

ETERNAL SECURITY (36)

God has promised to answer the prayer of one who prays in faith (**James 1:6-7**), without sin (**Isaiah 59:1-2**), without improper motives (**James 4:3**), in accordance with His will (**I John 5:14**). The real question is whether or not we can expect that God the Father would hear and answer the prayer of God the Son. We really get an answer to this question in **John 11:42**. In this passage, Christ claims that the Father always hears and answers Him. Then He miraculously brings one who is dead back to life. The answer to our question is “Yes.” God the Father will always answer the prayer of God the Son, which means one who has been brought to the Son has been prayed secure by the Son and is “kept by the power of God” (**I Peter 1:5**).

Category #2 - Salvation cannot possibly be lost because salvation is a work of God the Son .

One of the best texts which deals with the subject of salvation and the specific work of God the Son is **Romans 8:34** . In this one amazing verse, four Christological reasons are given as to why it is impossible for a person once saved to lose his salvation:

(Reason #1) - A believer cannot possibly lose his salvation because of Christ’s death .
Romans 8:34a

In the context of **Romans 8:34**, the matter of Christ’s death is offered as an answer to the question, “Who is the one who condemns?” The clear purpose of the answer is to show that it **cannot possibly** be Jesus Christ who will condemn the believer, because it is Jesus Christ who died for the believer to save him from condemnation.

One critical Christological question that must be answered is why did Jesus Christ die? The Bible gives us several specific answers to this question and we cite just a small portion here:

- 1) **Matthew 26:28** - Christ’s blood was poured out for the “forgiveness of sins.”
- 2) **Romans 5:8** - Christ died for us “while we were yet sinners.”
- 3) **I Corinthians 15:3** - Christ died “for” (huper - in behalf of, in the place of, for the sake of) our sins.
- 4) **I Thessalonians 5:9-10** - Christ died for us so that we might have salvation and someday be able to live with Him.
- 5) **I John 2:2** - Christ died to be a “propitiation” for our sins.

It is very clear from these few passages that the purpose of Christ’s death was so that sin might be taken away for one who believes on Him. If it is possible for one to lose his salvation, then Jesus Christ did not accomplish what the Bible says is the purpose of His death - He does not completely take away the sin from the sinner and, therefore, one who sins is able to nullify the work of Christ on the cross.

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According to one who claims you may lose your salvation, the determining factor is one of sin ! It is postulated that if a believer commits certain sins, he forfeits his salvation and stands in danger of going to hell. However, what one who maintains this position fails to answer is the question of, “**Who will send the believer to hell?**” **Romans 8:34** makes it very clear that it cannot be Jesus Christ who will send the believer to hell, because He personally died to take away the sin and condemnation from the believer. He certainly is not about to send a believer to hell; in fact, it was for this very purpose that He went to the cross. We also know that God the Father will not send the believer to hell, because it was His purpose, power, and love that saved the sinner in the first place. So one who believes one may lose his salvation must answer the question, who will send the believer to hell? What could send the believer to hell? His sins have been washed away and the entire Godhead takes credit for saving the sinner. Since Christ’s work on Calvary is specifically sin-related in that He died to take away sins, one who believes in Christ will not ever be condemned by Christ. The death of Christ means one cannot lose salvation.

(Reason #2) - A believer cannot possibly lose his salvation because of Christ’s resurrection .
Romans 8:34b

When it comes to this critical theological issue, one who claims one may lose salvation fails to answer the question of whether or not Christ’s resurrection may be lost. In other words, is it possible to undo or nullify the resurrection of Jesus Christ? To state the question differently, is it ever possible that Jesus Christ was not physically resurrected? The obvious answer is No! Christ was resurrected and that is a Biblical, historical fact. This is a reality that cannot ever be reversed.

Although this question may seem somewhat ludicrous, it is no more ludicrous than one claiming one may lose his salvation, for this matter of Christ’s resurrection is not only a powerful physical reality, but also a powerful spiritual reality.

According to the Scriptures, the resurrection of Jesus Christ establishes two key realities.

Reality #1 - The resurrection proves our justification . **Romans 4:25**

The Apostle Paul makes it very clear that one who is justified cannot ever face the wrath of God (**Romans 5:9**). His statement is very clear: “Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” According to Paul, justification negates the possibility of condemnation. A key to proving all of this is the resurrection .

The resurrection clearly establishes that once one believes on Jesus Christ, he is justified which naturally means he cannot be condemned. Christ is in a position to give eternal life because He, Himself, possesses it and the proof is His own resurrection. Jesus Christ died on the cross in the place of a sinner, and He was raised from the dead to prove He can justify the sinner for whom He died. Therefore, the possibility of losing one’s salvation after one has accepted Christ is an impossibility. **A onetime resurrection substantiates a onetime justification.** As C. I. Scofield write: “His resurrection is the proof that our sins are gone” (*Study Bible*, NASV, p. 1593).

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Reality #2 – The resurrection has seated the believer in the heavenlies. **Ephesians 2:4-6**

the Apostle Paul is very careful to point out that it was God who raised us up out of our sin when we were, in fact, dead in our trespasses and sins (**Ephesians 2:1**). In other words, when we were spiritually dead, God, by His grace, mercy, and love, reached into our dead souls and made us spiritually alive (**Ephesians 2:4-5**). This is the same supernatural power that raised Jesus Christ when He was physically dead (**Ephesians 2:5**). According to Paul, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so intricately connected to the believer that, in the mind of God, the believer is already seated with Christ in heavenly places (**Ephesians 2:6**).

Certainly any sane person would be forced to admit that it would be impossible for the resurrected Christ to ever cease to be the resurrected Christ. Once Christ died He was raised never to die again. In fact, the Bible is clear and emphatic to point out that Christ would only die “once” (**Hebrews 9:27-28; 10:14**). The picture is clear; Christ died once and was raised once. The questions are “Why” and “For what”? The answer is - **He died to save sinners and He arose to prove He does save sinners and He does give life**. In the mind of God, any person who has been saved is so identified with the work of Jesus Christ that he is already seated in the heavenlies. One who is seated in the heavenlies cannot die again and not be seated in the heavenlies. If one has trusted Christ, he is spiritually alive and seated in the heavenlies and cannot spiritually die again, because he has already been raised to new life. The loss of salvation becomes an impossibility for one who has been saved by God. Once he has been raised up he cannot die again, which means he cannot lose his salvation.

How is it possible for any sinful person to be seated in the heavenlies with God’s Holy Son? It is possible through the resurrection power that has made the soul that was once spiritually dead, spiritually alive. When the believer finally gets to heaven, he will no longer sin; but until he does get to heaven, there will be times when the old nature wins. That, however, cannot cause one to be unseated from the heavenlies, for it was Christ’s resurrection power that put him there.

(Reason #3) - A believer cannot possibly lose his salvation because of Christ’s advocacy.
Romans 8:34c

A critical passage that deals with this subject and refutes any thought that a child of God could lose his salvation is **I John 2:1**. It is very clear from this one verse that the addressee is a believer - “my little children” - and the subject is his sin. **It is also very clear from this context that when a believer does sin, which is implied in this very text, it is not regeneration for salvation that is needed; it is confession for fellowship that is needed (1:3, 7, 9).**

The term “advocate” is one that has legal meaning. It is a word that describes a judicial setting in which a friend of the accused person, who has a legal right to speak on behalf of the person, is called to aid and intercede in behalf of the person in a legal matter (G. Abbott-Smith, pp. 340-341).