

Eternal Security Part 1

Well hey, in light of the upcoming elections I thought I'd share this timely story on the importance of voting. Check this out.

“One day this politician gets hit by a truck and dies and the next thing you know he's in heaven and is met by St. Peter. And so Peter says, ‘Hey, welcome to Heaven. But before you settle in, there seems to be a little problem here. You see, we don't see too many politicians around these parts, and so we're not sure what to do with you.’

And the politician replied, ‘No problem, just let me in.’ And Peter said, ‘Well, I'd like to, but I've got orders from higher up. And what were going to do is let you spend one day in hell and one in heaven and then you can choose where to spend eternity.’

And the politician said, ‘Well I've already made up my mind. I want to be in Heaven.’ But St. Peter replied, ‘Hey, I'm sorry but we have our rules.’

So Peter sends the politician down to hell and when he gets there he finds himself in the middle of a lush green golf course. And then, in the distance he sees a clubhouse with all his former friends having a great ol' time full of joy.

And once they see him they rush over to greet him and start reminiscing about the good ol' times of getting rich at expense of the people. And then they play a round of golf and then take a scenic drive around hell in this nice convertible and then that night they dine on lobster and caviar.

And the politician was having such a good time, before he realized it, it was time to go. So everyone gave him a big hug and waved goodbye and he went back up to heaven. And when he got there, St. Peter was waiting for him and said, ‘Now it's time to give heaven a try.’

So he spends the next 24 hours floating around heaven moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. And after the 24 hours was up, Peter

returned and said, ‘Well, you spent a day in hell and a day in heaven. Which one is it going to be?’

So the politician responds, ‘You know, I never thought I’d say this, and heaven was nice and all, but I think I would be better off in hell.’

So Peter sends him back to hell where all of a sudden he finds himself in the middle of a barren wasteland covered with filth and garbage. And now all of his friends are dressed in rags, picking up the trash, moaning and groaning from the sweltering heat.”

And the politician stammers, ‘I don't understand. Yesterday I was here, and there was a golf course and we ate lobster and caviar and danced and had a great ol’ time. But now its a wasteland full of garbage, and my friends look miserable.’

And the devil looks at him, and smiles and says, ‘Well, of course. Of all people, you should understand. Yesterday we were campaigning. But today you voted for us!’”

Now, does that sound familiar, or what? Uh huh, slightly. But folks, believe it or not, did you know that that politician is not the only one being fooled by mere appearances? Hey, that’s right! Can anyone guess who else is? Hey, that’s right, so are the lives of many Christians. **How?** By appearing to be the **people of God** when the whole time they’re acting like...**practical atheists!** You talk about devilish behavior!

Oh, we say we believe in God, but half the time, by our **lips** and by our **lives**, we act like He’s not there. And this not only keeps us from growing in our own walk with God, but it also keeps others from believing in God. Therefore, to avoid this irony of Christian’s living like a practical

atheists by not knowing **Who God Is**, we're going to continue in our study from the Word of God on the Character of God entitled, "**Who Is God?**"

We've already seen that the very **first thing** we need to know about God is that **God Is Real**. The **second thing** we need to know is that **God Is Personal**. The **third thing** we need to know is that **God Is Wise**. The **fourth thing** we need to know is that **God Is Powerful**. The **fifth thing** we need to know is that **God is Holy**. And last seven times we saw that the **sixth thing** we need to know about God is that **God Is Love**. And there we saw the Bible reveals that God Is Love by God **Giving us Mercy, Compassion, Kindness, Graciousness, Patience, Faithfulness** and last time by **Giving Us Goodness**. And there we saw that **out of goodness** God not only saves us from our sins but He **keeps on using us, blessing us, and loving us** in spite of our sins! Isn't that incredible?

But folks, believe it or not, did you know that's not the only way the Bible reveals that **God Is Love**? The **eighth way** the Bible reveals that **God Is Love** is that **God Gives Us Eternal Love**. But hey, don't take my word for it. Let's listen to God's.

Psalm 136:1-9 "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His love endures forever. To him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.

Who by His understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever.
Who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever. Who
made the great lights – His love endures forever. The sun to govern the day,
His love endures forever. The moon and stars to govern the night; His love
endures forever.”

Now folks, I know this might be a hard question, especially in light of
our text, but when it comes to the issue of **God’s love**, how long does it last?
His love **endures forever**, right? And folks, I don’t know about you, but I’d
say **especially** in light of our imperfect behavior, that’s some really good
news, don’t you think? Well, it should be, but that’s right, **we’ve got a
problem**. You see, there are actually folks out there who think God’s love
doesn’t endure forever. And believe it or not, they would tell us we can
start out being a child of God but somehow end up being a child of the devil
again! Can you believe that? Therefore, the question is, “Why in the world
would people say God’s love isn’t eternal **especially** when the Bible **clearly**
says it is?” Well hey, great question. I’m glad you asked.

