes into sin? The answer is, he either comes back to God or the Lord will take him on to Heaven. The Bible plainly teaches that a born-again person will not continue in sin. He may stumble and fall, but he will come back. If he does not come back, the Lord, realizing that his testimony is ruined and that he can no longer do more good by his life than by his death, will take him on to Heaven.

CONCLUSION: There are three things we ought to realize in concluding the lesson: (1) We should be sure we are saved. (2) We should work so as not to lose our rewards. (3) We should thank God constantly that salvation is of the Lord and that a Christian is a new creature created in Christ Jesus unto good works. We should dedicate our lives for His service.

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. Jude 24a, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. John 10:28, “And I \_\_\_\_\_ unto them eternal life; and they shall never \_\_\_\_\_, neither shall any man pluck them out of my \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. John 10:29, “My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to \_\_\_\_\_ them out of my Father’s \_\_\_\_\_.”
4. I Peter 1:5a, “Who are \_\_\_\_\_ by the power...”
5. II Peter 1:10b, “for if ye do these things, ye shall never \_\_\_\_\_.”
6. John 6:37b, “him that cometh to me I will in no wise \_\_\_\_\_.”
7. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have \_\_\_\_\_ life.”
8. I John 2:1, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye \_\_\_\_\_ not. And if any man \_\_\_\_\_, we have an \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.”

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—Write these on the board and let the class unscramble them.

1. A Christian can lose his S A W D R E R.
2. A Christian can lose his Y J O.
3. A Christian can lose his W O R E P.
4. A Christian can lose his F I L E.
5. A Christian can lose his E P C A E.
6. A Christian cannot lose his I S O V A N A L T.
7. We cannot lose our salvation because we have \_\_\_\_\_ life.
8. We cannot lose our salvation because we are \_\_\_\_\_ unto the day of redemption.
9. We cannot lose our salvation because it is a (gift) (wage) (bonus).

TEACHER: You could have a Bible drill on these verses to see who can find them first and read them: I John 2:17-19; Jude 24; Psalm 51:5; I Peter 1:5; John 10:27-29; II Peter 1:10.

MEMORY VERSE: Jude 24a, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling.”