

OSAS: ARE WE ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED? : PART 1

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Do We Forfeit God's Free Gift Of Salvation When We Sin, We Are Washed Clean By The Blood Of The Lamb, All Have Sinned, Wages Of Sin is Death, Jesus Is Our Father's Ambassador Of Love, Jesus Offered Himself As Vicarious Atonement For Our Sins, Jesus Opened The Way To Eternal Life, Verbally Confess Christ, Jesus Is Our Only Savior And God's Only Recognized Mediator, Faith In Christ Makes Us God's Children Through Spiritual Adoption, Salvation And Eternal Life Is Offered To All Men, We Continue To Sin After Accepting Christ Into Our Lives, False Sinless Saint Doctrine, Blunders By Apostles: Bothered By The Children, Calling Fire Down From Heaven, Peter's Denial Of Jesus, Fleeing From Garden Of Gethsemane We Don't Become Sinless Saints Upon Accepting Jesus Christ, Beware Of Attitude Of Condescension And Self-Righteousness

Some time ago, I was involved in an online discussion which centered around the topic of Eternal Salvation, and whether or not it is a one-time deal, or if it is something which can be lost, and then must be regained, depending upon a person's walk with the Lord. During the course of the discussion, the following remark was made:

----- Begin Quote -----

"When you get saved, you are forgiven of your sins. To commit sin would be to have a criminal record, or to mark "return" on your free gift. Its not really a string, but part of the package."

----- End Quote -----

The person who made this remark appears to be saying that if we sin after we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we essentially forfeit our free Gift. In other words, he seems to be implying that we can lose our Salvation. Well, based on what he states here, and if it is true, we might as well throw in the towel right now, feel sorry for ourselves, and just surrender ourselves to our awful fate. Why? Because I am quite convinced that it is not a matter of "if we sin". As I point out in such articles as "Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?", contrary to the erroneous, popular view, I believe that even after we accept the Lord, every one of us continues to sin. Does this mean that we have forfeited the free Gift of Salvation as this person implies?

In my opinion, this individual's remark is flawed. In fact, it may be misleading. It has long been my belief that once we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, we receive the free Gift of Eternal Life, and we are forgiven for our sins. We are washed clean of all of our sins -- past, present and future -- by the precious Blood of Jesus Christ, as we can

determine by verses such as the following:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18, KJV

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28, KJV

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

Mark 14:22-24, KJV

"And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:14-20, KJV

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"

Romans 3:25, KJV

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

Ephesians 2:13, KJV

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;"

Hebrews 10:19-20, KJV

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate . . . Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 13:12, 20-21, KJV

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

1 Peter 1:2, KJV

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 1:7, KJV

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 2:2, KJV

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

1 John 4:10, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 7:14, KJV

Of course, as all Christians realize, the reason why we must be washed in and covered by the Blood of Jesus Christ in the first place, is because God's Word informs us that we are all hopeless sinners. We have no righteousness of our own. Not only that, but the Scriptures clearly inform us that our own perceived sense of righteousness stinks. Again, consider the following Bible verses which confirm these points:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

Isaiah 64:6, KJV

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Psalms 51:5, KJV

"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"

Psalms 130:3, KJV

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 3:10, 21-23, KJV

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Romans 5:12, KJV

"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"

Ephesians 2:5, KJV

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come . . . I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

John 8:21, 24, KJV

As some of the previous verses reveal, as a result of our sinful condition, we all have a certain destiny with death. Following are a few additional verses which confirm this very same point:

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? . . . For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:16, 23, KJV

"The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law."

1 Corinthians 15:56, KJV

"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

James 1:15, KJV

"If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."

1 John 5:16, KJV

Thankfully, due to His Divine Foresight and planning, our Heavenly Father put a long-term plan into motion, whereby we can all escape this predicament, if we so choose. This Plan of Salvation was brought into full force when He sent His only begotten Son into this world; not only to serve as an Ambassador of His -- the Father's -- great love, but also to sacrifice Himself, forfeit His own life, and thus become a form of Vicarious Atonement for our sins. By willingly doing this, Jesus opened the way to Eternal Life for us all, and nullified our sentence of death as a result of sin. Consider the following verses:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16, KJV

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the

brethren."
1 John 3:16, KJV

"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."
Romans 5:21, KJV

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."
Romans 8:2, KJV

For our part, the requirements which we must meet in order to receive this free Gift of Salvation and Eternal Life, are to accept Christ as our Savior, believe in His Resurrection, and confess Him openly before men. Furthermore, we must also recognize Him as the only Mediator who is acceptable to the Father, and the only way to gain Forgiveness, Redemption and Salvation. Consider the following verses which confirm these various points:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."
Romans 10:9-10, KJV

"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."
1 Corinthians 12:3, KJV

"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."
1 John 4:2-3, KJV

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
John 14:6, KJV

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
Acts 4:12, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"
1 Timothy 2:5, KJV

"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."
Hebrews 8:6, KJV

"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they

which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

Hebrews 9:15, KJV

"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

Hebrews 12:24, KJV

If we do these things, and exercise this faith, the Bible informs us that we undergo a type of naturalization process, and we literally become the adopted Children of God, as well as beloved members of His very own Royal Household, as we can determine by the verses which follow:

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

John 1:12, KJV

"And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection."

