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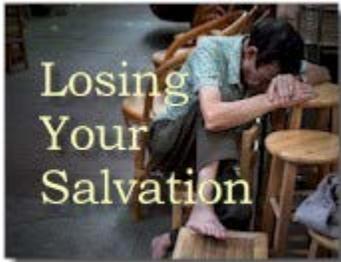
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Losing Your Salvation

by David Sielaff, December 2019

Read the Commentary, "[Who Shall Separate Us?](#)"

Then read the "[December 2019 Newsletter](#)"



Yes, you can lose your salvation. Your loss will be temporary because it is God's will to save all humanity (1 Timothy 2:3–6) as He **"works all things after the counsel of his own will"** (Ephesians 1:11). You will be saved even if you lose your salvation in this life. When Christ returns you will remain dead and not receive immortality, be glorified, or co-rule in Christ's 1,000-year reign on earth. Nor will you help educate others about God and Christ, or help people be reconciled with God in the Great White Throne judgment. You will go through that judgment yourself after a physical resurrection to life (Colossians 1:19–20). It all comes from **"Losing Your Salvation."**

While every child of Adam — every human being — will be saved through Christ, you may be required to go through the great white throne judgment yourself and miss out on the first resurrection. Jesus, the apostle Paul, and other New Testament writers state this will be a horrible and regretted loss to you, even though you will be saved when the eons are concluded and God becomes all and all (1 Corinthians 15:28).

Dr. Ernest L. Martin touched on this subject in his book (free online), [The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#). They occur primarily in Chapter 9, "[Dealing with Recurrent Sin](#)"; Chapter 11, "[What Is Grace?](#)"; and in Chapter 24, "[Our Destiny: The Final Revelation of God](#)."

God's Will and Your Salvation

It is the sovereign will of your Creator God that you will be saved, as you have read many times:

"[God] Who will have all men [1] to be saved, and [2] to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom FOR ALL, to be testified in due time."

• 1 Timothy 2:4–6

Note the last phrase, **"to be testified in due time."** The word **"time"** is plural, not singular in Greek. It is *kairos*, or eras. (An era of time is different from an eon.) Even so, you can miss the first resurrection. How is this possible? You have been given an unbelievable gift from God, a gift that you possess now, a gift beyond measure that billions of people who have lived since Adam would have loved to know (and will learn in the future). The gift is the knowledge of salvation you received and know now, given through a lottery — yes, a lottery (*Essentials* Chapter 25, "[How Were We Chosen?](#)"). You were not offered this opportunity by any merit

on your part. Nevertheless, you have been given the gift to receive God's Holy Spirit of salvation NOW (rather than later with the rest of humanity) as a down payment of your glorification when Christ returns and raises you from the dead. We really cannot conceive what a tremendous blessing this is!

You can lose the gift of salvation God gave you (a gift not just "offered" but given to you), if you neglect, ignore, or intentionally throw away God's gift. Once you have God's gift of salvation, you can choose to reject it because it is your salvation, a gift you already have. It was assigned and given to you before the foundation of the world. God and Christ will give you all the help you need to remain faithful and to keep your precious gift.

If you reject God's gift after having received it, that gift will be offered again when you are physically resurrected with the rest of humanity. Your rejection of God's gift cannot separate you from God's love:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

• *Romans 8:35, 38–39*

This does not mean you can do whatever you want from now on — a foolish idea. If you choose to separate yourself from God and Christ, that is another matter. If you are one of "God's Problem Children" who is so horrible that you bring dishonor to God, His Son Christ Jesus, or to the body of Christ (the *ekklesia*), you will learn very quickly several things.

First, you will learn about God's presence through His judgment of you. Scripture is filled with examples of judgments from God against those who in their arrogance chose intentional long-term sin and evil. Consider the punishments against Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1–11. It is an unpleasant story and God made an example of the married couple who pledged to share, lied about it, then held back some of what they pledged to share. Both died as an example to others in the *ekklesia* of God and as an example to history.

