

# Can a True Believer Live in Sin to the Very End of Their Life, and Still Go to Heaven?

No, God stops true believers from a life of sin.

**First, whom does God say won't go to Heaven?** Rev. 21:8; Eph.5:1-7; Gal. 5:16-26; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 1:28-32.

**Second, in the church, what was the context of 2 Cor. 13:5's examine yourself whether you are saved?** The sins of 2 Cor. 12:20-21.

**Third, always remember that if they are a believer, God will chasten them or else.**

If they remain un-chastened, they prove that they are illegitimate and never born-again children of God (Hebrews 12:3-24).

**Fourth, as a deterrent, other believers are not to treat sinning believers as if everything is okay.** Note these passages:

- In Mt. 18:17, the church is to treat unrepentant believers like they are heathen & tax collector (which means unwelcomed into the communion & worship services). Church History.
- Rom. 16:17 if living contrary to doctrine avoid them
- 1 Cor. 5:5-11 deliver to Satan, purge out leaven; don't company with sinning believers, not even eat.
- 2 Th. 3:14-15 admonish as a brother and then avoid

**Fifth, believers who are chastened, and yet remain in unrepentant of their sins are weakened, sickened, and ultimately chastened to death.** Note this in:

- I Cor. 11:29-31 defines three stages: weak, sick, dead;
- James 5:19-20 where it saves from death;
- 1 John 5:16-17 defines some sins as unto death;
- Rev 2:21-23 says chastening is a warning to the church, and has the same three stages.

## Finally, who is a true believer?

- Jesus said salvation is neither a prayer (Lord, Lord); nor a decision (did many things); it's a changed life of repentance (doeth) in Mat. 7:21-23.
- Luke 6:46 explains Mt. 7:21-23, by defining what "Lord, Lord" should mean: salvation means doing what the Lord says, not just saying, praying, or repeating those words.
- Note how Paul preached the Gospel to Gentiles (that means us in the church):  
Luke 24:47 & Acts 26:18-20

## Does God Use the Terms for Pastors and Elders Synonymously in Scripture?

Yes, because God does so, in His Word when explaining the church, in two places:

1 Peter 5:1-2 (NKJV) The **elders** [*presbuteroi*] who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 **Shepherd** [*poimen*] the flock of God which is among you, serving as **overseers** [*episcopoi*], not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

Acts 20:17, 28 (NKJV) From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the **elders** [*presbuteroi*] of the church. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers** [*episcopoi*], to **shepherd** [*poimen*] the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.