

ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED Pt.1

In the past few weeks I have taught on salvation, works and today I'm going to begin a short 2-part series on "Once Saved Always Saved." These three seem to overlap and intertwine and as we go along my hope and prayer is that you will be able to clearly understand God's Word on these subjects. As Christians, we need to grow up in the faith, feeding on God's Word daily so that we can recognize false teachings and avoid them.

Once Saved Always Saved or OSAS for short is a very popular false teaching. It is also known as eternal security, that's another name for it. Those that hold to the doctrine of OSAS are not rightly dividing God's Word and many times have gotten this idea from Satan's ministers on tv. Baptists hold this false doctrine. They say that salvation is permanent and cannot be lost. It is very dangerous to believe like this. Believing this way can cause a person to lead a sinful life and think they will have eternal life no matter what. OSAS teaches that no matter how a person lives their life they cannot lose their salvation. The Christian who really was saved but began to live in sin, a compromise here and there and gradually completely backslides away from God has chosen of their own freewill to leave God. The ones who have left God but believe OSAS think they are still saved because they were taught that they can never lose their salvation. They didn't "lose" anything, they used their freewill and chose a life of sin, instead of a righteous life that pleases God.

There are those that will say if someone seems to be a Christian and then backslides or leaves the faith that they were never truly saved in the first place. That could be true but that is not the case every time. It is possible for someone to be saved, truly saved, filled and sealed by The Holy Spirit and then backslide or that is, leave the faith of their own free will.

My focus will be on The Old Testament today.



Did Old Testament believers have eternal security? No, they did not. They had to continually bring the proper sacrifices each year and throughout the year to be in a right standing with God. They had to obey God's Word. They had to "do" something to prove themselves approved to God. It comes down to obedience. The Old Testament was about keeping God's Word and the New Testament is also about keeping God's Word.

This is a Biblical teaching so we will look directly at God's Word to understand and sort all this out. In this next passage of Scripture, Moses is speaking to the Israelites who are about to go into the promised land of Canaan.

Deut.31:6 - Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, He *it is* that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

He is encouraging the people to go and take the land and that God would be with them, He is faithful and He would uphold them. This same promise applies to us today under the New Covenant when we surrender our lives to Christ. Then God will be with us too protecting us, fighting for us and blessing our lives.

Let's go a few verses further to where God is about to take Moses' life because he was not allowed to go into the promised land because of his sin against God when he struck the rock twice in anger (**Numbers 20:11**) instead of speaking to it as God had instructed him to do.

Deut.31:16-17 – And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the

strangers of the land, whither they go *to be* among them, and will forsake Me, and break My covenant which I have made with them. Then My anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God *is* not among us?

God told Moses once he was dead and gone that the Israelites would cheat spiritually on God and begin to serve the false gods of the nations thereby breaking His covenant. Only then, after they have left Him and are serving idols, fallen angels, does God say He will forsake them. God gives us freewill to choose to serve Him or not. When we choose to leave and walk away, then God will leave too. He never leaves first, we do.

II Chronicles 24:20 – And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, He hath also forsaken you.

God loves us and wants what is best for us. He has good plans for our lives.

(Jeremiah 29:11) When we follow His Word, keep His commands, His full blessing is on our lives. But when we choose our own ways and live sinful lives and stay in our sin long enough, then we are not choosing to serve Him and we have forsaken Him and after a time, He will remove His Spirit from us just like He did with King Saul and Old Testament saints who did not remain faithful. **(1 Samuel 16:14)**

The Israelites sinned against God when they were too scared to go into the promised land. When they realized they had messed up they said they would then go over and fight. Listen to what Moses told them:

Numbers 14:43 – For the Amalekites and the Canaanites *are* there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.

He was warning them not to go and even try to fight because they were going to be defeated because God wasn't with them. Notice Moses said, they turned away from the Lord and you can see after that, then the Lord left them. That's how it works in our lives under the New Covenant too, if we stay in sin long enough, God

will reach His breaking point and He will eventually leave too. God never leaves first.

Jeremiah 23:38-40 – But since ye say, The burden of the LORD; therefore thus saith the LORD; Because ye say this word, The burden of the LORD, and I have sent unto you, saying, Ye shall not say, The burden of the LORD; Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, *and cast you* out of My presence: And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.

God is dealing with false prophets in Jerusalem here. King James uses the word burden meaning word. So what they were doing was going around prophesying falsely to people saying this is the word of The Lord and then whatever “they” wanted to say. They did this for money. God told them not to tell the people this because He was not giving them anything to say to the people. So they continued to do it anyway which is sin against God so He said He would forget them and judge them and basically fight against them. Once again, we see that they did not heed God’s command and continued in sin against Him and pushed Him to then pour out His judgment against them.

II Chronicles 15:2 – And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD *is* with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you.

That’s pretty clear to me. satan’s ministers have an agenda for teaching OSAS, they are being used to lead souls to hell.

II Chronicles 30:9 – Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers *were*, *but* yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into His sanctuary, which He hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you. For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children *shall find* compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God *is* gracious and merciful, and will not turn away *His* face from you, if ye return unto Him.

God is using King Hezekiah to speak to the Israelites urging them to return to The Lord because they are backslidden away from Him. God is so loving and merciful

and always reaching out for us, He longs for us to commune with Him and to ultimately be with Him for all of eternity. The backslider, person who was once a Christian, can return to The Lord if they are sincere and repent of their sin.

Psalms 9:10 – And they that know thy name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee.