It’s pretty simple folks. The **first reason** why some people say God’s
love is not eternal is because **They’ve Forgotten about the Context**. You
see, it’s bad enough this belief that God’s love **isn’t eternal contradicts the
Bible**, but get this. These same people will turn around and say they derive
their belief from the Bible. Can you believe that? And what they don’t
realize is that although certain passages may **seem to say our salvation isn’t**

secure, they've simply forgotten the **context in which they occur**. Let me show you what I mean. The **first passage** taken out of context is **Revelation Chapter 3**.

Revelation 3:15-16 "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

Uh, oh! Here we have it, folks. A Christian can be **spit out** of the mouth of God. They could lose their salvation, right? **Wrong!** On the surface it may seem to say that, but let's look at the **context**. First of all, **if you look at the context**, when John writes these letters to the seven Churches, he draws a distinction between **two groups** of people. Christian and non-Christian. Hey, do non-Christians ever go to Church services? And John draws this distinction by using terms like "you" and "they." And the reason we know these people were **non-Christians** is because Jesus said you will know a false teacher by their **fruit**. And how much fruit did these people have? **None!** They were neither **cold nor hot**. They were making Jesus want to **puke** because they were **posing** to be Christians when in reality they were **imposters!** Hey, do people do that today? Uh huh. Therefore, this passage isn't talking about a Christians losing their salvation. It's talking about people who never had salvation in the first place! **Read the context!**

Oh but that's not all. The **second passage** taken out of context is

Hebrews Chapters 6 and 10.

Hebrews 6:4-6 "It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance."

Hebrews 10:26-27 "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."

Uh, oh! Here we have it, folks. A Christian can **fall away** and lose their salvation, right? **Wrong!** On the surface it may seem to say that, but let's look at the **context**. First of all, **according to the context**, we know these people **aren't Christians either** because they only "shared in" or literally in the Greek, "partnered with" the Holy Spirit. And people, the Bible is clear. A true Christian isn't just an **external partner** with the Holy Spirit, they are an **internal possessor** of the Spirit. And the point he's trying to make here is that even though these people have been "enlightened" to "taste" the goodness of the gospel **externally**, they still weren't going to **receive it internally**. The **context** of both passages are dealing with **apostates**. And they'll never repent because even though they **know it's the truth**, they still refuse to act on it! No amount of information is going to be good enough for them! Hey, do people do that today? And in case you still

don't see **two groups** of people here, saved and unsaved, the context clearly says over and over again "those who" "those who" "those who" speaking of the behavior of the apostate **but then** clarifies at the end in verse 9, "Even though we speak like this dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case – things that accompany salvation." **Not apostasy!** Therefore, these passages aren't talking about a Christians losing their salvation. It's talking about people who never had salvation in the first place! **Read the context!**

Oh, but that's not all. The **third passage** taken out of context **1**

Corinthians Chapter 9.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 "Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

Uh, oh! Here we have it, folks. A Christian can be **disqualified** and lose their salvation, right? **Wrong!** On the surface it may seem to say that, but let's look at the **context**. First of all, **according to the context**, nowhere in this passage does it even talk about salvation let alone mention it. It's talking about **prizes** or rewards. And Paul's beating his body into submission not out of fear he's going to be disqualified for his salvation, but because he doesn't want to be disqualified for his reward in heaven! He doesn't want to waste his life on stupidity of this world **instead of investing**

it for the glory of God. Hey, do people do that today? Therefore, this passage isn't talking about a Christians losing out on heaven. It's talking about Christians **losing out on a reward in heaven! Read the context!**

Oh but that's not all. The **fourth passage** taken out of context is

Galatians Chapter 5.

Galatians 5:3-4 "Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace."

Uh, oh! Here we have it, folks. A Christian can **fall away from grace** and lose their salvation, right? **Wrong!** On the surface it may seem to say that, but let's look at the **context. According to the context**, some of the Galatians believers were being enticed by false teachers to make a **fatal error**. And that error was to go back to the Old Testament system of **rules and regulations** as a means of living the Christian life. And Paul was desperately trying to get them to see that if they start obeying God out of legalism instead of love, **it will cut you off** from the grace of God. Or in other words, short-circuit their power to live for God. Hey, do people do that today? Therefore, this passage isn't talking about a Christians losing their salvation from God. It's talking about Christians **losing their power to live for God!**

And people, the point is this. **Based on the context of Scripture**, I'd say **there really is no reason** to assume a person can be a child of God and somehow end up being a child of the devil again. Are you kidding? People, the Bible is clear! God's love for His children **endures forever**. And if you don't think so, then maybe it's a sign you've **forgotten the context**.