Luke 20:34-36, KJV

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Romans 8:15-17, KJV

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:26, KJV

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"

Ephesians 1:5, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"

Ephesians 2:19, KJV

This then is our Father's wonderful Plan of Redemption and Salvation in a nutshell. As I point out in such articles as "Message to the World", "All Are Given a Chance, But . . ." and "Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?", this wonderful, free Gift of Forgiveness, Redemption, Salvation, Eternal Life and Spiritual Adoption is available to everyone everywhere, exactly as we are told in the following verses. That is why we are told that "God so loved the world". In other words, He offered His Son as Atonement for the sins of the entire world. In the verses below, please notice how the

writers repeatedly use the words "all" and "all men", so that we are left with no doubts:

"The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe."
John 1:7, KJV

"That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him."
John 5:23, KJV

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
John 6:37, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."
John 10:28-29, KJV

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."
John 12:32, KJV

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."
Acts 17:30-31, KJV

"Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."
Romans 5:18, KJV

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:"
Ephesians 3:8-11, KJV

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."
1 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."
1 Timothy 2:5-6, KJV

"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men,

specially of those that believe."

1 Timothy 4:10, KJV

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"

Titus 2:11, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

Continuing our central discussion, as I mentioned earlier, and as I more amply explain in the aforementioned article "Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?", just because we receive Jesus as our Savior does not mean that we have suddenly attained to some state of sinless perfection, and that we will never commit another wrong in our lives. To even entertain such a possibility is unrealistic in my view. Furthermore, regarding those Christians who do embrace the so-called "Sinless Saint" doctrine, it suggests to me that either they have received erroneous instruction, or else they have a very inflated image of themselves. Either way, I am convinced that they have become deceived.

The Bible is full of examples which demonstrate that knowing and accepting Jesus Christ does not automatically turn us into "Sinless Saints". Consider the Apostles themselves who actually accepted and lived with Jesus. Despite knowing the Savior, it is quite evident that they still continued to sin and made mistakes afterwards, because they were still human, and they were still living in their sinful flesh, just as we are. Consider, for example, what happened when the Apostles became upset because they felt that the young children were bothering Jesus:

"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Mark 10:13-16, KJV

Consider also how Jesus reacted when His Disciples wanted to call fire down from heaven in order to destroy a rebellious village, because the people of that village did not receive Jesus into their midst:

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked

them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."
Luke 9:51-56, KJV

Of course, one of the most notable incidents which reveals blatant failure on the part of the Apostles centers around the Apostle Peter's very own denial of the Lord on the sad night that Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot. Peter was obviously very afraid. He was not ready to die yet. Thus, in order to save his own life, and quite possibly avoid being crucified himself, he denied even knowing the Lord -- three times in fact -- as we see by the following verses:

"Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly."
Matthew 26:69-75, KJV

If you are interested, you can learn more about Peter's slow transformation into a power Apostle in the article entitled "Peter: Faith Tried in the Fire". Let us also not forget that even before Peter's denial of the Lord, all of the Apostles had abandoned Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, exactly as the Lord had said they would do. Consider these verses:

"Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples . . . But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled."
Matthew 26:31-35, 56, KJV

"And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all . . . And they all forsook him, and fled."

Mark 14:27-31, 50, KJV

The previous verses are just a few examples which clearly demonstrate that just because we accept Jesus, it does not mean that we suddenly become perfect, or that we are turned into so-called "Sinless Saints", as a number of misguided Christians erroneously suppose. If Jesus' very own Apostles all failed Him, where does that leave us today? Do any of us really believe that we are any better or more spiritual than they were? Are we so lifted up in our own self-righteousness and pride that we have fallen for such a deception?

At the same time, neither does accepting Jesus Christ make us any better than other people, so that we can brag about it, and self-righteously look down upon other people who have not yet accepted Christ. Let me warn you that adopting some kind of holier-than-thou attitude of condescension will not only ruin your Christian witness, but it will likewise drive people away from you, resulting in lost witnessing opportunities. To reiterate, accepting Christ's Atonement simply means that we have been cloaked in and cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb. It means that we have been forgiven, and that our sins have been blotted out; thus enabling us to enter into Eternal Life.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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OSAS: ARE WE ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED? : PART 2

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Salvation Is The Free Gift Of God Through Faith In Christ, It Is Impossible To Be Saved By Our Works Of Righteousness, We Are Saved By Either God's Grace Or By Our Own Works But Not By Both, Working To Earn A Gift No Longer Makes It A Gift, God The Father Revealed His Love To The World Through The Divine Gift Of His Son, Jesus Paid Full Purchase Price And Ransom For Our Gift Of Salvation, Grace Signifies God's Unmerited Favor, Grace = Gift Received At Christ's Expense, We Were Held Hostage By The Devil Sin And Death, Jesus Now Holds The Keys Of Hell And Death, Keys Represent Authority And Opportunities In The Bible, Jesus Is Keeper Of The Keys, Nothing Can Separate Us From The Love Of God Through Christ, God Does Not Lie, Satan Is A Liar Deceiver And The Accuser, Jesus Is The Door To Salvation And Eternal Life Which No Man Can Shut, Jesus Unlocked Prison Door Of Hell And Death And Liberated Us, Freed From Physical Corruption Of The Grave, Through Christ We May Partake Freely Of The Water Of Life, Symbolism And Allegory In The Scriptures, Our Salvation Is Totally A Work Of God Through Jesus Christ, We Cannot Save Ourselves Or Keep Ourselves Saved Once We Have Been Saved,

