

Misled
(A book survey of Allen Parr's "Misled")
Chapter 6
10/1/25

Can I Lose My Salvation?

I. You Don't Need to Live in Fear

The good news is that God *does* want us to have assurance of our salvation, and the Bible says as much:

I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

Perhaps the most important doctrine is eternal security. Sometimes referred to as "once saved, always saved," eternal security is the theological belief that once a person places genuine faith in Jesus Christ, their salvation is eternally secure.

II. The Consequences of Denying Eternal Security

If you believe your salvation is on shaky ground you will relate to God on the basis of fear rather than faith. Everything you do for Him will be motivated by fear rather than love.

Denying this doctrine will inevitably set up a legalistic relationship between you and God.

Legalism demands that you perfectly adhere to a set of rules to secure or keep your salvation.

It also suggests that God's love for you and His acceptance of you fluctuates depending on your behavior.

III. Biblical Pillars of Eternal Security

Pillar #1: Perseverance

This first pillar is that of *perseverance*, or the perseverance of the saints. This doctrine estates that those who are truly born again will be empowered by the Spirit to continue to believe until the day they die.

We don't persevere in our own strength. We persevere because the Spirit of God, who lives within us, empowers us to do so.

Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:12-13

There is a difference between *genuine* Christians and *professing* Christians.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?' ²³ Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!'" Matthew 7:21-23

1 John 2:19, "They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us."

Pillar #2: Preservation

The second pillar sounds quite similar to the first, and some theologians see preservation as synonymous with perseverance. The preservation of the saints focuses on God's power to keep us in spite of ourselves.

"I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

"Now to him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy," Jude 24

"You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:5

"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." John 10:28-29

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

Pillar #3: Predestination

Predestination is a fancy theological word that simply means “To determine something beforehand.”

If God has predetermined something to happen beforehand, do we really think we have the power to override what He has determined?

“For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.” Romans 8:29-30

He has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began. 2 Timothy 1:9

For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. Ephesians 1:4

For though her sons had not been born yet or done anything good or bad, so that God’s purpose according to election might stand— ¹² not from works but from the one who calls—she was told, The older will serve the younger. ¹³ As it is written: I have loved Jacob, but I have hated Esau. Romans 9:11-13

Pillar #4: Propitiation

Propitiation is another fancy theological word that is synonymous with atonement, which refers to the idea that God’s wrath against sinners has been appeased or satisfied.

“After making one sacrifice for sins forever, He sat down at the right hand of God. ¹⁴ For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified.” Hebrews 10:12, 14

If we say that someone can lose their salvation, we are essentially saying that the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross wasn’t sufficient to cover *all* of our sins. It was only sufficient to cover some.

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift— ⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 1 Peter 3:18

Pillar #5: Permanence

God has made certain promises to believers. For us to lose our salvation would mean that God has reneged on His promises.

Ephesians 1:13 says, “In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed.”

“The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.” Ephesians 1:14

Hebrews 8:6 says, “Jesus has now obtained a superior ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been established on better promises.”

Pillar #6: Prayers

The Bible teaches that as part of Jesus’ high priestly ministry, He sits at the right hand of the Father right now making intercession for the saints:

“Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them.” Hebrews 7:25

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.” Hebrews 4:14-15

Pillar #7: Pictures

The Picture of Adoption

“He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,” Ephesians 1:5

The Picture of a Slave

“In him we have redemption through his blood . . .” Ephesians 1:7

If someone was truly enslaved and then was set free, would they want to return to being a slave? The answer is no in both instances.

The Picture of a Criminal

Ephesians 1:7 also tells us that in Christ, “we have the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”

If this person has been set free from the penalty of life in prison, would they want to return to being a convicted criminal?

IV. Does Eternal Security Teach License?

“The law came along to multiply the trespass. But where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more” Romans 5:20

“What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? ² Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?” Romans 6:1-2

“And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.” Romans 6:13

V. A Healthy Balance

How do we harmonize eternal security with our ongoing struggle with sin?

First, we rest in the assurance of our salvation.

“For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, ^a sold as a slave under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not practice what I want to do, but I do what I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want to do, I agree with the law that it is good. ¹⁷ So now I am no longer the one doing it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is no ability to do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, I am no longer the one that does it, but it is the sin that lives in me. ²¹ So I discover this law: When I want to do what is good, evil is present with me. ²² For in my inner self I delight in God’s law, ²³ but I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God

through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I myself am serving the law of God, but with my flesh, the law of sin.” Romans 7:14-25

“This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them.” 1 Timothy 1:15

Did you notice that Paul used the present tense? He didn’t say he *was* the chief; he said “I *am* chief.”

Second, when we experience true conversion, we’re no longer happy to continue in our old sinful lifestyles.