

CAN A SAVED PERSON
BECOME
UNSAVED?



Dennis D. Helton

CAN A SAVED PERSON BECOME UNSAVED?

Eternal Security vs. Works of Insecurity

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to my wife, Christine, of 60 years.

Acknowledgments

This writer is grateful for his first pastor/teacher **Frank Sanders** and his faithful wife, **Jane Sanders** of *Agnew Road Baptist Church* (Greenville, SC). In the time of a harsh, hateful world, Pastor Sanders exuded a kind, gentle, and sweet spirit. He was also a zealous soul winner. Jane was greatly beloved by all of the ladies of the church and especially of the children. My wife and I will never forget them. We thank God for Frank and Jane Sanders!

PREFACE

FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED

- When Does **Everlasting Life** Begin?
- Does **Everlasting Life** Have An Ending?
- Can a **Saved Person** Ever Become Lost Again?
- Can A Person Be **Born Again** Multiple Times?
- **Salvation: Conditional Or Unconditional?**
- Are Believers **Blotted Out Of The Book Of Life?**
- What Is Taken Out Of **The Book Of Life?**
- Who Are Those That **Do Not Abide In Christ?**
- What Are The **Three Major Christian Denominations?**
- What Does The **Tares** And **Wheat** Represent?
- What Does The **Dog** And **Sow** Represent?
- What Is Meant By **Fallen From Grace?**
- What Is Meant By **Enduring To The End?**
- What Is Meant By **Working Out Your Own Salvation?**
- What Did Paul Mean By **Becoming A Castaway?**
- Who Are Those That **Draw Back Unto Perdition?**

PREFACE

- Who Is The **Righteous Man That Dies In His Sins?**
- What Is The Meaning Of **No More Sacrifice For Sins?**
- Inducement To Sin? **Eternal Security Or Arminianism?**
- Do Good Works Or Virtuous Deeds Assist Salvation?
- **Church Members Who Go Back Into Sin?**
- Can Anything **Separate A Believer** From The Love Of
- God?
- What Is The **Unpardonable Sin?**

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INTRODUCTION

The majority of Christians can undoubtedly be divided into three major groups: Eternal life, Arminian, and Hyper-Calvinism. The writer will attempt to fairly narrate the distinctive beliefs of each. First, a brief introduction of them:

1. **Eternal Life (Free Will):** These Baptist Christians believe that salvation is a gift of God's mercy and abundant Grace. They believe that the saints of God are both saved and kept saved by the power of God (*I Peter 1:5; Psalms 121:5; John 10:27-30; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22*). Eternal life brethren of the Baptist faith also believe that the Gospel invitation is open to all sinners upon their repentance and faith (*repentance is bound up in genuine faith - Luke 13:3; Acts 16:30, 31; Romans 10:9, 10, 13; Ephesians 2:8, 9*). Baptists believe that the saints of God are predestinated to be conformed to the image of Christ (*Romans 8:21, 23, 29*). Baptist brethren are persuaded of eternal life. They are usually referred to, by both their antagonists and apologists, as, "once saved, always saved."

2. **Arminian (Free Will):** These Christians believe, as Baptists, that salvation is free (*gift*) to all sinners, and also that the Gospel invitation is open to all sinners. However, they believe that they must maintain (*keep*) their own salvation or else become lost again and become a child of Hell. This theology of losing salvation is commonly referred to as, "Arminianism" (*losing salvation*). It is the most common belief held among Christians.

3. **Hyper-Calvinism (No Free Will):** These Christians correctly believe in God's grace for salvation; however, they teach that the Sovereignty of God voids man's free will to come to Christ for salvation. These

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extreme Calvinists teach that God only died for a select few and not for the whole world. Hyper-Calvinists say that certain men are foreordained for Hell for no reason at all other than God's choice. They completely bypass the numerous repeated invitations for sinners to trust Christ, such as, "whosoever will, all, and the whole world.": The extreme Calvinists erroneously interpret the doctrines of divine election, predestination, and ordination. This theology is the least prevalent among Christians.