Temptation Of Wondering If We Have Done Enough, Our Enough Is Never Enough, Do You Worry About Your Salvation Or Have Peace Of Christ, That Ye May Know That Ye Have Eternal Life

Continuing our discussion from part one, it is really rather foolish for anyone to adopt a self-righteous attitude after coming to Christ. Why is this? As I explain in so many other articles, quite simply, it's because Salvation is a free Gift of God which we cannot possibly ever hope to earn by our own self-righteous, so-called good works, either before, or even after we have accepted Christ. In other words, we cannot win points with God by being "good", and then hope that we have accumulated enough points so that we merit Salvation. Consider the following verses. I have added some words in brackets for the sake of clarification:

"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."
Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
Titus 3:5, KJV

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law [or by our own self-righteous works], but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified . . . I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law [or by our own self-righteous works] then Christ is dead in vain."
Galatians 2:16, 21, KJV

"But that no man is justified by the law [or by our own self-righteous works] in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."
Galatians 3:11, KJV

"Therefore by the deeds of the law [or by our own self-righteous works] there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."
Romans 3:20, KJV

"And if by 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."
Romans 11:6, KJV

So as you can plainly see, it is either one or the other. It cannot be both. Either we are saved completely by the Grace of God through our faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, or else we foolishly convince ourselves that we are saved by our own supposed "good works", and that we can somehow earn our way to Heaven. The idea of earning our way to Heaven totally contradicts what we are told in all of the previous verses. As the Apostle Paul so clearly informs us in his Epistle to the brethren at Ephesus, our Salvation "is the gift of God".

In his Epistle to the Romans Paul states the very same thing with "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". Furthermore, Paul very plainly informs us that if righteousness come by the law -- or by our own self-righteous works -- then Christ is dead in vain. In other words, if we can save ourselves, then Jesus died for absolutely nothing.

Please think about this very carefully. If we have to work for a gift; if we have to do something in order to merit or earn it; then it is no longer truly a gift, is it? The fact of the matter is that the gift has already been paid for by somebody else. That person somehow worked for the money and purchased the gift, and then they freely gave the gift to us as a demonstration of their love and affection for us. In a way, they bestowed unmerited favor upon us because of their love for us, and because they wanted to make us happy. We did not have to do anything in order to earn the gift. They did it all. We were simply the recipient of their gift.

In similar fashion, this is exactly what our Heavenly Father did for us through the person of His own Son, Jesus Christ. As we all know from the widely-known verse John 3:16, God the Father gave His only-begotten Son to the world, and allowed Him to be crucified by the world, as payment for our sins, as we learned earlier in this series. Consider the verse in its entirety:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
John 3:16, KJV

In effect, by spilling His own Blood, and by being crucified on a Roman Cross, Jesus Christ paid the full purchase price -- that is, the ransom price -- for our Salvation. He paid in full for the Gift which God the Father now freely bestows upon everyone who believes. That this is so is made evident by the following verses:

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:28, KJV

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."
Acts 20:28, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."
1 Corinthians 7:23, KJV

"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, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the

redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 1:13-14, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

1 Timothy 2:5-6, KJV

Can it be any more clear than that? We are bought, and our Salvation is purchased, by the Blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus paid the full ransom price so that we can now receive God's free Gift. Because of Jesus' willingness to forfeit His own life for our sakes, God the Father now bestows upon us His unmerited favor; that is, His Grace. We are only saved by His Grace, through Christ. We only receive the free Gift, as a result of what Jesus did for us. Over forty years ago when I was still a young Christian man, I learned a cute acronym which helps us to remember exactly what Grace is. There are some modern perversions of this acronym, but the way that I learned it is in the following manner:

G. R. A. C. E.

G ift
R eceived
A t
C hrist's
E xpense

Isn't that beautiful, and so easy to remember? God bestows His Grace -- or unmerited favor -- upon us, because Jesus was willing to pay the full price for the Gift of our Salvation with His own Blood. To reiterate, as Paul tells us in two of his Epistles, "it is the gift of God" and "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". Please do not ever forget that our Salvation is an undeserved and totally unmerited Gift from God. We cannot earn it in any way. Period.