Oh but that's not all. The **second reason** why some people say God's love is not eternal is because **They've Forgotten about the Counterfeits**. You see, even though you can share the **proper context** with those who say God's love's not eternal, that doesn't mean it ends there. Usually what happens is they cite some supposed occurrence of some supposed Christian but supposedly walked away from their supposed faith. And so somehow this is supposedly proof that God's love is not eternal. And that may sound nice but what they don't realize is that just because people **say they're Christians**, guess what? That doesn't mean they really are! In fact, they might be a **counterfeit** just like Judas of Iscariot. Remember him? In fact, the Bible says in **John Chapter 6** that Jesus knew Judas was a phony believer all along. He wasn't seeking God for God. He was only **seeking God for the money**. Hey, do people do that today? Slightly!

So what are some other **signs to indicate** a person's a **counterfeit** like Judas **seeking God for money, morals**, or some other **false motive**? Great

question. I'm glad you asked. It's pretty simple. The **first sign** to indicate a person might be a counterfeit like Judas is when they **Seek God with Their Head**.

James 2:14-17,19 "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed, but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder."

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. Not all faith is a **saving faith**, is it? Nope! What did the text say? If a person's so-called faith is not accompanied with action, then it's not only fake, its what? **It's dead**, right? And you can believe in a God in heaven all you want. But that doesn't mean you're going to exist with God in heaven. **Why?** Because even the demons believe in God but are they saved? I don't think so! Therefore, if all you got is a **head knowledge** of God instead of a heart knowledge, it might be a sign you're a **counterfeit**, just like Judas was!

Oh but that's not all. The **second sign** to indicate a person might be a counterfeit like Judas is when they **Seek God with Their Lips**.

Titus 1:15-16 "Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are defiled. Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live. They are despicable and disobedient, worthless for doing anything good."

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. Not everyone who **claims to know God** really belongs to God, do they? No! What did the text say? If all you do is give God lip service instead of **life service** then your so-called faith is not only **not worthwhile**, it's what? It's worthless! Therefore, you can **claim to be a Christian** all you want, but if you refuse to **live like one**, it might be a sign you're a **counterfeit**, just like Judas was!

Oh but that's not all. The **third sign** to indicate a person might be a counterfeit believer is when they **Seek God with Their Thoughts**.

1 John 2:18-19 "Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us."

And folks, it's this passage that single handedly stops dead in the tracks the hypothetical scenario of those who say you can lose your salvation where they cite some supposed occurrence of some supposed Christian but supposedly walked away from their supposed faith. And so somehow this is supposedly proof that God's love is not eternal. But what did our text say? Not everyone who goes to a Church service **really belongs to the Church**, do they? No! Why? Because if you walk away from the truths in the Bible and start following a lie that **contradicts the Bible**, then it shows you probably weren't even saved in the first place, right? People of God, the

Bible is clear. If a person who professes to know Christ walks away from Christ, then they never really knew Christ. They didn't lose their salvation. Are you kidding! They never had it in the first place. Why? Because a true Christian remains in the faith. The people who leave the faith show they never really belonged to the faith! Therefore, you can **think you belong to the Savior** all you want, but if **your thoughts don't line up with the Savior**, it might be a sign you're a **counterfeit**, just like Judas was!

Oh but that's not all. The **fourth sign** to indicate a person might be a counterfeit like Judas if when they **Seek God with Their Religion**.

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. Not everyone who says, **Lord, Lord** really belongs to the Lord, do they? No! What did the text say? If your faith is based on **pious religious deeds** instead of a personal relationship, then you not only **don't belong to Christ**, but what? Christ never knew you in the first place! And notice He didn't say, "I knew you once but you blew it so I don't know you anymore." What did he say? He said, "**I never knew you!**" Therefore, you can **be as religious for Jesus** all

you want, but if you don't have a **relationship with Jesus**, you're a **counterfeit**, just like Judas was!

And people, the point is this. **Based on the counterfeits in Scripture**, I'd say **there's no reason** to assume a person can be a child of God and somehow end up being a child of the devil again. Are you kidding? People, the Bible is clear! God's love for His children **endures forever**. **Therefore**, the issue isn't in losing your salvation but in making sure you got saved in the first place.

And people, the point is this. Knowing that God's love is **eternal** should be one of the biggest comforts to our souls. **Why?** Because stop and think about it. If our salvation was ever based upon our performance, what would happen? Not only would **none of us** ever **get saved** but none of us could ever **stay saved**, right? Stop and think about it! If it were the other way around, it would be **bad news**, right? But people we've got the gospel, the **good news** and that is this. We're not saved on the basis of **our performance**. Are you kidding? We're saved by the performance of Jesus Christ. And therefore God not only save us from our sins, but He save us from our sins **forever**. **Why?** Because have you not read? God's love **endures** how long? **Forever!** You've got it!

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”