Second, keep in mind as you read the examples of God's warnings and judgments to believers, that God is not mocked, nor is His grace sneered at by anyone. Paul tells us about two different results, both due to human choice and action. Note what Paul wrote to believers about other believers in the Galatian *ekklesia*:

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting [eonian]."

• *Galatians 6:7–8*

Again, Paul wrote to and warned Christian believers about other Christians. He did not warn them about unbelieving pagans. The Galatians had not been believers for a while; they were not baby Christians (for which God makes allowance). Paul taught them for years, they were children of God, and had God's Spirit:

"This only would I learn of you, Received you the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ...

For you are ALL the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ...

And because you ARE sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, 'Abba, Father'."

• *Galatians 3:2, 26–27, 4:6*

The Galatians erred in their understanding and Paul corrected them, especially in Galatians 4:8–20. If the Galatian gentiles turned and became Jews, Paul would have been grievously disappointed, and their reward from God diminished, but he did not threaten them with loss of their salvation. They would have harmed themselves, which Paul worked to prevent.

All creation has a purpose, which includes you. That purpose is expressed by God's will that shall be fulfilled. Christ was the first subject and object of God's creation, and you as a believer are in Christ as God intended from before the foundation of the world. Read how you can deny and temporarily lose your salvation.

You and Grievous Sin in First Corinthians

"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. ² And you [believers in the Corinth *ekklesia*, not the fornicator] are puffed up [arrogant], and have not rather mourned, that he that has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

³ For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that has so done this deed, ⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, [why?] that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

⁶ Your glorying is not good. Know you not that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. ⁹ I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: ¹⁰ Yet not altogether

with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or
[with] extortioners, or with idolaters;

for then must you needs go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I have written unto you [in this epistle] not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be

a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater,
or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner;

with such a one no not to eat [do not eat with them]. ¹² For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not you judge them that are within? ¹³ But them that are without God judges. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person."

• 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Paul is addressing problems with a believer in the *ekklesia* in Corinth. In 1 Corinthians chapter 6, as you will read below, Paul expresses some of the same sentiments but says that violators will not be in the Kingdom of Christ and of God. He says something similar in Ephesians.

Remember the flesh causes you and everyone to sin even after you are a believer in Christ's acts of salvation on our behalf, just as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians chapter 5 above, he also said in Romans:

"For when we were in the flesh, the motions [Greek, *passions*] of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death."

• Romans 7:5

Even after you are a believer, you should be wary of returning to habitual sins and passions. Will you continue to sin until you die even after you have come to know Christ? Of course you will, because you are still sinful flesh. But once you believe in God's salvation through Christ you will increasingly learn to control the passions of the flesh. Only after we are glorified such passions will no longer be a problem. Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 presents another list of sins similar to that in chapter 5.

"Nay, you do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren. Know you not that the unrighteous [brethren] shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived:

neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers,

nor effeminate [catamites, look it up],
nor abusers of themselves with mankind [sodomites],
Nor thieves, nor covetous [greedy], **nor drunkards,**
nor revilers, nor extortioners,

[NONE] **SHALL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.** And such WERE some of you:

but you are washed,
 but you are sanctified,
 but you are justified

in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Or are you not aware that **the unjust SHALL NOT BE ENJOYING THE ALLOTMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM?**

Be not deceived. Neither paramours, NOR idolaters, NOR adulterers, NOR catamites, NOR sodomites, NOR thieves, NOR the greedy, NOR drunkards; NO revilers, NO extortioners **shall be enjoying the allotment of God's kingdom.**"

• 1 Corinthians 6:8–11, KJV

So ... then who can be saved? Everyone will be saved ... but not everyone who is called now shall receive glory when Christ returns. If you wallow in the filth again, do you really think God and Christ will overlook that intentional decision on your part? They do not have to put you into the Kingdom of God. They will educate and show their love to you during the period of the white throne judgment. Then you will develop the character they desire you to have.

