



SPECIAL LESSON: “JESUS SAVED ME – NOW I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS,” PART 3

SUNDAY, March 22, 2026, 11AM
Taught at: Ridgeview Classical Schools
1800 S. Lemay Ave., Fort Collins, CO
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Review:

- Today is our third lesson in a special short series called, “**Jesus Saved Me – Now I Have Some Questions.**”
- This special series emerges from our larger study in **1 and 2 Thessalonians**. We’ve worked our way through the first chapter of **1 Thessalonians** so far.
- We’ve seen that Paul is very thankful for this new body of believers, and he was confident that they were truly saved. We’ve learned why he felt as he did.

NOTE: But it all raises some probing questions for us right here, right now. We’re tackling five:

1. How should we properly define the Gospel?
2. Does God choose us, or do we choose Him?
3. Do we have eternal security as Christians?
4. Why do we struggle with doubts about our salvation?
5. What can we know about the issue of ‘backsliding?’

NOTE: In **Parts 1 and 2**, we addressed the first two of those questions. Those videos and lesson notes are on our website and YouTube channel now.

While I wanted to conclude this special series TODAY by addressing the last three questions which have a bit of overlap, I discovered I had bit off a bit more than I could chew with that goal. I’m going to tackle the third question today, and the last two next time.

I think these questions deal with matters we’ve all wondered about from time to time, and a key one is this next question:

A. DO WE HAVE ETERNAL SECURITY AS CHRISTIANS?

NOTE: Like the issue we studied last week: the ‘sovereignty of God’ and the ‘free will of man,’ this matter of eternal security elicits a great deal of debate.

There is no end of folks who camp on one or two verses and who choose to argue with those who camp on one or two other verses.

NOTE: To make sure we are all on the same page, let me phrase this question another way: “Once we are saved, are we always saved, or can we lose our salvation?”

IMPORTANT: With this matter, I feel I need to state the **Biblical truth up front**. Every person that is TRULY born again, who has received the indwelling Holy Spirit, HAS eternal security. The Bible is clear about this, and we will see that today.

1. But let me segue into this issue by talking about three types of people that we find in the greater church around us.

- This question about eternal security is one that emerges from within the church, and concerning the church, so that’s where we need to focus.
- **First**, we have truly born-again Spirit-indwelt believers.
 - This group is TRULY saved. They’ve fully placed their full faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation.
 - They have repented of their sins (meaning: they’ve turned away from it), and they actively seek to make Jesus Christ Lord of their lives.
 - We KNOW this group is TRULY saved because their lives show it! They have changed their ways from what they were before.
 - They show – in multiple ways – that they are new creatures in Christ. Their lives, choices, priorities, standards, attitudes, endurance, pursuits (etc.) – all demonstrate that their faith is real.
 - As **James 2:18** says, “*Show me your faith by your works.*” Real faith always shows up! It is demonstrated through our actions.
 - **James 2:17**, the verse just before, reminds us that “*faith without works is dead.*” Again – it’s the same point but now looking at it from the other direction: REAL faith will make itself clear.
 - This first group, TRUE believers, are **known** by others to have a clear demonstration of genuine faith. Their reputation validates them, just as the Thessalonian believers’ reputation did.
- There is a **second** group, and I’ll call these carnal Christians.
 - The word ‘carnal’ is best understood to come from a Greek term meaning ‘fleshly.’
 - In **1 Cor. 3:1-3**, we read that Paul wanted to communicate with the Corinthian believers as ‘spiritually mature’ people, but he couldn’t.
 - He said there was a dilemma: they were infants, they needed milk – they needed the simplest form of spiritual food. This greatly concerned Paul.
 - Paul goes on to say the reason is they were ‘carnal.’ They were ‘fleshly.’ They were still acting out their sinful nature, and this was keeping them from growing in Christ as they needed to.
 - An important thing to understand here is this: any Christian can slip up. Any Christian can become, for a time, carnal – or ‘fleshly.’

- Any Christian can go through a phase where ‘old ways’ rears its head again. We’re sinners saved by grace, but we are not perfect. We still live in a sinful world, and we can act that way ourselves.
- **But here is the KEY:** A TRUE Christian will not remain carnal for a lifetime. For that matter, a TRUE Christian will not WANT to remain carnal for any extended length of time.
- A TRUE Christian will feel ‘convicted’ of their sin and their ways. A TRUE Christian will ‘*confess their sins*’ and get back on the narrow path. They will do that as many times as needed.
- As **1 John 1:9** says:

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

- **Here is the main problem with this ‘carnal’ issue:** Some people abuse this truth of “carnality” by giving it FAR too much latitude.
 - They say it is possible for people to come to faith in Christ, but then proceed to live out the rest of their lives in a completely carnal, fleshly, sinful manner.
 - They feel it’s possible to be saved while showing no evidence of being born again or becoming a new creature in Christ.
 - I disagree with this. I don’t believe that is the Biblical position, and I have two rhetorical questions to clarify: (a.) *Can a Christian experience a time of failure or rebellion and seem to be carnal? Yes.* BUT - (b.) *Will a true Christian remain sinful and carnal? No.*
- The **third** group within the church is false converts or false believers.
 - I’m gradually concluding that there are a lot more of these than we realize.
 - This is the group of folks that **Matt. 7:21-23** talks about, and Jesus says in this passage that there are ‘*many*’ of these people.
 - **Who are they?** God’s Word has a lot to say about this group, but here are a few basic takeaways:
 - ✓ They are people that appear to be religious, but there has not been a true spiritual awakening within them. There is no true relationship with Jesus Christ (think of the Pharisees, etc.)
 - ✓ They may be people who are prominent. They may even be Christian leaders, teachers, or pastors. But as we learned in our prior study in **Jude**, their REAL goals deep down are self-serving, and they have no true foundation in Christ.
 - ✓ They may appear to SAY the right things. They may seem to DO the right things.
 - ✓ They may HAVE resumes / education / and other kinds of performance credentials that are so esteemed by the modern church – but according to **Matt. 7:21-23**, they rely too much on all of that, and so they deceive themselves.

- ✓ What they DON'T have is a right relationship with Jesus Christ. They ultimately value man's criteria over God's, and so Jesus says to them, *"I never knew you. Away from me..."*
- ✓ If we look at **Rev. 3:14-22**, we see this group often claims it's all about Jesus, but Jesus is TRYING to be a part of their lives. He's not a part as they think He is.
- ✓ This passage shows the false convert is a deluded convert, and that lines up with what **Matt. Ch. 7** says too. This bunch believes something about themselves that is not true.
- ✓ I would say one more thing about false believers that is implied in several passages in Scripture: they run with the crowd. This is true in multiple ways.
- ✓ They are followers, they value their standing in others' eyes, they want to conform and belong, others influence them more than they influence others, they want to fit the bell curve, they think there is 'safety in numbers,' and so on.
- ✓ This is a good point to remember, the true Christian walk is on a narrow path, not a broad one. It involves separation from worldly ways, and that sets up misunderstandings and even persecution.
- ✓ Nowhere, does the Bible teach that the faithful believer can expect to be popular, adored, or esteemed by mankind.

NOTE: So, there are our three groups: (1.) true Spirit-filled believers, (2.) carnal or fleshly believers, and (3.) false believers. Now, how do we understand 'eternal security' with these three groups in view?

2. **I want to look at two sets of passages that pertain to this matter.** First, we will look at some passages which clearly affirm that 'once we are TRULY saved – then we are always saved.'

The second set of passages will be those which some folks use to wrongly claim we do not have 'eternal security' as Christians.

(Cf. John 10:27-29) – *"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of My Father's hand."* **(Here are some takeaways from this passage):**

- ✓ **FIRST**, this passage, is about TRUE followers of Jesus Christ. That's why Jesus calls them His sheep. It's why He says He *'knows them.'*
- ✓ This is very different than **Matt. 7:23** where Jesus says, *"I never knew you."* We want to have a right relationship with Jesus Christ wherein He says, *"I KNOW you."*
- ✓ **SECOND**, part of being KNOWN by God is properly FOLLOWING God. This gets back to some of the things we've already learned. REAL Christians stay the course (they follow God).

- ✓ **THIRD**, Jesus says in no uncertain terms that His true followers are guaranteed to keep their status:
 - They have ‘eternal life.’
 - They will ‘never perish.’
 - They have been ‘given’ to Jesus. They don’t belong to anyone else.
 - No one can dilute or remove their assurance of salvation. Jesus says, “*No one can snatch them out of My hand.*”
- ✓ **Here, we have a ‘conditional’ AND an ‘unconditional’ consideration.**
 - The ‘conditional’ situation is we must FIRST be truly saved.
 - If that’s the case, then the ‘unconditional’ situation is this: we cannot lose our salvation.

(Cf. Ephesians 4:30) – “*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*” **(Here are the takeaways from this verse).**

- ✓ **FIRST**, this ‘sealing’ spoken of here is a word that means certainty. It’s a guarantee.
 - We’ve been ‘sealed for the day of redemption.’ It means our status in Christ runs the full distance. It goes all the way. It proceeds into our eternal life.
 - It’s the same thing **John 3:16** tells us, “*...whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*”
- ✓ **SECOND**, here we see again the same ‘conditional’ situation followed by the same ‘unconditional’ conclusion.
 - IF we truly believe in Jesus Christ – IF we have truly come to saving faith (that’s the condition) – then we will ‘not perish.’
 - We will gain ‘eternal life’ (that’s the unconditional conclusion). Nothing can change our outcome from that point. If we are truly IN the faith, we have this assurance – we have this promise.
 - That’s important to grasp: if we are promised eternal life by being in a RIGHT relationship with Jesus Christ, but then that eternal life could be taken away, then God’s promises don’t mean a thing, and God’s Word is not trustworthy.

