

Dangers of backsliding





- Some preachers avoid this topic, but it is an eternally important one.

I. Assurance of eternal life: [After a person gets saved we teach them assurance of salvation.](#)

- John 3:16 (KJS) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- John 3:36 (KJS) He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.
- John 10:27-29 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.
- 1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that He has promised us-- eternal life.
- 1 John 5:11-13 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the name of the God of God.

History of Eternal Security doctrine:

- Eternal security doctrine says that once we become born again there is nothing we can do to lose our salvation. Essentially it give license to the thinking, that If we choose to live a life of sin we are still going to heaven.
- The primary tenets of **Calvinism** include a belief in the primacy of the scripture as an authority for doctrinal decisions, a belief in predestination, a belief in salvation wholly accomplished by grace with no influence from works, and a rejection of the episcopacy (church govt. by bishops, as in the Roman Catholic Church).
- The **Arminians** attempted to formulate a consistent system, and proposed five corrections of the Reformed doctrine which would better express the important proposition that all good originates with God, but sin in no sense originates with Him. They questioned the reformed understanding of the free will of man, and the doctrine of original sin. The Arminians suggested five anti-Calvinist corrections.

 John Calvin: Calvinism Predestination	 Jacobus Arminius: Arminianism Free will
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total depravity (or total inability): As a consequence of the <u>Fall of man</u>, every person born into the world is enslaved to the service of <u>sin</u>. According to the view, people are not by nature inclined to love God with their whole heart, mind, or strength, but rather all are inclined to serve their own interests over those of their neighbor and to reject the rule of God. Thus, all people by their own faculties are unable to choose to follow God and be saved. • Unconditional election: God's choice from <u>eternity</u> of those whom he will bring to himself is not based on foreseen virtue, merit, or faith in those people. Rather, it is unconditionally grounded in God's mercy. • Limited atonement (or particular redemption or definite atonement): The death of Christ actually takes away the penalty of sins of those on whom God has chosen to have mercy. It is "limited" to taking away the sins of the elect, not of all humanity, and it is "definite" and "particular" because atonement is certain for those particular persons. • Irresistible grace (or efficacious grace): The saving grace of God is effectually applied to those whom he has determined to save (the elect) and, in God's timing, overcomes their resistance to obeying the call of the gospel, bringing them to a saving faith in Christ. • Perseverance of the saints (or preservation of the saints): Any person who has once been truly saved from damnation must necessarily persevere and cannot later be condemned. The word <i>saints</i> is used in the sense in which it is used in the Bible to refer to all who are set apart by God, not in the technical sense of one who is exceptionally <u>holy</u>, <u>canonized</u>, or in <u>heaven</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditional Election: God has decreed to save through <u>Jesus</u> Christ, out of fallen and sinful mankind, those foreknown by Him who through the grace of the Holy Spirit believe in Christ; but God leaves in sin those foreseen, who are incorrigible and unbelieving. • Universal Atonement: Christ's death was suffered on behalf of all men, but God elects for salvation only those who believe in Christ. • Free Will with Partial Depravity: Freedom of will is man's natural state, not a spiritual gift - and thus free will was not lost in the Fall, but cannot be exercised toward good apart from the grace of God. Grace works upon all men to influence them for good, but only those who freely choose to agree with grace by faith and repentance are given new spiritual power to make effectual the good they otherwise impotently intend. As John Wesley stated more forcefully, humans were in fact <u>totally corrupted</u> by original sin, but God's <u>preventive grace</u> allowed free will to operate. • Resistible Grace: The grace of God works for good in all men, and brings about newness of life through faith. But grace can be resisted even by the regenerate. • Uncertain Perseverance: Those who are incorporated into Christ by a true faith have power given them through the assisting grace of the Holy Spirit, sufficient to enable them to persevere in the faith. But it may be possible for a believer to fall from grace.

II. Lack of Assurance: [If a person decides to not live for God, fellowship with other believers, and continue in the practice of sin we need to share about the lack of assurance they have.](#)

- Hebrews 10:26-29 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Results of the eternal security doctrine

Some people who embrace this doctrine make 1/2 hearted commitments. They don't last, but in their backslidden state they think they are saved. We have people today who don't want to reject Christ and go to hell, but they don't want to change their behavior. They are deceived into thinking they are converted. True conversion is followed by a change of life style.

While there is truth in Calvinism, they draw errant conclusions that give people false security. People are backsliding & going to hell because of this doctrine, thinking they will get away with their sin!

III. Practicing lawlessness:

- **Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"
- **1 John 3:4-8** Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. 6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

LAWLESSNESS DEFINED:

1. Uncontrolled or unregulated.
2. The condition of without law, transgressing law by not regarding it; the wicked
3. Without the Law, without Torah's instruction.
4. Anarchy.
5. Professing to be a believer but living a lifestyle like you are not.



Examples of Lawlessness in relation to our eternity:

Matthew 13:41-42 "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 23:28-33 "Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. 29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 "and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' 31 "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 "Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. 33 "Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?"

Matthews 24:12 "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 "But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Falling vs. Deliberate sin

Q) What scripture can you claim for eternal life if you choose to not live according to God's word and live like the devil?

A) None. There is grace in falling, but judgment for deliberate lifestyle.

When a person sins, and sincerely tries to battle out of it, God's mercies are poured out. But when a person sins, and decides to continue in it they are a candidate for the wrath of God.

- **Romans 5:20** Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,
- **Romans 6:1-2** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?



Key to overcoming:

For those who are struggling in an area of sin purpose in your heart not to continue in it. Get back up. Keep getting back up and refuse to quit.
Proverbs 24:16 For a righteous man may fall seven times
And rise again,
But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