What is discussed in only four verses in 1 Corinthians 6:8–11 is habitual sin, a pattern of sin, a lifestyle of sin. It is especially grievous if you do it publicly and even worse, if your actions reflect upon the *ekklesia* and upon God. To restate: habitual sin in public will yield a reaction from God our Father. It will not be pleasant and you will suffer loss. You will temporarily lose your salvation, although you, like the sinner in 1 Corinthians 5:1–5 was to be given over to Satan, yet in the end you will be saved.

Free Will of God, Salvation, and Human Will Enslaved by Sin

Without repeating what I have written elsewhere, only God the Father has free will. Christ does not have free will. He has freedom only as far as He does His Father's will, which Christ happily does. Jesus expressed this fact when He was on earth as well as after His resurrection.

You do not have free will to save yourself. You cannot save yourself through anything you can or ever will do. God nowhere gives any human being that option. Only God can save you or anyone. Fortunately, He already saved you through Christ. Without God's truth, and living by it, nothing you do by human will is done freely. Freedom comes only from God's Word. Jesus prayed to His God about His disciples:

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through your truth: Your word is truth."

• John 17:16–17

How does the fact that God's Word is truth apply to human will in your life? Christ gave the answer to Jews who believed His teachings:

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, 'If you **CONTINUE in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

• John 8:31–32

The eyewitness accounts in the Gospel of John report the words of Jesus decades after the revelation of

the Mystery in 63 AD, and some 40+ years after Paul wrote the epistle of First Corinthians. John's Gospel teaches from a post-Mystery perspective.

Warnings of Losing Salvation in Hebrews

After writing First and Second Corinthians, just before he was given the Mystery teaching, Paul wrote the recorded and transcribed sermon of Hebrews. If you neglect **“so great a salvation”** you will have no works and you may need more education to gain or regain **“the mind of Christ”** that God wants you to possess.

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward [a negative reward, punishment]; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him ...”

• **Hebrews 2:1–3**

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal [eonian] judgment. ³ And this will we do, if God permit.

⁴ **For it is impossible for those who**

- [1] **were once enlightened, and**
- [2] **have tasted of the heavenly gift, and**
- [3] **were made partakers of the Holy Ghost [Spirit], ⁵ And**
- [4] **have tasted the good word of God, and**
- [5] **[tasted] the powers of the world [eon] to come,**

⁶ **if they shall fall away, [it is impossible] to renew them again unto repentance; [why?] seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.”**

• **Hebrews 6:1–6**

Hebrews 6:1 introduces a new subject. Note the five benefits believers gain by learning about God's grace. They (and we) benefit from knowing now that we are saved rather than having to wait until the physical resurrection in the Great White Throne judgment, when most will learn about God's truth (1 Timothy 2:4).¹

Consider again what is said in the final words of Hebrews 6:4, 6:

“... it is impossible ... If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

Understand what Paul is saying. God will not allow a repentance if you are a reprobate. You will have to wait to be educated again and to be renewed again to repentance.

“Now faith is the substance [assumption] of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds [Greek, eons] were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. ...

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he

¹ God **“will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”** (1 Timothy 2:4). The word “knowledge” in Greek is *epignosin*. The first three letters, *epi-*, means “full.” The rest of the word, *gnosin*, means “knowledge” as in Greek derived English words *gnosis*, *gnostic*, or *gnosticism*. *Gnosis* is the common term for knowledge. So, this verse tells us it is God's will for **“all men ... to come to a full-knowledge of the truth.”** This means that God shall fulfill His will for all humans to eventually receive the full-knowledge of the truth. Other occurrences of the noun *epignosin* (with various endings) occur in Ephesians 1:17, 3:19; Philippians 1:9; Colossians 1:9–10, 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:25, 3:7; Titus 1:1; and Philemon verse 6.

is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

• *Hebrews 11:1–3, 6*

These verses tell us what faith is and what faith is not. If you once had faith in God and in Christ’s resurrection and grace toward you and lost it, do you think God will reward that behavior with a glorious resurrection to immortality? He will not. Verse 6 says plainly that God “... is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” God will not reward those who learn about the truth of God, dismiss it, and then say to themselves, “Ho hum, I’m saved. Now I can live as I please.”

