Once Saved, Always Saved?

Introduction

To make sure that we are on the same page when discussing “once saved always saved” and whether it is true or not, I will read what I believe to be the common belief on this doctrine from www.allaboutgod.com:

*The Bible teaches “once saved, always saved” -- that we can be saved once and for all only through a repentant, saving faith in Jesus Christ. Once a person has accepted Christ as Savior, they may wonder if it is possible to lose that salvation. What if they commit a sin? What if they commit a lot of sins? What if they do something very, very wrong? Is it possible to be saved, and then lose that salvation? Fortunately, the answer is a resounding “no.” Once a person has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, he/she is forever saved. This fact is referred to as the doctrine of “eternal security,” often summarized as “once saved, always saved.”*

Before diving directly into the concept of “once saved, always saved”, I would like to address something else in that exert that I read, in regards to salvation. Normally, I’m not one for prying apart the way someone words something – many people - myself included - may phrase something incorrectly, but the meaning or intention can still be understood. But when people talk about salvation by “accepting Christ” – we know that that is not enough.

Accepting Christ

“Accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour”, what does that mean?

FamilyShare.com says, in regards to accepting someone, “*To accept someone is to show respect for and validation of who they are, what they do, and for the life and path they chose. It by no means agreeing with or approving of anything about another. You don’t have to like it. Yet, you can always accept it as being a part of everything that is.*”

**Phil. 2:5**

* Simply accepting Christ and what he does doesn’t work for salvation, as we need to **agree** with Christ – we need to have the same mindset and beliefs as Him
* We need to approve of what Christ did for us and be right alongside Him

No another meaning of accept is to receive something, but is receiving Christ enough – is simply believing in Christ and recognizing his validity and truth enough?

**James 2:19-20**

* Faith alone – simply accepting Christ and accepting that what He says is true is not enough – even the demons belief and tremble – the demons know who God is – they know who the Son of God is – they recognize Christ and who He is…

**Acts 19:13-15**

* We find here an evil spirit is was aware of Jesus and knew who He was – the spirit recognized the significance of Christ and of Paul – a follower of Christ
* And of course, the spirit did not recognize these Jewish exorcists who had took it upon themselves to call on the name of the Lord

The bottom line for what I’m getting at here is that – like we’ve looked at when studying the church and the importance of baptism: Faith alone is not enough for salvation – we’ve looked at in prior lessons, on needing to hear the word, believe it, confess Christ, repent, and be baptized.

I wanted to briefly bring that to mind because if we are going to look at “once saved, always saved”, before looking at whether we are always saved, we need to first determine if we have been saved in the first place.

The Gift is Eternal

One element I want to touch on first is that the salvation Jesus provides – the gift He offers is indeed eternal.

**1 John 2:25**

* Our promise – our gift is eternal life
* The grand inheritance that awaits the faithful followers of Christ is everlasting and will have no end.
* I bring this up because part of the argument that tends to get brought up in “once saved, always saved” is that God provides eternal life and so once we are saved our salvation is also eternal
* Now just because the gift will last forever, doesn’t mean our grip on it will hold fast – we can’t reasonably make that leap

**1 Peter 1:23**

* In just a few moments, we will look at a number of passages that tend to be used to support “once saved, always saved”, and this is one such verse that fits in to our look at the eternal nature of God and His gift
* We are born of incorruptible seed (Jesus) – and many say “well then we cannot be corrupted”
* But notice that this verse doesn’t say that we are incorruptible but that the seed is incorruptible – and that is absolutely true – Jesus Christ is perfect and incorruptible
* God and His words are eternal, Christ – the Seed – is incorruptible, but we can be cut off from that perfect vine

**John 15:1-2**

* Notice that Christ is speaking of believers – He speaks of branches that are in Him – in Christ – those in Christ who do not bear fruit – who are not actively and faithfully following Christ will be taken away – they will be cut off
* Now we will return to looking at this type of passage that goes against “once saved, always saved” but first let’s take a look at passages that are used to support OSAS…