This is the whole thing in a nutshell. The person who goes into sin and begins living a sinful life is no longer seeking The Lord. They have let their relationship with Him go. They have blown off the warnings from The Holy Spirit because The Holy Spirit will convict you of sin. But if you ignore Him, then you are grieving Him and when you do that long enough He gets the message, you don't want Him, you're not listening to Him, not obeying Him and don't want to live a righteous life. At that point, He has gotten the message loud and clear and He will leave.

ERASED FROM the BOOK of LIFE

Exodus 32:31-33 – And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book.

God had just delivered the Israelites out of Egypt and did miracle after miracle that they witnessed and they turn right around while Moses is up on the mountain talking with God and they make the golden calf idol. They quickly broke their covenant relationship with God. Being blotted out signifies exclusion from God's people and from eternal life and from God Himself.

Being blotted out of the book of life points to the ultimate judgement where only those who are righteous will remain in the book.

Psalms 69:28 – Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.

King David prayed this against his enemies. King David was pleading for God's judgement against his enemies. Being removed from the book of life is a removal from God's favor and eternal blessing. God has ultimate authority over life and death, and the eternal consequences of one's actions.

Psalm 9:5 - Thou hast rebuked the heathen, Thou hast destroyed the wicked, Thou hast put out their name forever and ever.

This is a King David Psalm, he was a righteous king. He took his problems to God, he always sought God to fight on his behalf and on behalf of Israel. We see here the concept of divine retribution, where God ensures that evil does not prevail indefinitely. Putting their name out, the name of the nations, forever and ever foreshadows the final judgment, where Christ will separate the righteous from the wicked (**Matthew 25:31-46**). In ancient Near Eastern culture, a name represented one's identity and existence. To have one's name erased was to be utterly forgotten and to have no lasting impact. This reflects the biblical principle that the memory of the wicked will perish.

This is not a picture of someone who was once a Christian turning away from the faith but what I want you to understand is there is a final judgement and God does not accept everyone into heaven. Those who do not receive Christ are not righteous and will not be in heaven nor will their names be found in the Book of Life.

Rev.3:5 – (Jesus speaking here) He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels.

This gives us the sense that there are things we must do to overcome. This does not give us a sense of once saved always saved or of eternal security. There are things we must do to endure to the end (**Matt.24:13**) and to persevere to be counted worthy of eternal life. (**Luke 21:36**)

Job was living a righteous life that was pleasing to God bringing his sacrifices and obeying God before the New Covenant through Christ. He was tested by God to see if he would remain faithful. Remember his wife said why don't you just curse God and die but Job remained faithful. (**Job13:15**) God has always given us freewill. We choose to stay or go, it's up to us.

Once Saved Always Saved

- It is a most comforting and consoling doctrine of man, but wishing it will not make it so
- Telling someone that they cannot fall from grace is like the Devil telling Eve she will not die (Gen. 3:4)

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God does not change (**Malachi 3:6, Heb.13:8**). The God of The Old Testament is The God of The New Testament, one and the same. We have just seen so clearly how often He was rebuking the Israelites for leaving Him, forsaking Him, walking away, turning away – whatever words you want to use, they all mean backsliding and He uses that term quite often in The Old Testament as well. They were constantly forsaking God and He would pour out His judgment against them for their sin. When they would cry out to Him He would come back because of His great mercy. He was continuously drawing them back to Himself just like He does with us when we mess up and begin to stray away.

From Genesis to Malachi God promises His people that as long as they obey His Word and continue to seek Him He will be with them. He says over and over again that if they forsake Him He will forsake them. I think a lot of the teachers and believers of OSAS have not read nor studied the Old Testament. I think those that teach are banking on people not knowing God's Word for themselves and just believing whatever they are told. Don't let that be you, get in God's Word and search it out and double check what you hear just like The Bereans. **(Acts 17:10-15)**

CLOSING

2 Timothy 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Being approved unto God speaks of our being proved, tested and refined. (**James 1:1-4, Job 23:10, Malachi 3:2-3**) As Christians we will go through many tests and trials and we must remain faithful through it all. We are called to live in a way that meets God's standards, to prove our loyalty to Him, that we will remain obedient thereby showing our love to Him.

Being called a workman tells us there is WORK to be done to be approved by God.

Rightly dividing the Word of Truth means to understand it correctly, to teach it correctly, to get it right. We must study God's Word and let Scripture interpret Scripture. Test the spirits to know what spirit someone is speaking by and search out the Scriptures for yourself to know if they are twisting or perverting God's Word.

There are so many Scriptures that show us we must strive to enter into God's rest. The promised land, that is Canaan, was a type of rest for the Israelites but it was not the true rest that God for us.

Heb.4:9-11 – There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from His. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

If we disobey God like the Israelites did, we will fall too and won't enter in. We must strive to enter into the spiritual rest that God has for all of His children, which is in heaven with Him for all of eternity. We don't want to be unbelieving like them which means disobedient to where we won't make it in just like they didn't make it in. The didn't make it into Canaan which was the promised land on this earth. We are to be diligent with our service of God, to be intentional with our faith and strive to enter into heaven, the real promised land for all of eternity.

I talked about the "it is finished" group in the sermon I gave last week on Works. The people that say Jesus finished everything and there is nothing for us to do are dodging good works that are part of our fruit as Christians. They are the lazy,

don't want to do anything for Christ crowd. We won't be seeing them in heaven. Laboring to enter in, doesn't paint a picture of sitting back in a cushy recliner saying Jesus already did it all so pass the popcorn.

PRAYER