No, God’s plan for you does not work that way. Those who think they can live in that manner will receive a “time out” in the unconscious nonexistence of death, but they will be resurrected to a physical body NOT IN GLORY in a process described in Ezekiel 37:1–14. Then they will be taught the full knowledge of God.

Warnings of Losing Salvation in Ephesians

In Ephesians chapter 4 beginning with verse 17

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be you kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you. Be you therefore followers of God, as dear children;

² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.

³ But fornication, and all uncleanness [impurity], or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becomes saints; ⁴ Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

⁵ For this you know [already], that

[1] no whoremonger,

[2] nor unclean [impure] person,

[3] nor covetous man,

[4] [nor he] who is an idolater,

has ANY inheritance in the KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD. ⁶ Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things come the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. ⁷ Be not you therefore partakers with them.

⁸ For you were sometimes darkness, but now are you light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) ¹⁰ Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.”

• *Ephesians 4:30–5:12*

Some people think that because their salvation through faith (Christ’s faith) is free to them, they do not have to work out their own salvation. Once you are a believer, God expects you to do good works. He will reward you for doing good works.

The teaching of the Mystery was taught mainly in Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. Paul tells us in his explanation and background about the Mystery of God that believers will be denied the Kingdom of God if they continue in grievous, public sin that brings dishonor upon God, Christ, or the body of Christ, the *ekklesia*. Christ did not sacrifice Himself just so you could live as you please. What Paul wrote is so important to our understanding that I am compelled to repeat it with different formatting:

“For THIS YOU KNOW, that no whoremonger, nor unclean [impure] person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD.”

• **Ephesians 5:3–5**

If Paul did not mean what he said (that “**inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God**” will be denied to some believers), then why did Paul repeatedly write these warnings?

Paul wrote to members of the *ekklesia* who thought of themselves as believers. His “Ephesian” letter was circulated to other *ekklesias* in the area and eventually to all believers and to us today through the Scriptures.

Paul did not write to unbelievers. His words of warning would have meant nothing to them. The warning in Ephesians 5:3–5 was not part of the Gospel of Christ to Gentiles or to Jews. It was part of Paul’s instruction on how to live as a believer in Christ’s ministry and resurrection as the Son of God.

Paul’s warning is not referring to casual sin (of whatever kind). It is not referring to any degree of sin. (Paul himself instigated murderer.) It is talking about grievous sin as a way of life, after one has been enlightened, after one was converted, and after one had God’s Holy Spirit. Paul is sounding an alarm to believers:

“Wherefore he said, ‘Awake you that sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.’ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be you not unwise, but [be] understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

• **Ephesians 5:14–17**

Every believer in Christ continually makes choices every day. Note Paul’s reference to “**the will of the Lord.**” Christ is the means whereby the will of God our Father will be fulfilled, as Paul expressed in 1 Timothy 2:4 that God “will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the [full] knowledge of the truth.”

We Are All Still Slaves to Sin, if We Choose to Return to Slavery

Freedom comes only by learning God’s truth and acting on that truth:

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

• **John 8:31–32**

The truth from God about Himself and Christ rescues people from being slaves to sin. This powerful knowledge from God gives us the ability to be free from sin:

“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever commits sin is the servant [doulos, slave] of sin. And the servant [slave] abides not in the house for ever [for the *eon*]: but the Son abides ever [for the *eon*]. If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.”