Why was it even necessary to pay a ransom price for our Gift in the first place? Why is it referred to as a ransom in the Bible? Quite simply, because as we have already seen, at one time, we were all being held hostage by both sin and death; because as the Apostle Paul informs us, "the wages of sin is death". In fact, stated even more clearly, we were being held hostage by the Devil himself, because he had somehow gained the power over death. We were the prisoners of death and hell until Jesus Christ took back the keys, when He offered up His own life for the sins of the whole world. If you doubt that this is so, then consider the following revelatory verses:

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."
Revelation 1:18, KJV

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;"
Hebrews 2:14, KJV

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first

resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years . . . And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."
Revelation 20:6, 13-14, KJV

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave [hell], where is thy victory?"
1 Corinthians 15:55, KJV

In effect then, the Devil was holding all of us hostage in his prison of hell and death. We were his prisoners because of the penalty of sin. Furthermore, he was demanding that a ransom price be paid before we could be released from that dark prison of hell and death. When Jesus paid that ransom price, He received -- and perhaps even regained -- the keys of hell and of death, exactly as He tells us in the previous verse that is found in the Book of Revelation. Let us not forget that the Angelic Messenger is speaking on Jesus' own behalf.

As I explain in the series entitled "Lies and Deceptions of the Roman Catholic Church", we all know that keys are used to unlock something, such as a door or a chest. In the New Testament, keys are symbolically used to signify the opening or closing of doors of opportunity. Keys likewise represent possessing authority or having control over something. This is made evident by the following verses which are also found in the Book of Revelation:

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."
Revelation 3:7-8, KJV

As you can see, in addition to having the keys of hell and of death, we are also told that Jesus possesses the key of David, being as He is a descendant of David in the flesh, and thus the rightful heir to his throne as well. The most important keys are of course those which open the doors to Heaven and Hell, and thus to Eternal Life and Damnation. For the purposes of our discussion, the most important point to consider is that when the Lord opens the Door of Salvation for us, absolutely no one can shut it in our face, or cast us out. Jesus has absolute Control and Authority over this issue. Thus, as we saw earlier, Jesus stated the following in the Gospel of John:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
John 6:37, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man

is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."
John 10:28-29, KJV

Paul was equally convinced of this very same wonderful truth as well. In his Epistle to the Romans he reveals that he is fully persuaded that nothing, and nobody -- whether physical or spiritual -- can separate us from God the Father, once we come to Him through our faith in the Atoning Sacrifice of His own dear Son, Jesus Christ. Consider these inspiring verses:

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 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."
Romans 8:38-39, KJV

To reiterate, if we are predestinated and chosen by God to be heirs of Salvation, then absolutely no force in Heaven or Hell, or on the Earth, can separate us from the Love of God. Nobody. To believe otherwise is to indirectly accuse God of being weak and powerless. It is likewise to call Him a liar as well, which we obviously know is not true. Our Heavenly Father keeps His promises to His beloved children. Consider the following verses which verify this point:

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"
Numbers 23:19, KJV

"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."
Romans 3:4, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"
Titus 1:2, KJV

The Holy Scriptures plainly reveal to us that there is only one liar and deceiver, who is likewise the accuser of the Saints, and that is Satan himself. This is made evident by verses such as the following:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."
John 8:44, KJV

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as

gods, knowing good and evil."
Genesis 3:1-5, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ . . . And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."
2 Corinthians 11:3, 14, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."
Revelation 12:10, KJV

Returning to our previous topic of discussion, in addition to being the official Keeper of the Keys in God's Kingdom, we likewise know that Jesus Christ is in fact the Door that actually leads us into God's Kingdom. He is the one and only Door to Salvation and Eternal Life. This becomes evident by the following verses which are found in John chapter ten:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."
John 10:1-9, KJV

Of course, before we can ever hope to walk through the Door of Salvation, and enter into Eternal Life and the Kingdom of God, we must first be liberated from the prison of death in which we have been bound by our sins. Thankfully, once the keys were in His possession, Jesus had the Authority and the Power to open the prison doors, and to free the prisoners, as had been prophesied of Him by Isaiah, and exactly as He even told His listeners in the Gospels of Luke and John, as we see by the following verses:

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all

that mourn;"
Isaiah 61:1-2, KJV

"And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."
Luke 4:17-19, KJV

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free . . . If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."
John 8:31-32, 36, KJV

This freedom, this liberty from the bondage of death, hell and the physical corruption of our bodies in the grave is discussed in so many other places in the Scriptures as well. The Old Testament Patriarchs such as Job were aware of it, and the Apostle Paul certainly discussed it also, as we see by these sample verses:

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."
Job 19:25-27, KJV

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."
Romans 8:21, KJV

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."
2 Corinthians 3:17, KJV

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."
1 Corinthians 15:51-52, KJV

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, KJV

Clearly then, upon receiving the keys of death and of hell, Jesus Christ became our get-out-of-jail-free card. Jesus in fact became our get-out-of-the-grave card. He freed us all from the prison in which Satan had us bound. He opened the prison door and set the captives free. It is as if the Lord

has His foot in that prison door, so that the Devil can no longer shut it and keep us locked in. Furthermore, by way of His own loving Sacrifice on the Cross at Golgotha, Jesus became the Door into Heaven itself. He is the Door which no man can shut. Through Him, and Him alone, we receive the undeserved and unmerited Gift of Salvation, and thus may partake freely of the Water of Eternal Life, as we see by the following verses:

"Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."
John 4:13-14, KJV

"And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."
Revelation 21:6, KJV

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb . . . And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."
Revelation 22:1, 17, KJV

Before continuing our discussion regarding God's wonderful Gift of Salvation, let me just mention here that everything that we discussed in the previous paragraphs is meant to be understood in a symbolic sense. As you may know, there are many passages in the Scriptures which are symbolic as well as allegorical in nature. They aren't meant to be understood in an actual physical sense. This applies to the Revelation that was given to John as well. Some chapters in the Book of Revelation contain symbolism and allegory. In other words, as far as I know, for example, Jesus does not really hold a set of physical keys in His hand. As we have seen, it simply means that He holds Authority over death and hell.