(Cf. Romans 8:38-39) - “*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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.*” **(Here are some takeaways from this very powerful portion of Scripture).**

- ✓ **FIRST**, Paul begins this entire chapter with his claim that “*there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*”
 - **So again**, we have that ‘conditional’ element arising once more: we need to truly be IN Christ Jesus. We need to be TRULY saved.
 - Once that condition has been met – then we have nothing to worry about. There is nothing that can change our standing in Christ.
- ✓ **SECOND**, Paul goes through an elaborate list of variables here: demons, timelines, dimensions, death, powers, and so on. He’s trying to cover all the bases.
 - He is clearly stating that there is NOTHING that can cut the cord of our faith and remove us from God’s love.
 - Nothing can separate us from the promises we have been given. Nothing can come between our present life and our eternal life.

- And Paul says he is ‘convinced’ of this. Paul was divinely inspired to write these words for you and me. We need to think of the word ‘convinced’ as ‘certainty.’ Paul is saying “THIS IS THE TRUTH. BELIEVE IT!”

3. NOTE: Now let’s review a second set of passages. These are some verses which some folks use to claim we do not have ‘eternal security’ as true Christians.

(Cf. 1 Timothy 4:1) – “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.” (As I’ve been doing, I want to look at some takeaways from this verse).

- ✓ **FIRST**, The Greek word underneath the English phrase “*shall depart from*” means to ‘*withdraw oneself from,*’ or to ‘*fall away.*’
- ✓ This definition is also used in Jesus Christ’s Parable of the Sower and the Seed, and it is used specifically with the seed that fell on rocky soil. **Luke 8:13** says (and it’s Jesus explaining here), “*The seeds on rocky ground are those who hear the word and receive it with joy, but they have no root. They believe for a season, but in the time of testing, they fall away.*”
- ✓ Clearly, this is a falling away or departure from the faith. They had **previously made a profession of faith**, but this was later proven to NOT be genuine in the first place.
- ✓ The conclusion here is quite clear, and that’s why Jesus explains it as He does. Anyone who “*falls away from the faith*” they had once professed was never TRULY saved to begin with.
- ✓ These are deluded people who belong to that third group we looked at a bit ago. They are false believers. They become exposed as having had a false conversion – and again, and sadly - there are many of these folks.
- ✓ This is why our trials and our challenges in this life are SO important. They serve a purpose, and that is to PROVE our faith is REAL!
- ✓ This is the point of **James 1:2-4** where it says, “*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*”
 - Our trials, our challenges, our adversities, and so on. It’s these things God allows in our life to TEST our faith, to PROVE its genuineness, and to CONFIRM it’s the REAL DEAL.
 - Because in the end, NOTHING is more important than having a RIGHT faith.
 - NOTHING is more vital and NOTHING is of greater priority to us than assuring we are in a RIGHT relationship with Jesus Christ. That’s an eternal concern. All our trials and tests on this earth are only temporary concerns.
 - That’s why we need to welcome our challenges – we need to exercise a conscious ‘joy’ in knowing they serve to **vet out** our right standing with God, and that should be our highest priority. It holds the greatest value for us.
- ✓ So, this passage in **1 Timothy 4:1** is not about losing one’s salvation. It is, instead, about those who *fall away* or *depart from the faith* they had once *professed*. But they were never TRULY saved to begin with – and it is ‘*times of testing*’ that prove that.
- ✓ This should be a warning to us that more and more false believers will populate our fellowships in the later times.

(Cf. Colossians 1:23) – “...if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven...” **(Again, some takeaways...)**