• **John 8:34–36**

Do you want to be free? You are free to pursue righteousness with God’s help, or free to sin willfully. What happens if we sin willfully? Paul tells us in Hebrews chapter 10:

“For if we sin willfully [voluntarily] after that we have received the knowledge [epignosis, full knowledge²] of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: If how much sorer punishment, suppose you, shall he be thought worthy, who

[1] **has trodden under foot** the Son of God, and

² This Greek word *epignosis*, is the same word used in 1 Timothy 2:4 where we are told that “**God wills for all men to be saved and to come to a full-knowledge [again, *epignosis*] of the truth.**” Similar phrasing is found in 2 Timothy 3:7 where reference is made to those in the last days who are “**Ever learning, and never able to come to the full-knowledge of the truth.**”

[2] **has counted the blood of the covenant**, wherewith he was sanctified, [to be] **an unholy thing**, and

[3] **has done despite unto** [outraged] **the Spirit of grace?**

For we know him that has said, **'Vengeance belongs unto me, I will recompense** [repay], **' says the Lord** [Deuteronomy 32:35]. **And again, 'The Lord shall judge his people'** [Deuteronomy 32:36]. **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

But call to remembrance the former days [when you first believed in Christ], **in which, after you were illuminated**, you endured a great fight of afflictions ...”

• *Hebrews 10:26–32*

Paul warns believers not to ignore, neglect, or treat lightly the “illumination” that God gives you through His word, the Scriptures. (See my July 2016 Commentary, “[Illuminati in the Bible](#).”)

Note what Paul wrote in Second Corinthians following up from his First Corinthians letter:

“Wherefore we labor [all believers], **that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.** For we must **all appear** before the judgment seat of Christ; that **every one may receive** the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad. **Knowing therefore the terror** [fear] **of the Lord**, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest **in your consciences.**”

• *2 Corinthians 5:9–11*

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption [inherit the kingdom of God].”

• *1 Corinthians 15:50, KJV*

“Now this I am averring, brethren, that flesh and blood is not able to enjoy an allotment in the kingdom of God, neither is corruption enjoying the allotment of incorruption.”

• *1 Corinthians 15:50, Concordant Literal Version*

Read or reread my July 2019 Commentary, “[God’s Problem Children](#).” God wills for you to be saved and glorified. God does not and will not cater to your every willful act or whim at this time. In the future He will do more for you than can be imagined after He completes His work and glorifies you and all humanity. Again, He will do so according to His plan of salvation. My November 2017 Commentary, “[God Does Not Care How You Feel](#)” reminds you how God cared so much for you that He sacrificed His Son (with Christ’s agreement) for you. We endure difficulties and evils in life so we can learn to overcome them, and most people must try to do so without God’s help. If we are chosen to learn God’s Gospel and receive His Spirit of salvation now in this life, we begin to learn to live with God. God’s purpose and goal is to bless you with immortality.

As believers in Christ, as believers in His resurrection, and as believers in our salvation through Him, all believers are “babes” in Christ in one sense. In fact, the apostle John calls us, “**little children**” (1 John 3:7). See my commentaries: “[God’s Emotions](#),” “[You as a Child of God](#),” and “[Universal Salvation and Loving Your Enemies](#)” to be reassured that God loves all born of Adam.

In Romans 6:16–20 Paul expands the idea of each person being a “**slave of sin**” as I quoted Jesus as teaching earlier.³ However, I want you to remember that slaves do not receive wages like free men.

“Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants [*doulos*, slaves] **to obey, his servants** [slaves] **you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**

¹⁸ **But God be thanked, that you were the servants** [slaves] **of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.** ¹⁸ **Being then made free from sin, you**

³ The King James Version mistakenly and consistently translates “servant” when the common Greek word *doulos* should correctly be translated “slave” in English. This word is translated slave almost 500 times in the NETS, the New English Translation of the Septuagint, 2007, from a Greek Old Testament text. The Septuagint is a Greek Old Testament translation from Hebrew.

became the servants [slaves] of righteousness.

¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as you have yielded your members servants to uncleanness [impurity] and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants [slaves] to righteousness unto holiness. ²⁰ For when you were the servants [slaves] of sin, you were free from righteousness.”

• *Romans 6:16–20*

In verse 23 Paul tells us the result of sin:

“For the wages [ration] of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal [eonian] life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

• *Romans 6:23*

“Wages” is a King James Version mistranslation. “Ration” is a better translation. Understand, slaves did not receive wages as workers receive today. Slaves received rations to sustain them. As slaves to sin, we receive our ration of death. Masters of slaves had the power of death over the lives of their slaves.

“For the earth which drinks in the rain that comes off upon it, and brings forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receive blessing from God: ⁸ But that which bear thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

⁹ But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. ¹⁰ For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which you have shown toward his name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

¹¹ And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: ¹² That you be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

• *Hebrews 6:7–12*

Being a Believer, How Did that Happen?

“... if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession [of that belief] is made unto salvation.”

• *Romans 10:9–10*

Your confession of what you “believe in your heart” is the faith that comes from God:

“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.”

• *Ephesians 2:8–10*

Grace is measured to each of us as it serves God’s purpose and will: “But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ” (Ephesians 4:7). Various characteristics of God’s Spirit are given to different people according to His intention (1 Corinthians 12:11). Yes, faith is a gift of God and faith comes through grace. God gives us faith by measure. In Romans chapter 12 Paul cautions believers:

“And be not conformed to this world [eon]: but be you transformed [How?] by the renewing of your mind, [resulting in] that you may prove [test] what is [1] that good, and [2] acceptable, and [3] perfect, will of God.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.

• *Romans 12:2–3*

God's children can always ask for more faith, so we can increasingly express His will for us through our lives.

Remember, in the time of the apostles, people took a risk to confess their beliefs to a group of fellow believers. In the western world, that is not a problem, but in the rest of the world it can lead to death.⁴

Can You Choose When You Will Be Resurrected?

Probably not. This is one of the big decisions God makes for us, but more information may help us understand His choice for us. Paul informs us about three resurrections to glory occur in the future.

1. The first resurrection was Christ alone.
2. The second resurrection to glory will be when Christ returns to earth to give believers in the past, today, and up to the time He comes to earth the immortality and power promised through the prophets, by Jesus, and by the New Testament writers.
3. The third resurrection to glory will be at the end of the eons when Christ gives up all power and authority to God the Father who will accept that Kingdom of God and become all in all.

Read all of First Corinthians chapter 15 aloud in different translations than the King James Version. Here is a portion relevant to your salvation:

“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept [and are dead].

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order:

[1] **Christ the firstfruits** [the first resurrection];

[2] **afterward they that are Christ's at his coming** [the second resurrection].

[3] **Then comes the end** [the third resurrection],

when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father;

when he shall have put down all rule and

[when he shall have put down] **all authority and power.**

For he must reign, till he has put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

For he has put all things under his feet. But when he said all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:19–28**

The rest of humanity will be glorified in that third resurrection. After that event, the glory will be the same for all after all are glorified. But if you are reprobate, you will miss out on the resurrection at Christ's return. You will miss 2000+ years of your being a full glorified child of God, of your immortality, and basking in the full love of God the Father and Christ. All that will be lost. You will have been given a chance to be first, and will have squandered it. You will miss this (but you will receive salvation later):

“As it is written, ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him’ [quoting Isaiah 64:4].

⁴ This confession did not mean that believers proclaimed their faith that Jesus was the Christ (the Messiah) and Lord over all in the streets or the marketplaces. Confession was among other believers. This also was dangerous, if someone betrayed the group and reported to authorities that a secret Christian group vowed allegiance to a sovereign power other than Caesar or even the local rulers.