If there is one important point which I hope you understand from all of the previous paragraphs, it is that our Salvation is completely and totally a Work of God through Jesus Christ. We are saved by Grace -- that is, by God's unmerited favor -- and not by our own works. Our Salvation is not a work of the flesh, and it does not hinge on one single thing that we can possibly do in the flesh. We simply cannot save ourselves by our own merit or supposed goodness. It is very important that you fully understand and embrace this Bible-based doctrine before we continue.

The next important point that you need to understand is that being as we were not able to save ourselves to begin with, it makes perfect sense that neither can we do anything to keep ourselves saved either. To suggest otherwise is to once again attempt to turn our faith into a religion of self-righteous works. In other words, if we fall under the erroneous belief that we have to continue doing certain things to make sure that our Salvation is not lost, have we not in fact switched from a Grace-based belief system back to a purely works-based religion? Have we not adopted a mentality whereby we believe

once again that we have to earn or merit Salvation and Eternal Life? Have we not switched from a Faith-based attitude which says "I know that I am saved by the Grace of God through my faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ" to a worrisome attitude which says "I hope that I am still saved. I hope that I have done enough so that God will let me in the door"?

Trust me; I know how subtle this temptation is to fall back into that erroneous attitude and frame of mind which causes us to wonder if we have done enough. I am not ashamed to say that I have caught myself doing it on a number of occasions as well. The fact of the matter is that our enough is never really going to be enough. That is exactly why we need Jesus; so why even entertain such a thought? In the Gospel of John, Jesus informs the Apostles that He has given to them -- and by extension to us as well -- His peace. The Prophet Isaiah likewise reminds us of the peace which we obtain through our trust in the Lord. Consider these verses:

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
John 14:27, KJV

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33, KJV

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."
Isaiah 26:3, KJV

How can we possibly even claim to have this peace if we are worrying all the time regarding whether or not we are still saved? It would frazzle the nerves and drive one absolutely crazy. If this is the situation in which you find yourself because you have fallen for the satanic deception, damnable heresy and misguided doctrine of devils which claims that you can lose your Salvation, it is now time for you to embrace the truth. In the words of the Apostle John, it is now time for you to know with an absolute certainty that if you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ, then you do have Eternal Life. You may not be able to actually see it or sense it at this current time, because you are still in the flesh, but according to God's Word, you are in fact in possession of it. As John writes in his Epistle:

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 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."
1 John 5:12-13, KJV

Do you truly believe those verses in your heart? Then why do you doubt and worry? Why do you question your Salvation? Why do you fret that you may lose it from one day to the next? Do you truly trust in God's ability to save you, or don't you?

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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OSAS: ARE WE ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED? : PART 3

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Jesus Will Never Cast Us Out Or Forsake Us, He Will Complete The Work He Has Begun In Us, Jesus Will Keep Us From Falling, Author And Finisher Of Our Faith, Abandonment And Betray In The Garden Of Gethsemane, Which Thou Hast Given Me, The Lord Knoweth Them That Are His, Only Jesus Can Keep Us All Saved, Jesus' Mission On Earth Was Confirmed Approved Authenticated By God The Father, Seal Of God Is God's Stamp Of Approval, Divine Agreement Is Sealed For Eternity, Seal Of God Is The Indwelling Of Holy Spirit Or Our Treasure In Earthen Vessels, We Become Parties To And Beneficiaries of Divine Agreement, We Confirm That God Is True By Accepting Christ's Testimony, God's Servants Are Sealed In Book Of Revelation, Earnest Of Our Inheritance Is Our Down Payment, Our Glorified Spiritual Bodies, Divine Agreement And Stipulation Can't Be Broached, Ludicrous To Think We Can Return Our Gift, Human Free Will Cannot Override Or Defeat God's Divine Purposes, Once Saved Always Saved, Impossible To Return The Gift, Know And Believe That You Have Eternal Life Now, Beware Of False Doctrine That Claims We Can Lose Our Salvation, Foolishness Of Repetitive Salvation Prayers, Deceiving, And Being Deceived, Importance Of Grounding Ourselves In God's Word, We Cannot Be "Unborn", We Must Only Be Saved Once Because Jesus Only Died Once For Our Sins, OSAS Isn't A Free License To Sin, Reading Resources

As I concluded in part two, if you have worried about whether or not you are still saved, it is time for you to embrace the truth of the Scriptures, and time to reject the erroneous and false doctrines of men. Exactly what is this wonderful truth? Given the preponderance of Scriptural evidence which I have now shared with you, it should be plain to see that the only one who can keep us saved, is the very same one who saved us in the first place. As the following verses reveal, not only has He saved us, but He likewise promises that He will never cast us out or forsake us. He will complete the work which He and His Father alone have begun in us. Furthermore, Jesus will also keep us from falling; so that He may be able to present us faultless before His Father:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
John 6:37, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My

Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."
John 10:28-29, KJV

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"
Philippians 1:6, KJV

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."
2 Timothy 1:12, KJV

"If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."
2 Timothy 2:13, KJV

"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, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."
Jude 1:24-25, KJV

Please notice in particular that Jesus informs us that we have been given to Him by His Father. It was our Heavenly Father's choice to save us from the start. Therefore, it is His choice alone to keep us saved as well. We have nothing to do with it. Because we did not start it, neither do we need to finish it. God the Father, through Jesus Christ, is the one true Author and Finisher of our faith. That being the case, why do you worry about losing your Salvation? The Apostle Paul clearly believed this to be true, as we plainly see in Philippians 1:6 above. In fact, Paul states the very same thing using slightly different words in the following verse:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."
Hebrews 12:2, KJV

Isn't it kind of silly then to think that you need to somehow try to keep yourself saved? How can you when you did not save yourself to begin with? Please notice how in 2 Timothy 2:13, Paul writes "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." In this verse, the word "believe" finds its origin in the Greek word "apisteo". According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the first meaning of this word is to betray a trust, or to be unfaithful. This is precisely what Peter and the other Apostles did in the Garden of Gethsemane, and afterwards as well. As we learned earlier, not only did all of them abandon the Lord in the Garden -- would we have done any differently? -- but then Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. Despite the fact that they clearly broke Jesus' trust in them; despite the fact that the fear of death drove them to be unfaithful so that they fled and left the Lord all alone in the hands of His enemies; nevertheless, Jesus still did not abandon them.

The question is, why would Jesus do this? They all acted very cowardly. They abandoned Him at His weakest moment and in His greatest hour of need -- as had been prophesied of them -- yet Jesus still forgave them, loved them and embraced them once He had risen from the dead. Why did He do this? Actually, I have already provided you with the answer in my previous remarks. It is found again in the following verses that are found in the Gospel of John:

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine . . . And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are . . . Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."
John 17:9, 11, 24, KJV

Do you see it? Concerning the Apostles, Jesus repeatedly says "which thou hast given me". He fully realized that they had been given to Him by His Father. They belonged to Him. Thus, He was not about to forsake them despite their weaknesses, or the fact that they had abandoned Him only a few days earlier. This offers us great hope as well; because it tells us that we can never be too bad for Jesus. Despite our sins, mistakes and failures, just like the father of the Prodigal Son, Jesus is always there waiting to forgive us and embrace us again. He will not cast out us, ever.

In similar fashion, the Apostle Paul informs us that the Lord knows that we all belong to Him. He knows that He paid a very high price for us in His own Blood. That is why He will never leave us or forsake us, or cast us out, regardless of what we do, and no matter how many times we fail Him. To reiterate, the Lord knows them that are His. Furthermore, He will keep us from falling. He alone can keep us saved, because He is the one who saved us in the first place. Consider this verse which confirms that Jesus recognizes us as His very own:

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

In the previous verse, the word "seal" is derived from the Greek word "sphragis". According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, this word signifies a seal, a signet ring, or the inscription or impression which is made by such a seal. It refers to that by which anything is confirmed, proved, or authenticated. According to the Scriptures, Jesus Christ was likewise sealed by His Father. In other words, His Mission on Earth was confirmed by, approved by, and authenticated by His Father. We can say that Jesus had His Father's stamp of approval. That is why Jesus was able to operate with the full Power and Authority of His Father, while He served as His Father's Ambassador here on Earth. Consider this verse:

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man

shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed."
John 6:27, KJV

In the previous verse, the word "sealed" is derived from the related Greek word "sphragizo". Following is the definition for this word, as provided by Thayer's Greek English Lexicon:

- 1) to set a seal upon, mark with a seal, to seal
 - 1a) for security: from Satan
 - 1b) since things sealed up are concealed (as the contents of a letter), to hide, keep in silence, keep secret
 - 1c) in order to mark a person or a thing
 - 1c1) to set a mark upon by the impress of a seal or a stamp
 - 1c2) angels are said to be sealed by God
 - 1d) in order to prove, confirm, or attest a thing
 - 1d1) to confirm authenticate, place beyond doubt
 - 1d1a) of a written document
 - 1d1b) to prove one's testimony to a person that he is what he professes to be

As I point out in the article entitled "Backsliding, Divine Chastisement and the Divine Agreement", our Heavenly Father and His Son made an important Agreement regarding our eternal fate. According to this divinely approved Agreement, our sins can be purged, we can be saved and we can receive Everlasting Life, if we place our faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. That is what Jesus means in the previous verse when He states that He has the Power to give us Everlasting Life, because He has been sealed by God the Father. In other words, His Father confirmed, approved, authenticated and signed this Agreement. Thus, this agreement is sealed for all of eternity.

