

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



October 30, 2016

Contact Us:

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325-646-7102
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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study.....9:45 AM
Worship.....10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Can a Child of God Be Lost?

Salvation is a gift of God's grace in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. That gift is procured through our faithful response to the call of the Gospel. Like many other promises of God, the promise of salvation is conditional – conditioned on our enduring faithfulness until either death calls us home or the Lord returns.

The euphoria of receiving salvation through Jesus Christ is often soon replaced by the terrifying possibility that you may have sinned and will be lost. People express it in different ways, but the concern is the same: Once saved, will I always be saved, or is it possible to act in such a way that my eternal salvation will be in jeopardy?

There are those who believe that a Christian can never act in such a way as to be lost. Some argue that the question hinges on the use of the word "Christian." The argument is that a true Christian will always conduct himself/herself in accordance with Scripture and will never be lost. For support, proponents of this position cite 1 John 3:9, "*Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.*" Is this verse teaching that it is impossible for a child of God (i.e. Christian) to sin? The short answer to this question is an unequivocal "NO." Since that is true, then what is this verse teaching?

John uses three expressions in the context of this verse, an understanding of which is vital to this issue. The first two are found in verse eight ("*sins*" and "*sinned from the beginning*"). The latter phrase is from the Greek word *harmartanei* which is in the present tense. The present tense indicates a settled character, like that of the devil, who has been sinning from the beginning. The former statement concerns the continuation of sin. That is, a child of God will not continue to "live in sin" (*harmartian ou poiei*). Again, what is contemplated here is not an isolated act of sin, but the habit of sin, the continuation of sin. This is indicated by the verb *poiei*, which means to "do" or to "practice." The third statement (in v. 9) is that the Christian cannot "go on sinning" (*ou dynatai hamartanein*). Here, the verb is a present infinitive. This is important because it signifies that the Christian is not a habitual sinner. If the expression had been in the aorist tense, then it would indicate the impossibility of sin. What John is arguing, therefore, is not the impossibility of committing a sin, but rather that continuing the habitual practice of sinning is inconsistent with the character of being a faithful Christian. It logically follows that if a Christian acts out of character in a habitual sinful manner, then that Christian's salvation is, at best, in peril unless he repents.

Please note that the emphasis here is on a person who habitually turns back to a life of sin. All people, even Christians, will stumble and fall short of God's glory (see

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"When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"
Matthew 16:13-17



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Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8). However, this is not to be interpreted to mean that when a Christian sins that all hope is lost. A person who has entered into a proper and covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, and who has dedicated their life as a living sacrifice to Jesus (Rom. 12:1-2), has two tremendous blessings which follow them. First, they have an Advocate with God. Jesus Christ stands eternally before the Father pleading our case (see 1 John 2:1-2). Second, we have the promise that as long as we are striving to walk in the light of God's way, the blood of Christ will continually cleanse us from all sin (see 1 John 1:7). Surely, walking in the light of God would include obedience to His commands, a penitent spirit, appropriate worship, etc.

Some will argue this implies that salvation may be earned by "works" and that the position is in violation of such passages as Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Their argument is that salvation is by grace through faith and that works have no part in our salvation. It is agreed that we could never do enough to save ourselves, but part of God's grace that brings salvation includes service and obedience on our part. Notice carefully verse 10 of the same chapter: "For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**" (emp. added). God has prepared a pattern of good works and expects His children to do them. It is to these works which Paul refers in Philippians 2:12, when he says to "work out your own salvation." The same is true in James 2 as he declares that faith in God is demonstrated by our obedience in doing God's works. To fail to walk in God's ordained works is sin (see James 4:17); and, unforgiven sin will cost you your salvation.

Further, scriptural support for the position that a Christian can so sin as to be lost is found in the following verses. "You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:4). "...for Demas has forsaken me, hav-

ing loved this present world..." (2 Tim. 4:10). "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent" (Rev. 2:5). "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: 'A dog returns to his own vomit,' and, 'a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.'" (2 Peter 2:20-22).

In the Galatian passage, baptized believers had returned to the practice of the Law of Moses rather than the practice of the Law of Christ. Paul declared they had fallen from the very thing that could save them, grace.

In the Timothy passage, Paul declares that Demas is now in love with the world. If 1 John 2:15 is a valid commentary on Demas' love of the world, then Demas was in danger of being lost eternally because the love of the Father was not in him.