Hyper-Calvinists also incorrectly relegate all Christians to only two camps of theology, Arminian and Hyper-Calvinism. This ignores the third group of "Everlasting Life" theology (Baptist).

In this writing, extreme Calvinism will often be referred to as, "Hyper-Calvinism." Hyper-Calvinism theology is usually held by Presbyterian and churches of "so called" Reformed Theology.

4. Christian in Name Only There is a large fourth group of religious people who consider themselves Christian, but have not been saved. This fourth group encompass many different sects (it does not include pagan religions of Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and many others that do not pretend to be Christian). This very large group of religious pretenders teach bold heresies. In spite of the false teachings of these sects, it does not rule out the fact that some may be saved. Some of these heretical sects of Christian imitators are even considered to be Christian by a few genuine Christians. All are within the sphere of **Christendom** (*area of professing Christianity*). These religious people may acknowledge the Christ of the Bible, but at the same time deny cardinal (main; primary) doctrines. A genuine Christian has experienced the spiritual, new birth called, born again (*John 3:3-7; I Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17*). These professing religionists are trusting their salvation to: good works outweighing their bad works;

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catechisms; confessionals to priests (*called, sacerdotalism, sas'ar dot' l iz'am*); church ordinances (*baptism; Lord's Supper*). These unsaved people are victims of false dogmas and have been brainwashed sufficient enough to accept false teachings. Many cults deny the deity of Christ. Although many unsaved religious people are sincerely dedicated to their religion, they are sincerely wrong and have been deceived about salvation, not yet having genuinely exercised repentance and faith toward God (*Luke 13:3*).

There are many imitators of true salvation. Scriptures admonish all to turn away from false prophets, false teachers, and religious apostates of the last days:

*2 Timothy 3:5: **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.***

*Matthew 7:15: Beware of **false prophets**, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

*Matthew 7:22-23: Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not **prophesied** in Thy name? and in Thy name have **cast out devils**? and in Thy name **done many wonderful works**? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.*

All that glitters is not gold. Just because a person is religious and even acknowledges the Christ of the Bible, does not necessarily mean that he is saved (*many false prophets deny a literal Hell (with fire) but believe in their version of a utopian Heaven*). The writer himself grew up believing the Bible (*even as he mentally believed about George Washington and Daniel Boone*), but he knew that he was not saved and certainly did not claim to be a Christian.

There are many unsaved people in the realm of Christendom who are vainly following unsaved leaders.

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They love ritual (*ceremonial forms*), religious relics, and being accepted into a fellowship. Those that are trusting in anything other than Christ alone are mere professors, not genuine God-honoring Christians. There are **no** true Christians who do not believe that salvation is a gift of the Grace of God.

The new birth itself is **without works** (*Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:4-6; 11:6; Galatians 2:16; Titus 3:5*). Salvation has always been and still is **a gift** of God (*Romans 6:23*). Good works are intended for those who are already saved, not to save them. All of our righteousnesses (*good works*) are as filthy rags (*Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10, 23*).

Beware of false prophets, false teachers, and religious unbelievers in the last days (*2 Timothy chapter 3; 2 Peter chapter 2; 1 John chapter 4; Matthew 7:15-20*)

Christendom Further Explained

Christendom is not made up of only genuine believers. Christendom is the part of the world or the sphere of the profession of Christ; it consists of both genuine believers (*symbolized by wheat*) and religious unbelievers (*symbolized by tares*). See Matthew 13:24-30. The tares (*imitators*) are those resembling believers (*wheat*). Again, many members of cult religions deny the deity of Christ. Apostate religion is identified in the Bible as the spirit of Antichrist (*I John 2:22-23; 4:15; 5:1, 5; 10-13; 2 John 1:7, 9-10*)

Christendom is a mixture of saved people and religious, lost-people in the field (*world*);

It is a mingling of saved Church members and unsaved Church members. Christendom includes the tares (*children of the wicked one*) as well as the good seed (*children of the kingdom*). The reapers (*angels of God*) will separate the good seed (*the righteous*) from the tares (*the unrighteous*) of the wicked one (*Satan*) at the harvest (*end of the world or age*). The tares (*noxious weeds; darnel closely resembling wheat*) are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world (*Mathew 13:36-43, 49-51*).

