

ETERNAL SECURITY

⇒ **INTRO:**

- One of the most controversial subjects among professing Christians today is Eternal Security of the Believer in the Church Age.
 - Can you lose your salvation or not?
 - Some say “yes you can,” and others insist that once truly saved you cannot possible lose it.
 - Who is right?
 - Surprisingly, the answer is simple if you believe God and follow His simple instructions to find the truth.
- God said “**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**” (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - Unfortunately, this commandment has been removed from all the new Bibles.
 - I wonder **who** does not want you to study your Bible?
 - If everyone followed these instructions there would not be so many different denominations.
 - The reason there are so many doctrinal teachings among professing Christians today is that people have not been taught how to rightly divide the Word and won’t study anyway!
- Most people just take up the same opinion some friend or preacher has without searching the Scriptures for themselves.
 - However, if a person has an **honest heart** they will seek the truth.
 - And if that truth is to be found, then **God’s Word must be our “final authority” in all matters of faith and practice.**
 - Otherwise we can be easily misled by those teaching false doctrine.
 - The Bible tells us in (1 Tim. 4:1) – “**Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**”
- The confusion in this particular subject is brought on by the fact that there are some verses in the Bible that indicate you can lose your salvation.
 - There are also many that indicate you cannot lost it!
 - So, does the Bible contradict itself?
 - Of Course not.
 - But there has to be an answer as to why these verses do not agree.
 - Most are simply taken out of context and are simply **not directed** to a “Church Age Saint.”
 - The root problem is that there are major differences in how God deals with Old Testament and Tribulation Saints compared to the Church Age Saints.
 - We will look at some of those differences, but first let’s establish proper guidelines for the studying the Bible.
 - We know from **2 Timothy 2:15** that we must rightly divide the Word to understand it.
 - People always have a problem with eternal security when they do not rightly divide the Bible.

- ⇒ **A. PROPER CONTEXT:**
 - To study any subject in the Bible you must compare Scripture with Scripture in the **proper context**.
 - For example, **what** is the subject of the verse, **who** is the verse talking to?
 - **When**, or in what period of time is the verse referring to?
- ⇒ **B. APPLICATION:**
 - Understand that all verses have three applications, **historical, spiritual (or practical), and doctrinal**.
 - Therefore, **a verse directed to someone in another Age** can apply to the modern Christian under **spiritual** application but not necessarily apply **doctrinally** or **historically** in that Age.
 - The subject of Eternal Security of the believer is a doctrinal matter.
- ⇒ **C. INTERPRETATION:**
 - You always interpret a few unclear verses in light of the many clear verses on a subject.
 - You simply cannot build a doctrine on a few unclear verses.
 - So with these rules to keep us on track let's examine some of the controversial verses.
 - ⇒ **1) Mt. 24:13 – Turn to.**
 - This is one of the verses that many use to try and prove that you can lose your salvation.
 - However, in this case it is easy to show that this verse is not talking to a Christian in the present “Church Age.”
 - Simply read the rest of the chapter!
 - **Let's read the next verse together – Mt. 24:14**
 - This cannot be in the Church Age because we do not preach the “Gospel of the Kingdom.”
 - We preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ as found in **I Corinthians 15:1-4**.
 - Remember what the Apostle Paul said about anyone preaching another Gospel in **Galatians 1:8** being accursed!
 - Also, let's take a look at **Mt. 24:15**.
 - That is the anti-Christ who comes to power in the Tribulation not in the Church Age we are in now!
 - Let's look at **Mt. 24:21**.
 - So, as you can see, by simply believing what we read we find that the rules of context and application apply in this case.
 - The **context** of **Mt. 24:13** is the Tribulation.
 - This is a period of time after the Church Age Saints have already been Raptured up to the third Heaven.
 - Saved people from the Church Age are not even here on earth so the verse cannot be talking to them!
 - ⇒ **2) 2 Peter 2:21**
 - This is another simple one.
 - Read the chapter and you will see these people were never saved anyway!
 - They deny the Lord – v. 1.
 - They follow Balaam – v. 15.

- They don't have the Holy Spirit – v. 17.
 - They never fell **from** righteousness they refused the commandment to be righteous verse 21.
- ⇒ **3) Hebrews 6:4-6 & Hebrews 10:26-28**
- Scholars have numerous explanations for these verses which appear to indicate you can lose your salvation.
 - These solutions range from: **you can lose it**, the verses are **hypothetical illustrations**, or, the Jews described in the verses **were never really saved** to begin with, and on and on.
 - There is not enough time in this short study to examine all of the scholar's opinions.
 - It doesn't matter any way.
 - Why?
 - If those described in Hebrews **can** lose their salvation we know for certain those verses do not apply to us.
 - How do we know that?
 - Because there are over a hundred plain verses that teach you **cannot lose your salvation in this Church Age**.
 - Remember the rules that I gave you earlier for studying the Bible.
 - The one that applies in this case is you cannot build a doctrine on a few unclear verses when there are so many clear ones that contradict the unclear ones.
 - So, what is the answer?
 - The most likely explanations are:
 - **A.** These are hypothetical verses simply saying if you could lose it you could not get it back again like one could in the Old Testament by simply making another sacrifice –
 - Because Jesus was the end of sacrifices, the final payment for all sin.
 - Paul is simply using an illustration to show the difference in two separate times.
 - If the verses **are** hypothetical, they are actually **supporting** eternal security of the believer!
 - **B.** The verses in Hebrews apply **doctrinally** to the Jew in the Tribulation!
 - Scripture supports this in **Hebrew 10:39** which describes saved Jews who backslid and “**drew back into perdition.**”
 - This phrase indicates a **Tribulation context** since the Anti Christ is the “Son of Perdition.”
 - **They likely backslid, took the mark of the beast, and lost their salvation!**
 - Scripture also bears out the fact that Tribulation Saints, like Old Testament Saints, are under a faith and works set-up for salvation.
 - If you have to earn your salvation by works, then naturally you must also **keep** it by works.
 - Here are some verses to show that works are necessary for salvation in the Tribulation.
 - First of all, God is dealing with the **Jew** in the Tribulation.