But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man, but **the Spirit of God**.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **the spirit** which is **of God**; that we might **know the things that are freely** [graciously] **given to us of God**. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost [Spirit] teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But **we have the mind of Christ.**"

• *1 Corinthians 2:9–16*

Once you are a believer and have accepted Christ and His grace you have the freedom to choose sin and to reject His grace. Choose wisely. Do not give up your future glory (to be realized soon after your death) for physical pleasures, worldly knowledge, or fake spiritual experiences.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

• *Romans 8:28*

When Paul says,

"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

³¹ **What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?**

³² **He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**

³³ **Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies.**

³⁴ **Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.**

³⁵ **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

³⁶ **As it is written, 'For your sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter' [Psalm 44:22].³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

³⁸ **For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

• *Romans 8:30–39*

Fear of God and Losing Your Salvation

To have a healthy fear of God is a positive thing in Scripture. It means having an awe of God, not a dread of His power or wrath. However, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31 referencing Psalm 76:7).

Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, was a leader in the Jerusalem *ekklesia* after his brother James was killed, Note what Jude wrote:

"But, beloved, remember you the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord

Jesus Christ; ¹⁸ How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

¹⁹ These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, ²¹ Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

• *Jude 17–21*

Conclusion to Losing Your Salvation

To be truthful, you cannot in fact “lose” your salvation. You push your salvation away little by little, one decision at a time by ignoring or rejecting God, and living your life with an “I don’t care” attitude. If you are a believer and you choose to ignore God, He will ignore you for a time. Renew your faith. God Waits for you to do so. It is done by reversing the process Paul gives in Romans 10:13–14, which is how a new believer processes God’s gift of salvation. It begins with an attitude of repentance, and it develops by hearing the Word of God. Find a teacher, and call on God and Christ to make His Word become plain to you:

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

- [4] **How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and**
- [3] **How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and**
- [2] **How shall they hear without a preacher? And**
- [1] **How shall they preach, except they be sent?**

as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!’ [Isaiah 52:7]

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias [Isaiah] says, ‘Lord, who has believed our report?’ [Isaiah 53:1] So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.⁵

But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.”

• *Romans 10:13–18*

The Word of God and Christ are the means by which faith is “planted” into believers. Faith is then empowered by prayer. Read November 15, 2019 Commentary, “[Prayer and Faith](#)” by Dr. Martin to learn how that works.

God’s creation of you in His image and likeness will be accomplished without failure. There will never be a situation where He will give you salvation “whether you like it or not.” On the contrary, through many avenues into your heart He will demonstrate His love to you so that when you experience and feel His love and respond to it willingly, you will be overwhelmed and praise Him for doing so.

God has begun a work in you. He will complete it even if you require a “time out.” You will learn the “**full-knowledge of the truth**” which will cause your full acceptance of God’s love. If you become a lost sheep, Christ will bring you back to Your Father.

When you first became a believer in God and in Christ’s resurrection, you began to gain more and more freedom in your spiritual life. That includes freedom to ignore or reject God. God through the New Testament writers strongly urges us NOT to do so, and not to neglect so great a salvation.

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

⁵ Most modern translations end Romans 10:17 with “**the word of Christ**” rather than “**the word of God.**”

God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to HIS own will?”

• *Hebrews 2:1–4*

Conclusion to “Losing Your Salvation”

- **If you DO NOT care** what God and Christ think, what they want for you, if you no longer care about your salvation, and want to be left alone now, and no longer care what God and Christ want, then you may be in danger of losing your salvation. If you still doubt this, please read the verses in this article again.

“We pray you in Christ’s stead, **be you reconciled to God**. For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that you receive not the grace of God in vain.”

• *2 Corinthians 5:20–6:1*

Ask God to change your opinion of Him, even if you are currently uncertain God exists or are uncertain Christ truly was resurrected from the dead, or ... that you have gone off on a spiritual tangent and seduced by non-Christian teachings of Buddhism or Hinduism or some other non-Christian religion, all of which teach a philosophical but pagan form of universal salvation.