Because Jesus was sealed by His Father; because His Mission of Mercy to the Earth received the Divine Stamp of Approval of His Father; we Christians are likewise sealed in the very same manner when we place our faith in Him. As I explain in the article entitled "A Treasure in Earthen Vessels: God's Promise of the Spirit", the Apostle Paul informs us that this Divine Seal manifests itself in the form of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within our earthen vessels; that is, within our bodies of clay. Consider the following verses which make this point clear:

"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, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."
Ephesians 1:13-14, KJV

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."
2 Corinthians 4:7, KJV

So as you can clearly see, once we come to Jesus Christ, we are in fact sealed with the Holy Spirit. By proxy, we are made parties to, and likewise become the beneficiaries of, the Divine Agreement which was made between the Father and the Son. We receive the Father's Divine Stamp of Approval, as purchased possessions of Jesus Christ. Not only that, but as the following verse reveals, by accepting the testimony

of Jesus Christ, we are confirming that God is true. In this verse, the entire phrase "hath set to his seal" is likewise derived from the same Greek word "sphragizo"

"He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true."

John 3:33, KJV

In the Book of Revelation we find another example regarding how God's servants receive a symbolic seal -- or the Divine Stamp of Approval -- so that they are miraculously protected during the time that the people of the Earth experience the plagues that are released as a result of the sounding of the Seven Trumpets of the Lord:

"And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."

Revelation 7:2-3, KJV

"And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads."

Revelation 9:4, KJV

As we learned earlier, the Lord knows them that are His. He has absolutely no doubts about it. He knows exactly who has been called, predestinated and chosen by His Father, and who has been given to Him by His Father. The Lord recognizes His purchased possessions, because we have what the Apostle Paul refers to in his Epistle to the Ephesians as "the earnest of our inheritance". The word "earnest" is translated from the Greek word "arrhabon". This word literally means a pledge or a down payment. In other words, we possess just a very small portion of the Spirit. However, it is enough for Jesus to know that we are His. Someday, however, we will receive "the redemption of the purchased possession". In other words, we will receive our new, glorified spiritual bodies, which will be very similar to that of Jesus Christ Himself. Be inspired by the following verses:

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"

Romans 6:4-5, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which

is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."
2 Corinthians 5:1-4, KJV

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."
Philippians 3:21, KJV

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."
1 John 3:2, KJV

"There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."
1 Corinthians 15:40-52, KJV

As a result of all of the previous Scriptural evidence, for my part, I remain convinced that the Divine Agreement between our Heavenly Father and His Son is eternal and everlasting. It cannot be broached. Its terms and stipulations are certain and sure. Therefore, those of us who have become parties to this Divine Agreement through our faith in Christ, can also have the peace and assurance of knowing that our Salvation is likewise sure and unshakeable. Once we have received Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our Salvation is forever. There are just no if's, and's or but's about it. Not even Satan can deny us our right to Salvation and Eternal Life once we are washed in the precious Blood of the Lamb; for as Jesus Himself informs us, no one can pluck us out of His Father's hand.

Quite frankly, in my view, it is ludicrous to think that God the Father -- the Creator of the Universe -- went through so much trouble by making such a Divine Agreement with His Son, and by setting His very own Royal Seal and Stamp of Approval

on said Agreement, just to have His purposes defeated by free will and personal choice, as some Christians erroneously seem to believe. Contrary to the erroneous comments that were made by the person who motivated me to write this series, I do not believe that we can mark "return" on our free Gift. As far as I am concerned, the phrase "once saved, always saved" -- or OSAS, as it is sometimes referred to -- is in fact absolutely true. To believe otherwise is like saying that we can somehow be "unborn" in the Spirit. Where in the world do we find that false doctrine in the Scriptures? Obviously, we don't. It is utterly ridiculous to believe such a thing. As we saw in part two, the Apostle John wrote the following to the Christian brethren in his first Epistle:

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 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."

1 John 5:12-13, KJV

It is evident that John wanted his readers to know with full confidence and assurance that they had Eternal Life. John did not doubt his Salvation, and he wanted to make certain that the Disciples did not doubt theirs either. If John had really believed that it was possible for one to lose their Salvation, he would not have written the previous verses. Lord help us all to have the faith to believe as John believed, and to not doubt our Salvation, no matter what anyone else says. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and the Finisher of our faith, and maintain our faith in the promises which are found in God's Word, because in the end, that is all that really matters.

Beware of the misguided doctrines of men which claim that we can lose our Salvation. Sadly, due to their lack of a proper understanding of God's Word, there are some people who twist and pervert the meaning of the Scriptures, and thereby fill others with fear and doubt regarding the Gift which we have freely received through our faith in Jesus Christ. Over the years, I have even heard of certain people who have adopted the totally unnecessary practice of repeatedly praying some kind of Salvation prayer. Because of this wayward doctrine which teaches them that they can lose their Salvation, every time that they fall or commit a sin, they think that they need to pray again, and to accept the Lord again. It's crazy. As I asked in part two, how can any Christian have the Lord's peace if they are constantly living in such a confusing state of uncertainty regarding their Salvation?