- That is why it is called “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (**Jer. 30:7**).
 - **Revelation 12:17, 14:12, and 22:14** all indicate that Tribulation Saints are back under a faith-works set and must keep the commandments.
 - **Salvation by Works!**
 - **If you must work to get it, or to keep it, you can lose it!**
- This is not hard to believe since the Old Testament Saints were also under the Jewish Law and those requirements were a part of their salvation.
 - Obedience after salvation was necessary to keep it or they lost it like King Saul in **I Samuel 28:15**, or Samson in **Judges 16:20** (It looks like Samson got it back, v. 28).
- Also, notice that the books of Hebrews and James were written directly to the Jews and were not directed to the Gentiles.
 - This is strange, for in Christianity, there is no difference between the Jew and the Gentile.
 - **See Romans 10:12**
 - So, it is likely that the doctrinal application is directed to **the Jews in the Tribulation**.
- You see, everyone in the Tribulation must “**endure until the end**” to be saved.
 - **See Mt. 24:13**
- The “**Church**” is already gone in the Rapture so Tribulation Saints are **obviously not part of the “Bride.”**
 - **Tribulation Saints are not born again, not Spiritually circumcised, not part of the Bride of Christ, and never called Sons of God!**
 - **Their salvation is different than yours!**
 - **They can lose it!**
- In Revelation 22:14, **Tribulation and Millennial Saints are keeping the commandments to have a right to the “tree of life” and be allowed to enter into the City.**
 - That city is New Jerusalem!
 - Christians will be living there and never have to eat of any tree (**Rev. 21:9**).
 - We **are part of Him** who made the tree!
 - The controversy comes down to one thing.
 - Anyone who thinks you can lose your salvation in this Age does not understand **New Testament Salvation!**
- ⇒ **When you are born again** the body of the sins of the flesh is put off from the soul (according to **Col. 2:11**), and the soul is sealed until the day of redemption (according to **Eph. 4:30**).
 - The body (flesh) is what sins, but the Spiritual circumcision separates it and the sin cannot touch the soul because it is sealed.
 - Any sin after salvation is reaped in the flesh.
 - Crowns, rewards, and fellowship with God are lost, but not salvation (according to **I Cor. 3:11-15, & I Cor. 5:1-5**).
 - Unlike the Tribulation Saint, the “Church Age” Christian does not have to endure to the end of anything.
 - You have already “overcome.” (**according to I John 4:4, 5:4**).

- You salvation is by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ plus nothing (**according to** Eph. 2:8).
- There are no works involved, in fact it's not yours.
- Salvation belongs to Jesus Christ!
- It's a free gift.
- You don't work to **get** or to **keep** a gift (**according to Rom. 6:23**)
- Salvation is a new birth!
 - You are a new creature in Christ (**according to II Cor. 5:17**).
 - There is no new birth for Tribulation Saints.
- ⇒ **Christians Have ETERNAL Life:**
 - I John 5:13 – “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have **eternal** life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”
 - John 3:36 – “He that believeth on the Son hath **everlasting** life:...”
 - John 5:24 – “...He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath **everlasting** life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”
- ⇒ **Christians are SEALED:**
 - Eph. 1:13 – “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise,”
 - Eph. 4:30 – “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are **sealed** unto the day of redemption.”
- ⇒ **Christians are PRESERVED:**
 - II Tim. 4:18 – “And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will **preserve me** unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”
 - Jude 1:1 – “Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and **preserved** in Jesus Christ, and called:”
- ⇒ **Christians are PART OF CHRIST'S BODY:**
 - Eph. 5:30 – “For we are **members of his body**, of his flesh, and of his bones.”
 - 1 Cor. 12:18 – “But now hath God set the members every one of them in **the body**, as it hath pleased him.”
- ⇒ **Christians cannot be SEPARATED from God:**
 - Rom. 8:38-39 – “(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.”
- ⇒ **Christians will never be CAST OUT:**
 - John 6:37 – “...him that cometh to me I will in no wise **cast out**.”
- ⇒ **Christians are kept from FALLING by His POWER:**
 - 1 Peter 1:5 – “**Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**”
 - Jude 1:24 – “Now unto him that is able to keep you from **falling**, and to **present you faultless** before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,”
- ⇒ **Christians can LOSE REWARD BUT NOT SALVATION:**

- I Cor. 3:11-15 – “(11) For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (12) Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; (13) Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. (14) If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. (15) If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: **but he himself shall be saved**; yet so as by fire.”
- I Cor. 5:1,5 – “(1) 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. (5) To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, **that the spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- At this point the listener either believes what God has said about eternal security of the believer, or you believe that the Word of God is a lie!
 - 1 John 5:10 – “...he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.”
- The traditional belief by some that you can lose your salvation comes from the idea that you have to do something to earn or keep what God has given you as a free gift.
 - This teaching contradicts the Bible and makes the Word of God of none effect.
- Jesus said to the religious crowd of his day in Mark 7:13 – “**Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.**”