

*** This is contested Subject that we are exploring as a church. Only God truly know the who and why of salvation. ***

For the last month or so we have been talking about who is the authority in our lives.

- We call ourselves Christians but what does that mean?

Let's say for example you say "*I'm a Trump supporter*" – the natural thought of someone hearing you is that they believe that you will side with him on all issues that pertain to this country.

So, when we say we are a Christian automatically people will assume that we are aligning ourselves with Christ – in whatever way that **they understand Christ**, even if their understanding of Christ is wrong.

- How do the people develop their opinion of Christianity?
 - By observing what they see us doing who claim to be under the authority of Christ. They assume that our failed behavior is representative of what Christ is like.
 - The biggest issue that non-believer observe is that Christians are not forgiving and yet we constantly talk about Christ forgiving.

Last week Perry Swy talked about forgiveness in our Christian life. This was timely coming off the Resurrection celebration. The point of Christ death and resurrection was to complete the final sacrifice to God providing forgiveness of our sins. Christ and God provided the perfect example of forgiveness for us.

- This is what a leader does. Provide the example and encouragement so that you can do the task at hand.

Unforgiveness slowly destroys us – and this is what Satan wants to happen to you. Jesus has provided a solution and shown us the way.

Truly being in Jesus makes him the authority we look to and live under because he has the answers as we live our lives.

- **Pray**

Jesus is not only the Lord of our life, but He is the Lord of our salvation.

A true believer in Christ quickly comes to realize (many times over and over) that as we struggle and make mistakes we are not looking to Jesus and scripture for the answers.

If I tell you don't touch that because it's hot and will burn you, and yet you continue to touch it what does that make you? (Dave)

Yes, but you come back and say: "Well I like the way it feels." until you're hospitalized with their degree burns and a severe infection. Then you say: "How did this happen?"

So, I want to talk to you for a couple of weeks about our salvation.

If you have any questions about salvation, I would like you to get a piece of paper and write down your question. Hand it to me at the end of the service or put it on my desk. In the next couple of weeks, I will attempt to address all your questions and concerns.

So, here's the first question we are going to address. And this may cause you to ask other related questions. This first question was asked to me twice this past week.

The one person asked out of genuine concern while the other was trying to prove I didn't know what I was talking about.

Either way the question is valid.

- ***"Can I lose my salvation?"***

Before I answer the question let me ask you this:

- If I could lose my salvation, then I would live my life in terror because as good as I could be there is the very real possibility that right at the last moment I might think or do something wrong that would land me in hell.
- Do you really think that God wants you to live with no assurance of your salvation in Christ? NO.

Yet Jesus himself states in Matthew 5 that if you look at another woman with a lustful thought it is adultery. Men we are all guilty. Or, if anyone is angry with a brother or sister you are under judgment for murder.

So, if there is no assurance of salvation and I can lose my salvation because of sin, and Jesus defines sin as something as simple as a wrong thought then folks we are all going to hell.

Now there is an opposite argument to this. Some people say that salvation is as simple saying a pray asking Jesus into your heart and no matter what you do after that you are always saved.

On one hand it would seem impossible to stay saved and on the other hand it's as simplistic as a prayer and your always saved.

- ***Can I lose my salvation?***
- ***What does the Bible say?***

1. Romans 10:1-15

- a. Paul is saying that before Christ the Jewish people relied on the law in trying to be “righteous” but since they couldn’t discover righteousness, they sought to establish their own righteousness apart from God.
- b. For the Jew it was strict adherence to the law to try and gain righteousness, but Paul states the Jesus was the end

of the law so that there might be righteousness for everyone who believes.

- i. It’s a contrast between **Actions** that don’t lead to salvation or **Beliefs** that leads to salvation.
- c. But the **belief** has to be in something that has the power to rescue us from the final judgment – the action by Jesus Christ that put an end to the law’s condemning power.
 - d. So if I have a stray thought or I get angry with my brother I am not condemned to hell because I am in Jesus and he has the power to rescue me from judgment **i.e. salvation.**
 - e. Paul also states in this passage that you need to confess!
 - i. What is it you need to confess? That “Jesus is Lord” and believe it in your heart.
 - ii. This is not trivial – because by believing it in your heart you will act on your belief. So, when the temptation or sin is present you will recognize it and turn back to the authority in your life, your Lord Jesus, who has the answers and power to save you from the final judgment **i.e. salvation.**

2. **1 John 5:11** *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

- a. Through our new birth in Christ God has given us eternal life, it says nothing about temporary life. Our eternal life is already in progress. This material life is effectively our childhood where we are learning to be mature and trust in Christ as Lord completely.

- b. God **has** given us eternal life. Past tense!
 - c. So when did my eternal life start – when I prayed and claimed Jesus as Lord of my life and believed It with my heart?
3. **Romans 8:28-32** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. 31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- a. Take note of the process from verse 29 to 30. Where are we in the process? It’s complete in us?
- b. Go over process
- c. If I’m in Christ and he is at the right hand of God interceding form me then I’m already glorified.
- d. Pay careful attention to verse 28 – “we know” – “in all things” God works in those who love him and are called by him.
- e. Verse 38 – Paul states that he is convince that nothing in all creation can separate those who are called from the love of God.

So, the answer to the question: *Can I lose my salvation?* Is if you are called you cannot!

Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24: “*May the God of peace sanctify you completely . . . at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful: he will surely do it.*”

So, the logic here is that if God has called you He will keep you for the last day and you will be standing with Christ saved from the final judgment of creation. You just can get around this biblical fact!

You cannot lose your salvation if you are called because our God is faithful to complete what he has started in your life.

The next logical question is: “**Am I called; how do I know?**”

So, I’m going to ask you to be in prayer about this throughout the week.

What's interesting about this is that it is relatively simple. Jesus place a child in the midst of the group in Peter's home and stated you must be like this child to enter the kingdom of heaven. In other words: completely believing the words of the Father and Son.

Accepting what scripture says as the truth and living by it. This **is what a called person does**. God called you to be His son or daughter and you trust His words.

Jesus, when his sermons got really hard for people to accept and they were leaving him, Jesus asked the disciples if they was going to leave, also. **Peter's response is what a called person responds**. "*Where would we go, you have the words of eternal life. We **believe and know** that you are the Holy One of God.*"

If the Holy Spirit has revealed this to you it's time to confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord!

If you've **never done it** or are **not living by it** you need to do it today, do it now!