

WEEK 2

Can SIN Cause Me To Lose My Salvation?

Under the Lose Salvation view there are two proposed ways Christians can lose their salvation: sin and apostasy.

- CLARIFY: Today we are NOT talking about apostasy (week 4, 6). We are talking about sin.
 - The question is: can someone commit sin and lose their salvation even though they believe in Jesus and do NOT reject Him?
 - Certain (not all) Arminians and the Roman Catholic Church teaching of mortal sins.
 - We want to immediately eliminate sin as a factor for someone losing their salvation.
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SCRIPTURES

Passages seeming to teach that sin can cause us to lose our salvation include: John 15:1-7; Romans 2:7-8; Hebrews 10:26-27; James 5:19-20; Revelation 3:4-5. These verses do not give a basis for believers losing salvation due to sin for the following reasons:

REASONS SIN CANNOT CAUSE LOSS OF SALVATION

1. **Jesus' death on the cross paid for ALL our sins** (Col 2:13; Acts 13:38-39; 2 Cor 5:19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:12; Isa 1:18; Jer 31:34). If sin can cause someone to lose their salvation then there are sins that Christ's death did not pay for, that God still remembers, that are still scarlett, that are not washed away, not canceled, not forgiven.

a. BRIAN: You can't out-sin God's grace for you (Rom 6:1)

2. **If sin can cause the loss of salvation then the Gospel is violated.** If I am saved at first by faith, but from then on I must work to avoid sin in order to keep my salvation, then my salvation is *not* based on Christ's work, but on my works. It is no longer based on God's grace, but my merit. But I am not to rely on my works in the beginning, middle or end *for my salvation*. From first to last salvation is through faith in the finished work of Jesus - not our works. Therefore, if I insist that my works are a factor in my salvation then I am promoting "another gospel" (Gal 1:6-9).
3. **Distinguish between living in sin and struggling with sin.** False Christians live in it while true Christians struggle with it. True Christians are like Hebrews 12:4; "putting off the old man" passages; denying yourself and your flesh passages; Christ's intercession passages relate to our struggle with sin; 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2) The passages appearing to say true Christians can lose their salvation due to living in sin are in actuality speaking to false Christians - those who justify their ungodliness, who won't put up with sound doctrine, who follow doctrines of demons, who want to be told what their itching ears want to hear.
4. **Sin passages refer to someone who is not saved who LIVES in sin.** They may appear to be Christians, but are not: the branch cut off never produced fruit, the person who persists in doing evil was never saved, the ones who won't put up with sound doctrine never actually held onto it, those deliberately sinning as a lifestyle and conviction never believed (?), leaving the straight path was the faith not merely sinning - it was the abandonment of believing that led to persisting in sin and leaving the straight path (2 Pet 2:15), others who persist in sin end up rejecting the faith (2 Pet 2:20-22). Thus, it is possible that Sin (ongoing, continual, unrepentant) leads to ultimate apostasy, which really is a false believer/almost Christian finally being pruned out of those with true faith.
5. **Some of these passages are warning about consequences, not condemnation.** James 5:19-20 those who turned away and are brought back from their error didn't lose their salvation and the death they were in danger of was physical death (James 5:19-20 see 1 Cor 11). Furthermore, this can't refer to someone who left the faith and lost their salvation because Hebrews 6:4-6 says they

cannot be brought back to repentance. So James must be referring to someone who wandered into sin and is restored to a righteous walk.