

PRESERVED OR PERSEVERANCE (I Thessalonians 5:23-24)

Eternal security is a biblical truth that divides believers and denominations. The issue is important because of the peace that believers are promised and because if it is possible to lose their salvation once they are saved, then they must be responsible for keeping saved once they become saved.

PRESERVED

John 3:16; Romans 10:9, 13 God has provided us with simple to understand promises regarding our sin problem and the solution to the sin problem. Both these verses teach salvation is done after belief.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6 Again, God gives us the simple facts and promises regarding how salvation is received, where it comes from and how much the sinner must do in order to be saved.

Ephesians 1:11-14 Here Paul tells us that when believers receive Christ the Holy Spirit comes into that person as a down payment of their promised inheritance until God calls us home in our new body.

Jude 1 In this brief but powerful letter Jude writes to believers and calls them 'sanctified' (guiltless), 'called' (or born again, saved by grace) and 'preserved' (to keep in perfect or unaltered condition).

Jude 24 Notice in this same letter that Jude tells these believers that it is Jesus Christ (vs. 21) who is able to “keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory..” It is not ourselves that are able to keep ourselves but it is Jesus who keeps us because we belong to Him.

I Peter 1:3-5 We are assured that God is doing the keeping of our soul. Nowhere in scripture is there an indication of a person who was saved then lost their salvation. However, there are those verses that have been misinterpreted and misused by those who would confuse and mishandle the word of God.

II Timothy 4:18 The word “unto” means (to the point of entry). Jesus preserves us until heaven.

PERSEVERANCE

There are two major views regarding salvation through perseverance. Perseverance is (to be steadfast, determined, holding on, staying power). Perseverance is man dealing in his way with issues of life.

- (1) **Calvinism-** This group teaches that only those few people whom God has chosen are guaranteed 'perseverance' to hold on and only those that persevere will be saved. Saved people and lost people have no choice whether to be saved or not. God chooses some to be saved and some to be damned.
- (2) **Arminianism-** This group teaches that we can be saved but can only stay saved by perseverance. Salvation can be lost by the saved person failing to keep up the faith.

VERSES IN QUESTION

Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus spoke of false professions. Not everyone who says their saved is really saved. Many go through life like these by working and serving and giving but never trusting Christ.

James 2:14-17 James tells us that the proof is in the pudding. He says “some *say* they have faith.”

Matthew 7:15; 13:24-30 There are many who profess to be believers and some even serve in church leadership positions. Some may see mature believers in them while others see them as they really are.

Matthew 7:20 While the truth is that only God knows His sheep, we are warned and encouraged to watch people and know them by the fruit they produce.

I Corinthians 3:1-4 Paul makes it pretty clear that while it is true that we are to look at the fruit of a person it is not always true that bad fruit equals a lost person. We as believers are capable of evil.

I Corinthians 5:1-5; 11:30; Hebrews 12:5-6 All believers are subject to terrible sin but God has dotted the scriptures with absolute certainty that once a person is truly saved they belong to God.