In the passage from Revelation 2:5, Jesus points out that the entire congregation in Ephesus had fallen, and that they must return, repent, and do the first works again. If not, Christ would remove their candlestick. In other words, He would cease to recognize them as a congregation of His church.

The 2nd Peter passage is one of the most vivid expressions of the possibility of apostasy to be found in Holy Writ. Notice that those whom the apostle addresses had escaped sin through Jesus Christ. However, they became entangled in worldliness after their deliverance by Christ. Peter is plain: it would have been better had they never known salvation than to have accepted it and then forsaken it. He compares it to a dog eating its own vomit and a pig returning to the mud. There is no indication

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

Oct. 30 **John 16-18**

Oct. 31 **John 19-21**

Nov. 1 **Acts 1-3**

Nov. 2 **Acts 4-6**

Nov. 3 **Acts 7-9**

Nov. 4 **Acts 10-12**

Nov. 5 **Acts 13-15**

Nov. 6 **Acts 16-18**

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **45 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **The ladies had a very successful Ladies' Day yesterday.** There were 65 in attendance, with 16 congregations represented! Becky Blackmon brought some very good lessons.
- ◆ There will be a **wedding shower for Caitlin and Ryan Settles** this evening after services. Selections are at Wal-mart. A place for cards and gifts of money will be provided. Cake and ice cream will be provided. **This is for everyone—not just the ladies!**
- ◆ The next **Ladies "Digging Deeper" Bible study and fellowship** will be at the McCaghren's, November 8th.
- ◆ There are some new DVDs in the old teacher's workroom for members to borrow and return.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 26-29—Spring Gospel Meeting with Russell Bell.

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Nov. 6-9—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs with Josh Romo
- ◆ Dec. 9-11—"Family Matters" Seminar @ Lake Shore Drive (Waco).

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that their initial conversion was lacking in sincerity. They had come seeking salvation, found it, and then rejected it. The logical conclusion is that those who persist in such behavior, even those who had once tasted the heavenly gift of salvation, can be lost.

There are some who respond to all of this by saying that if it is possible for a child of God to be lost, then there is no way of being assured of salvation. Not true! The certainty of salvation comes from a careful examination of our lives against the word of God. For example, Paul tells us to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:1-5). Again, Paul says that we can remain blameless and above reproach in the sight of Jesus IF WE CONTINUE in the faith. Peter tells us to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10) by applying the qualities listed in verses 3-9 of 2 Peter 1.

In summary, salvation is a gift of God's grace in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. That gift is procured through our faithful response to the call of the Gospel. Those who hold true to the principles of Christianity, even though they may sin from time to time, will benefit from the never ending flow of Christ's blood as a means by which those sins can be forgiven. However, those who are in the faith may, by abandoning the faith, return to the ways of the world. If they leave this life without having repented of going back into the world and then returning to the works of God, they will be lost. There is simply no other conclusion to be reached.

Like many other promises of God, the promise of salvation is conditional – conditioned on our enduring faithfulness until either death calls us home or the Lord returns. *"But he who endures to the end shall be saved"* (Matt. 24:13). Knowing this, the admonition of Revelation 2:10 surely becomes most urgent: *"Be faithful until death..."* (Rev. 2:10).

Robert N. Lambert

(Seek The Old Paths, Vol. 27:9 [Sept. 2016], pp. 70-71)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

November Birthdays: Susan Bridges (1), Canyon Edwards (6), Linda Jimenez (8), Tammy Rudloff (8), Emilee Evetts (13), Randy Huckaby (15), Terry Teague (17), Christy Edwards (24), Marcia Turnbull (24).

November Anniversaries: Gene & Barbara Bannister (6), Jack & Judie Turner (18).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Oct. 16, 2016	Oct. 23, 2016
Bible Class	52	51
AM Worship	78	75
PM Worship	61	47
Wednesday PM	56	46
Contribution	\$2,396	\$2,157

This Week: 10/30/16		Next Week: 11/6/16		October 2016	
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister	
Greeters	Maninger Family	James & Cindy Fuller		Make Announcements: Don Smith	
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Don Smith		Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Communion	Randy Huckaby*, Allen Bland Don Smith, Jack Turner	Allen Griffith*, Larry Petty John Barnum, Ryan Rudloff		Clean Building: M & P Bannister / Greer	
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Gene Bannister		Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group	
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Ian Barnum		November 2016	
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: James Fuller		Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		Make Announcements: Ken Maninger	
Scripture Reading	James Fuller	Joe Dennis		Prepare Communion: Mike & Patti Bannister	
Communion	Randy Huckaby	Allen Griffith		Clean Building: John Barnum Family	
Closing Prayer	Joe Dennis	Hank Wheeler			
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 2 Prayer Night	November 9 Don Smith	November 16 Joe Dennis	November 23 Allen Griffith	