One problem is that such people's faith is not grounded in God's Word as it should be. Rather, it is grounded in the doctrines and opinions of men. That is why these people are so easily swayed by this false doctrine which claims that we can lose our Salvation. I am reminded of the following verse:

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

Ephesians 4:14, KJV

Please note that some of these people who teach others that they can lose their Salvation do not necessarily deceive on purpose. It is simply that they are deceived themselves, and thus unknowingly serve as conduits to spread the deception even further. I have even seen some people refer to OSAS -- Once Saved, Always Saved -- as a doctrine of doctrines, due to their own deception. As the Apostle Paul also writes in his second Epistle to Timothy:

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."
2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

As I mentioned a moment ago, the key to not falling under the deception which claims that we can lose our Salvation, is to simply ground ourselves firmly in God's Word. That is exactly what I have been doing with you by way of this series. I have been grounding you in the Scriptures, so that as the Apostle John writes, you may know and believe that God has fulfilled His promises to you, and that you have the Gift of Salvation and Eternal Life, right now, by faith. As the Apostle Paul writes in his Epistle to the Roman brethren:

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing, by the Word of God."
Romans 10:17, KJV

If you are weak in this area, and if you often find yourself questioning your Salvation, then it is imperative that you bolster your faith by reading and memorizing Scriptures which pertain to the topic of Eternal Salvation and the promises of God. I also encourage you to read such articles as "A Verse a Day to Keep the Doubts Away". It contains some of the very same Scriptures which I have included in this series. You will find additional reading resources listed at the end of this series.

To reiterate a key point of this series, it is necessary to accept Christ's Atonement -- and thus be symbolically washed in the Blood of the Lamb -- one time only, because we cannot somehow be "unborn" once we are saved, and have been sealed with the Spirit. The Divine Agreement is eternal, and we are likewise sealed for eternity. Thus, we do not need to pray over and over again to be saved, each time that we commit an error, fall and sin. Once we are saved, that is the end of it. God's Word says that we are saved, and I believe it. The reason why we only need to accept Christ one time, is simply because the Bible plainly teaches us that Jesus died one time -- and one time only -- for our sins, and He is not going to ever do it again. Please consider the following verses which clearly confirm this point:

"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin ONCE: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God."
Romans 6:9-10, KJV

"But this man, [Jesus] because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high

priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did ONCE, when he offered up himself."
Hebrews 7:24-27, KJV

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in ONCE into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."
Hebrews 9:11-12, KJV

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now ONCE in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself . . . So Christ was ONCE offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."
Hebrews 9:24-26, 28, KJV

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE for all."
Hebrews 10:10, KJV

"For Christ also hath ONCE suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"
1 Peter 3:18, KJV

One argument which is sometimes used by certain people who reject the OSAS -- Once Saved, Always Saved -- doctrine, is to claim that believing in OSAS is a free license to sin. In other words, according to this misguided misconception, if we believe that we are saved regardless of what we do, then we can do as we please -- including live a life of sin -- and not have to worry about. This argument is absolutely false, and there are only two reasons that I can personally think of regarding why OSAS critics would promote this lie. Either they honestly do not understand what the Once Saved, Always Saved doctrine really means, or else they really do know what OSAS means, but are purposely being deceptive by promoting this lie.

For my part, I most certainly do not believe that OSAS gives us a free license to sin. In fact, I have authored a number of articles where I discuss God's dealings with His wayward children, as a result of rebellion, disobedience and sin in our lives. These include "Beholding the Evil and the Good", "The Fruits of Disobedience", "Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?", as well as "Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement". Just because we are saved and sealed with the Spirit for eternity does not mean that we can just do as we please. There are consequences for sin, both in this life, as well as afterwards in the judgment to come.

While there is obviously a lot more that I can say regarding the OSAS doctrine, I will refrain myself, being as I do not wish to overburden you with too much reading. I realize that the Once Saved, Always Saved doctrine has been a great source of contention, division and debate amongst theologians, Bible teachers and other Christians for many years now. Everyone is convinced of their particular point of view. To those of you who may possibly disagree with my position, please note that I am strongly opposed to doctrinal debate, for reasons which I fully explain in the article entitled "Should Christians Engage in Doctrinal Debates?". As such, please do not email me with your arguments; do not seek to debate this issue on my Facebook timeline; and do not seek to argue with me via Facebook private chat. Please be considerate, and please be wise, by respecting my wishes. Thank you.

With these thoughts I will bring this series to a close. I hope that you have found it informative, and I pray that it has been a blessing and an inspiration in your life. If you have enjoyed reading this series, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to the topics which were discussed in this series. All of them are also located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

- A Fantastic Party! Are You Coming?
- A Treasure in Earthen Vessels: God's Promise of the Spirit
- A Verse a Day to Keep the Doubts Away
- All Are Given a Chance, But . . .
- Apostasy of Oprah Winfrey: America's False Prophetess?
- Are You Saved and Sealed and Healed and Filled?
- Backsliding, Divine Chastisement and the Divine Agreement
- Beholding the Evil and the Good
- Child of the Lamb, or Child of the Goat?
- Death: Final Battle, Final Victory
- Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?
- Hell, the Lake of Fire and Universalism
- Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?
- Lies and Deceptions of the Roman Catholic Church
- Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement
- Message to the World
- Not Everyone is a Child of God
- Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service
- Peter: Faith Tried in the Fire
- Salvation is Free!
- Should Christians Engage in Doctrinal Debates?
- Sluggards and Sloths: Are You Diligent and Faithful in the Affairs of God's Kingdom?
- Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?
- The Fruits of Disobedience

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