



CAN YOU LOSE YOUR SALVATION?

Last week I answered a question from one of our members and this week I

shall attempt to answer her other question - the one above. This person does not doubt her salvation but wonders about several Scripture passages. The first of these is from Hebrews.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Hebrews 6:4-6

Let me begin by stating the facts related to this specific passage. The passage clearly states that it is impossible to be saved more than once. If, somehow, you were to lose your salvation, you would be doomed to eternal damnation because you can not be saved again. A rather sobering thought! Read it again! *For it is impossible, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance!*

Because of this it is very important that we find an answer to the question of whether it is possible to lose one's salvation. To do this, we must examine the passage in context with the rest of the Bible and, in particular, the Book of Hebrews. There is ample Scriptural evidence that one can not lose one's salvation. Article VII of our Statement of Faith makes this clear, referring to the following Scriptures: *John 5:24; John 10:28; John 14:16-17; Rom. 8:29; I Cor. 6:19; Eph. 1:13-14; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:1-2; I John 5:13; Jude 1:24.*

Now, let us go back a few verses where the author of Hebrews states, *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,*

Hebrews 6:1

To quote an old saying, when you see "therefore" you must ask what it is "there for?" In chapters one through five the author deals at great lengths on how Christ is the more perfect sacrifice and how we are now saved, eternally, through His shed blood. It is now time to close this subject and go on to the important responsibilities we have as Christians to grow and mature.

"But wait a minute, I am not done with questions regarding salvation. What, for example, about people who turn away from their salvation?" The author is here saying, "There is no use continuing with the subject and questions like this. If it were possible to turn away from your salvation, there is no second chance so why discuss it?" To put it bluntly, questions such as this (can you lose your salvation?) need not be asked since there are already many Scriptures that answer the question.

I don't know if I have answered the question sufficiently, it is difficult to do so in the space of one sheet of paper, but the answer is No!

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, Hebrews 10:26

The key word here is "if." We have the following Scripture to answer this. *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.*

I John 3:9

Again, we need to consider the context. *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,* Hebrews 10:19

The explanation is basically the same. We have "entered the Holiest" and therefore can not sin "willfully." Space does not permit me to cover II Peter 2:21-22 but let me conclude with this:

1) A really complete answer to this question can not be given in the space of a single page - give me 20 or 30 pages and I could give you a complete answer.

2) When the context of these passages is considered, the question may be answered, without question - No!

Wayne

