

ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED?

There has been such a constant war between those who believe once saved always saved and those who do not. The tricky part about the Bible is that there are many antithetical verses. For example as we read in Proverbs, “Do not answer a fool according to his folly,” then in the next verse we read, “Answer a fool lest he thinks himself wise.” (Proverbs 26). So what do we do? Answer a fool or not. You have a verse to justify both actions.

This is precisely why we should never make a doctrine out of a single verse. Sometimes what applies for the thief on the cross ie, last minute salvation, may not apply for us. I think though sometimes we feel fully assured of the once saved always saved, my question is, “What if it is not so?” Then it spells trouble. Is our salvation eternally secure, no matter how we live, how we drink, what we watch etc.

When it comes to salvation even Paul writes,

Romans 2:14-16 (NKJV) ¹⁴for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) ¹⁶in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

So ultimately the Judge will be Jesus Christ and every judgement is subject to His decision. There is a parameter for the gentile, yet the Lord is just.

Let us go to the parable Jesus said about forgiveness. We know the story. Two men were in debt. In the first case the King forgave a really huge sum for the first man. When the second chap who was indebted to the first, begged for mercy, the first chap who had received mercy failed to forgive the paltry sum and cast him into the prison. The end is interesting. The first fellow rightfully should have gone to the prison. But he was forgiven and let free. But when he failed to reciprocate the forgiveness he received he got back the prison sentence. The grace was revoked. I was really wondering whether this may also be applicable to salvation. (Mathew 17:21-35)

When we squander our salvation can we lay claim to it? I really wonder! Knowing that you live in dirty sin and yet carrying on such a life, telling yourself because you are once saved you are always saved, may not always hold true. What if it's wrong?

What if God decides to charge you with the same punishment which He forgave earlier, the way He did with the unforgiving servant. No no I don't want to scare you. But we cannot sit in a doctrinal issue and continue sinning because you think your place in heaven is assured. What if it is not? Have you thought about it?

Jesus clearly says, " He who endures till the end will be saved." Mathew 24,13. Why should He say this if you are once saved, you are eternally saved?

My dear young friend beware of doctrinal traps. Look to the Word of God. If we do not go by the parameters of God, we may lose more than we can imagine. Do not hide your sin behind the once saved, always saved screen. God's eyes will still see what's in your heart and judge accordingly.

Praying God gives us the strength to slip away from the subtle snares of the evil one and be renewed by the Power of His Blood every passing day.