Pray to God to help change your human will in the matter of your belief in Him and Christ. Do this even if you do not trust God any longer. (What do you have to lose?) Ask God to increase your faith, and then study the Word of God to increase your knowledge about God’s salvation through His Son Christ Jesus. Remember, this is God’s will for all humanity, and His will shall be done in heaven and on earth (1 Timothy 2:4, Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2).

- **If you ARE UNCERTAIN** about God, Christ, and your salvation, then you probably are not in danger of losing your salvation (otherwise you would not care). However, the concerns of everyday life often can overwhelm us and cause us to doubt. God and Christ want what is best for your good. Remember ...

“We know that all things work together for good

[1] **to them that love God,**

[2] **to them who are the called according to his purpose.**”

• *Romans 8:28*

And we know that it is God ...

“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will [what is that purpose?]:

[1] **That we** [Paul and his associates] **should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom you also trusted, after**

[2] **that you** heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after

[3] **that you** believed,

[4] [that] **you** were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

• *Ephesians 1:11–14*

Another thing you can do is ask God for more faith! Of course we can do that! Ask Him for more faith. Jesus was approached by a crowd with a father who sought healing for his child from a demon:

“**And ofttimes it has cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if you can do anything, have compassion on us, and help us.**”

Jesus said unto him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes.’

And straightway [immediately!] the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; HELP YOU MINE UNBELIEF.’”

• *Mark 9:22–24*

The child was healed (verses 25–26). In Luke 17:1–4 Jesus told His disciples (not just His apostles) about how difficult things would be for them. They were afraid. “**And the apostles said unto the Lord, ‘Increase our faith’**” (Luke 17:5). His reply to their request was the parable of the mustard seed and unprofitable servants down to verse 11. He gave them immeasurable greater faith when He sent God’s Holy Spirit to them at Pentecost 50 days after the Passover of His crucifixion and resurrection.

Paul wrote, “**God has dealt to every man the measure of faith**” (Romans 12:2–3). Think of all the other things you asked for since you came to believe in God and Christ’s salvation for you personally. How many physical things have you asked for in prayer? Faith is one of the finest things God wants to give to each of us. Can you receive too much faith from God? So ask God, “**Increase my faith, please Father!**” He will decide how much faith to give you, but ask for more faith! God will be honored by such a request. Would you be offended if your son or daughter asked you to love them more? This is the same attitude God has toward you.

- **If you DO care** about the state of your faith, and your future reward (a worthy goal as Paul tells us!), you likely do not have a problem. Your salvation is not based on how much you know. The thief on a tree of crucifixion next to Jesus likely knew little about Jesus, although he may have heard Him speak at some time. “**Jesus said unto him, ‘Verily I say unto you today, you shall be with me in paradise’**” (Luke 23:43, Greek, without interpretive KJV punctuation).

You too can ask God for more faith, to learn more knowledge and gain understanding about Him. Pray and study to be grounded and secure in your faith, because all believers have work to do:

“**Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION with fear and trembling. For [even then] it is God which works in you both [1] to will and [2] to do of his good pleasure.**”

• *Philippians 2:12–13*

No one can work out his or her own salvation until they first receive God’s grace, Christ’s faith within you, provided by God’s Holy Spirit, the power of God. Only then are you free to begin to express your limited will to do God’s will. When you begin “**to will and to do of His good pleasure,**” even then it is God doing His will through you. So even though there is such a situation where you can be “Losing Your Salvation,” eventually God will educate you, coddle you, and all will be children of God because God our father “**works all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ**” (Ephesians 1:11–12).

All creation came from God through Christ Jesus. So too, any good that you do comes from God through Christ, then through you. You were made in the image and likeness of God. He shall perfect His image and likeness within you, His child. If you have God’s Holy Spirit, you are a child of God (Romans 8:16). Thus, everything God does toward that end makes YOU the object of everything He does in all His creation.

“**Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with him in glory.**”

• *Colossians 3:2–4*