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of October 30, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans 2:28ff**
Wed. Class **What Does It Mean to be Just a Christian?**

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Who Is Jesus the Christ?</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Son of David, the Suffering Savior, and/or the Son of Man?</u></p> <p>The titles Jesus wears reveal a great deal about who He is & what He does.</p> <p>I. The Christ (Messiah).</p> <p>A. With this title, we confess that Jesus is the long-awaited anointed one of Israel – the Savior who would redeem His people.</p> <p>B. The concept of the Messiah is not a simple one – there are different strands of messianic expectation that at times appear contradictory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A king like David who would restore the monarchy of Israel. • The Suffering Servant of Israel who would bear the sins of the people. • The Son of Man – a heavenly being who comes to judge the world. <p>II. The Son of David.</p> <p>A. Under the oppression of the Roman Empire, the people looked to God for a new "David" – who would restore the former glory of Israel.</p> <p>B. With the coming of Jesus, the notion of the fulfillment of the seed of David's royal Messiah was renewed.</p> <p>C. A crucial moment of messianic unveiling took place at Caesarea Philippi (Matt. 16:13-17).</p> <p>D. On another occasion, John the Baptist greeted Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).</p> <p>III. The Suffering Servant of Israel.</p> <p>A. The figure of the Suffering Servant is crucial to understanding Jesus.</p> <p>B. Isaiah 53 reads like an eyewitness account of the crucifixion of Jesus.</p> <p>C. That the concepts of the royal King and the Suffering Servant were merged in one man is seen dramatically in the book of Revelation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lion and the Lamb are one and the same person. • The Servant reigns as King. <p>IV. The Son of Man.</p> <p>A. This term used most frequently by Jesus to describe Himself.</p> <p>B. Some suggest that Jesus preferred this title because of humility – but when this title appears in the OT it is anything but a humble one.</p> <p>C. OT references are found primarily in Ezekiel and Daniel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Son of Man was a figure of splendor and power. <p>D. The Son of Man who comes from heaven, however, is not one who is exclusively deity – but one who enters into our humanity through incarnation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Psalms 136 – "Thanksgiving for God's Enduring Mercy"</u></p> <p>This is a beautiful tribute to the mercy of Jehovah God.</p> <p>Of peculiar notice is the repeated refrain, "For His mercy endures forever."</p> <p>I. Exhortation (1-3).</p> <p>A. The only difference between these verses is the titles used for God.</p> <p>B. Three times in as many verses the audience is exhorted, "Oh, give thanks...for He is good...for His mercy endures forever."</p> <p>C. Notice the three titles used by the author to speak of God: "LORD...God of gods...Lord of lords"</p> <p>D. "For His mercy endures forever" - this refrain is repeated in every verse.</p> <p>E. "Give thanks to the God of gods" – is not suggesting the existence of other "gods" – but simply expressing that God is above the idols of men.</p> <p>II. Explanation (4-25). Why should men give praise to God?</p> <p>A. For His CREATION (4-9).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "To him who alone does great wonders". 2. The heavens were created "by wisdom" of Jehovah God. 3. It was God Who "made the heavens." <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The God Who "laid out the earth above the waters" (cf. Isa. 42:5; 44:24; Psalm 24:2). b. As God inquired of Job, "Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb" (38:8). 4. A part of the creative works of God was the "great lights" designed and placed into position for our benefit; the sun, moon and stars. <p>B. For His DELIVERANCE (10-15).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The power of God to deliver is displayed in the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. 2. In six short verses we are reminded of the mighty arm of God which bought Israel out of captivity with a strong hand. <p>C. For His GUIDANCE (16-22).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Psalmist looks at God's mercy during the wilderness wanderings. 2. Who can stand against the Almighty? <p>D. For His RESTORING His people (23-25).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The God Who can create, deliver, and guide – is capable of restoring His people, and providing them with abundant blessings. 2. Our God (1) remembers, (2) redeems, and (3) restores His people. <p>III. Exhortation (25).</p>
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