- ✓ The context of this verse makes it clear that this is a different issue than the verse we just looked at in **1 Tim. 4:1**.
 - This is not a falling away from - or an abandonment of - the faith that one professes, but rather a moving away from “*the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard.*”
 - Here, in **Col. 1:23**, we see one can move away from the amazing hope one usually experiences upon receiving the Gospel at the time of conversion.
 - This is about letting other concerns creep in. It’s about forgetting, moving away from, and overlooking that divinely-given, wonderful, and precious hope that is found only in Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Paul is encouraging his readers here to persevere instead, to “*continue in your faith, established and firm,*” and not lose sight of their ultimate hope in Christ when various situations arise.
 - In that respect, it’s a bit similar to the ‘rocky soil’ dynamic in that circumstances in our lives can test us.
 - For a truly born-again Holy Spirit-indwelt believer, they will keep the big picture view. They will “*continue in the faith, established and firm.*”
 - Even though there will be times they may falter and lose this “hope” for a time, that is a transient phase. They will never consciously depart from their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
 - Compare this to a false believer who will not “continue in the faith, established and firm.” This kind of person will inwardly abandon the hope of the Gospel permanently.
 - This leads to their **outward** and **obvious** departure from the faith they had once professed - - but again, it was never REAL to begin with. The Bible is clear.
- ✓ There is a warning inherent in this verse that Paul makes clear, especially to that second group of people: carnal Christians.
 - Remember, this is that group that is saved but they generally live life by their flesh and not the Holy Spirit. They are constantly struggling and riding the roller coaster by virtue of their choices and their attitudes.
 - This group can easily find themselves not grounded, not firm, and not established in the faith. It’s because they ‘want it both ways.’
 - They are easily moved away from their ultimate and greatest hope in Jesus Christ because of their carnality. They are easily shaken, troubled, fearful, and often defeated because they have chosen to keep one foot in the ideals and concerns of the world.

One more passage that some use to doubt eternal security: (Cf. Revelation 3:5) – “*The one who overcomes will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.*”

NOTE: Now, I don't want to get into the weeds here with the issue of having our names 'blotted out of the Book of Life' since that requires a different path of study to fully understand. But here, I want to focus on this idea of 'overcoming' since that's the essential criteria of this verse.

- ✓ In every letter to the seven churches in **Revelation Chapters 2 and 3**, Jesus Christ makes mention of "him (or he) that overcomes" (**Cf. Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, Et al**).
- ✓ Does this imply there will be those who are TRULY saved who will not "overcome"? Absolutely not! That's not what is being suggested here, even though some claim otherwise.
- ✓ What each reference makes clear is those that 'overcome' are those who ARE truly born again. Remember, God does not make mistakes when He gifts true believers with the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

QUESTION: But **how does** one 'overcome?' We need to note the all-important TRUTH that Jesus Christ is the one who overcame the world on our behalf. With that in view, let's consider the following passages:

(Cf. John 16:33) - *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*

- ✓ John wrote this to reassure us, and to give us a practical assessment for honestly scrutinizing our position in Christ.
- ✓ And our position in Christ is we have a Savior who has ALREADY overcome the world. And so – BEING IN HIM – we are also overcomers. John develops this idea further in...

(Cf. 1 John 2:12-14) – *"I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."*

Here we see who the overcomers are. They are those whose "sins are forgiven on account of His name," who have known Him "who is from the beginning," who "know the Father," who "have the Word of God living in them," and who have "overcome the evil one."

- ✓ All of these things are evidences of TRULY born-again believers. They are proof of who is really an 'overcomer,' just as those who will "overcome" in the letters to the seven churches of Revelation will also be born-again Spirit-indwelt believers.

NOTE: And just in case there is any doubt or wondering here, consider **1 John 5:4-5** which says, *"For whoever has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"*

NOTE: This passage crystallizes the issue. Who is the ‘overcomer?’ It’s the one who has placed their full faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

There is a glorious reward for TRUE believers who have ‘overcome’ by doing this – by placing their faith in Jesus Christ – and for trusting in Him ALONE for their salvation. We find that reward mentioned in **Rev. 21:7** which says the following:

“He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”

- ✓ Simply put, we cannot possibly imagine the great reward that is ours for embracing a TRUE faith in Jesus Christ, and then enduring in and growing in that faith.
- ✓ When we make our relationship with God our HIGHEST priority in life – we will ‘*inherit all things.*’

THE BOTTOM LINE IS the Bible does not teach that anyone can lose their salvation. We don’t find that notion in these passages we’ve looked at today, nor any others.

REMEMBER (and we learned this last week) – our salvation includes God’s sovereign election of us. He chose us before the foundations of the world to receive eternal life - - and He’s not going to ‘un-choose’ us. That fallacy goes against everything the Scriptures teach.

ONE FINAL THOUGHT TO LEAVE WITH YOU HERE: Every day is an opportunity we can be STANDING UP for our faith as opposed to STANDING DOWN. The latter is a dangerous position to find yourself in. My prayer and hope for all of us is that we face every challenge, every test, every situation, and every moment as an opportunity for our faith to STAND UP, SHOW UP, and SPEAK UP. This is God’s perfect will for us.



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The rules are simple. First, teach what IS there. Don’t pretend the Bible is not saying what it is saying.

Second, don’t teach what is NOT there. Don’t force a passage to mean something it really doesn’t.

And – number three, if the Bible states it plainly, we should too.

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