

Additional Studies: Once Saved, Always Saved —

There are literally hundreds of scriptures that demolish the position of those who claim it is impossible, once one has come to know Jesus Christ, to lose salvation.

- Hebrews 10:26-31
- Hebrews 6:4-8
- John 10:28
- Romans 8:39
- 2 Peter 2:20-22

Hebrews 10:26-31—Deliberate sin can cause us to lose our salvation. This is clear, yet some insist this passage applies only to non-Christians, or unsaved churchgoers. But verses 29 (“the blood of the covenant that sanctified him”) and 30 (“The Lord will judge his people”) show that the writer has in mind the covenant people—who are already saved.

Hebrews 6:4-8—It is impossible to bring certain people back to repentance. Where the “point of no return” is God only knows.

“Crucifying the Son of God all over again” implies they have already shared in Jesus’ death and resurrection. (Hebrews 6:7-8 continues the thought.) This is the strongest passage in Hebrews refuting “Once Saved, Always Saved” (see also 3:12-14, 4:1, 4:11, 6:11-12, 10:36, 12:14-15, 13:4). And yet there are hundreds of other verses in the New Testament, which disprove this false doctrine—not even to consider the Old Testament.

John 10:28—This verse is often cited as proof of the impossibility of apostasy. However, it does not state that it is impossible for someone to turn his back on God (Luke 9:62) and walk away, only that it is impossible for external powers to drag away a disciple against his will.

Romans 8:39—Nothing can separate us from the love of God, but it’s our responsibility to “keep ourselves in God’s love” (Jude 21). Again, there is free will. Most advocates of “once saved, always saved” (“perseverance of the saints,” “eternal security”), at some point, deny free will.

2 Peter 2:20-22—This verse clinches the argument. These people have “escaped the corruption of the world,” which is possible only through participating in the divine nature (see 1:4). The corruption of the world is vividly symbolized by vomit and mud. It is tortuous to argue that the “washing” applies to a non-Christian. Finally, if they give up on God, they are worse off at the end than they were if they had never become Christians. Clearly it is possible for a Christian to lose his salvation!

Conclusion

Although the doctrine “Once Saved, Always Saved” is comforting and is taught by many churches, it strikes directly at the heart of the issue: One’s willingness to truly make Jesus the Lord every day and to stay faithful and obedient until the end of our lives.