Verses in “Support” of OSAS

**John 10:27-29**

* The first thing here is that Jesus offers eternal life, which we looked at earlier and eternal life does not equate to a salvation that cannot be lost, but what about the parts about they shall never perish” and no one will snatch them away?
* We will look at another passage in Romans in a bit, which says something along the same lines and that is that no one can rip us from our Saviour’s loving arms – no one can snatch us away – Jesus has provided all that we need and it is up to us whether we make it or not
* Notice in verse 27, it is those that follow Jesus that have this assurance – it is a journey that we need to continue to push forward on – in 2 Timothy, which we’ll read later on, Paul speaks of running the race – we need to continue to run if we want that prize
* The gift is free, but that doesn’t mean we don’t need to work for it

**Eph. 1:13-14**

* Those who obey the gospel are sealed or marked with the Holy Spirit, we read here – and we read of a guarantee, but let’s note that we don’t read that we are then guaranteed that promise unconditionally, but it is the Holy Spirit who acts as our guarantee
* As long as we bear the mark or seal of the Holy Spirit we are guaranteed, but we don’t read that we cannot lose that connection with the Spirit

**Rom. 8:38-39**

* Paul lists a number of things that he is confident does not have the ability to remove us from God – and many point to this passage and say nothing can remove our connection with God, yet note that Paul lists outside forces only
* He does not say that we cannot remove our own connection – the idea I get from this is that no one can force us to lose our salvation – as we looked at last week, we have choice – and we can choose to leave Christ or remain steadfast

Verses Against OSAS

**1 Cor. 9:27**

* Paul says himself, that he needs to discipline himself to ensure that he does not become disqualified, if we are OSAS then this makes no sense because that teaching states that we cannot be disqualified
* Instead we need to work for Christ and bear fruit, so that we are not cut off, as we read earlier in John 15:1-2

**John 15:1-2,6, 10**

* Not abiding with Jesus means we are cast out – we will be cut off and cast into fire if we do not remain in Christ
* And in verse 10 we read of the condition for remaining with Christ: we need to keep His commandments
* If we keep the commandments, we will abide in Christ and hold on to His gift, but of course the opposite is true: if we do not keep the commandments and instead let go of Christ, we will no longer abide in Jesus

**Matt. 24:13**

* This is a very clear verse that is short and to the point – and it is Jesus Himself making the point: Jesus said that he who **endures** to the end is saved
* If we wish to receive that gift of eternal life and enjoy the happiness of eternal salvation, we need to endure – because if we do not endure – if we only obey for a little while and then stop – if we fall away, we no longer fall into the condition Christ laid out for us here in this verse

**Rev. 3:5**

* We can look to Revelations for examples of salvation taken away – examples or mentionings of names being removed from the Book of Life
* We need to overcome so that our name is not blotted out, which means that it is possible to have our name’s removed or blotted out of that great book

**Rev. 22:18-19**

* We receive a warning here for having our name removed from Book of Life – and losing out on the great paradise that is described for us in Revelations
* Our part can be taken away and then instead of eternal life, we will have everlasting torment

Some may say “so names can be taken out of the Book of Life, that doesn’t they have lost their salvation right?”

**Rev. 20:15**

* It is clearly pointed out here that if your name isn’t in the book of life, then you will be thrown into that lake of fire – that fire reserved for the devil and his followers as Jesus stated in Matthew 25:41
* It is a serious matter of losing your portion of paradise when your name is removed from the Book of Life

**James 5:19-20**

* Paul is speaking to the brethren – those who are saved – and says that it is possible to wander from truth – and that wandering from the truth leads to death – those who are saved and have that hope of eternal life can wander away and then be headed for death – brothers and sisters in Christ can perish
* But the wonderful thing is that we can save souls from **death** – we can turn the lost back and their soul can be saved from death and a multitude of sins can be covered

Conclusion

**2 Tim. 4:6-8**

* Paul compared the spiritual journey to a race – if you stop running in a race you can’t claim the prize
* Note Paul said “Finally” – like it isn’t a guarantee until the end
* Once we have crossed the finish line, then we can rest in that promise of eternal life – everlasting salvation

---- Also consider 2 Cor. 13:5-6 – possible to be “disqualified”