Many unsaved religious people are sincere but at the same time beguiled by seductive teachers that appear to be harmless on the surface. Large numbers of people are beguiled by **false prophets** who are expert at camouflage and clever concealment of bold heresies. Many of these false prophets are dressed up and paraded on television as apostles of Christ.

II Corinthians chapter 11:13-15: For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his

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ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

*I John 4:1, 6: Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because **many false prophets** are gone out into the world. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the Spirit of truth, and **the spirit of error.***

Proverbs 14:12: there is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Unsaved Church Members

Unsaved religious people may lead outward moral lives and appear righteous unto men, even as did the Scribes and Pharisees (*Matthew 23:27-28*). Christ called the unsaved religious Jews whited sepulchers, meaning that they were merely cleansed outwardly (*white-washed on the outside*), but not cleansed on the inside. It is commendable to be outwardly immaculate and principled, but self-righteousness will not justify a sinner. Many unsaved church members, as well as secular members of society, live outward moral lives, but self-righteousness will be the doom of many sinners. Most church members, that are trusting in their own good works to get them to Heaven, do not even have good works.

Sadly, many unsaved religious people are only playing church by practicing rituals and honoring unbiblical dogmatism. They do not have the peace of God in their souls. These *unsaved* Church members will be greatly surprised moments after death. In the great day of judgment, the incurable, unsaved, religious people will make a final plea but to no avail:

ETERNAL SECURITY VS. WORKS OF INSECURITY

*Matthew 7:22-23: Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not **prophesied** in Thy name? and in Thy name have **cast out devils**? and in Thy name **done many wonderful works**? And **then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.***

Unsaved church members are foolishly depending upon:

- good works outweighing their bad works (*refuted in Scriptures*)
- church, temple, synagogue, or sect membership (*salvation is none of these*)
- sectarian beliefs (*not taught in the Bible*)
- cult membership (*opposes true Christianity; denies the deity of Christ*)
- sacramental salvation (*false dependence upon ordinances and rituals*)
- confession of sins to priests (*called "sacerdotalism"*). Priests cannot forgive sin. Sin can only be confessed to God, not to other sinful men. (*Believers are only to confess "faults" to one another*).
- doing the best they can (*self-righteousness is hated by God*); man's best efforts falls short.
- keeping the law (*no one ever has perfectly and never will...except Christ*)
- treating their neighbors right (*many lost people do that*)
- paying all their dues (*impossible; Christ paid the full cost of salvation*)

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- vain traditions of men (*secularism and humanism are total failures*)

*Ephesians 2:8-9: For by grace are ye **saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: It is **the gift of God: Not of works** lest any man should boast.*

*Romans 11:6: And **if grace**, then is it **no more of works**; otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*

Works for salvation cannot be mingled with God's grace.

(**NOTE:** Italicized words in the KJV Bible are not in the Greek or Hebrew texts but were supplied by the translators in order to give a clearer sense to the reader. Notice that the letters of the words "is it" and "it be" of the above verse of Romans 11:6 are italicized [letter characters slanted upward to the right as to emphasize supplied words]).

*Romans 3:20, 28: Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith without the deeds of the law**.*

Also see Romans 4:4-6; 6:23; Galatians 2:16; Titus 3:5; Acts 16:30-31. Good works are specifically intended for those who are already saved, not to save them. All of our righteousnesses (*good works*) are as filthy rags in the sight of God (*Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10, 23*). Christians are washed from their sins in Christ's own blood (*Revelation 1:5; I John 1:7; Colossians 1:14*).

Baptist Christians

The first group of our three main camps of Christianity to be considered is that of the Baptists