

ETERNAL SECURITY IS *ANOTHER GOSPEL*

—Dan Corner—

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How important is the teaching of eternal security to the eternal security teachers? In other words, is this topic of primary importance or merely a “non-essential”? The following quotes from the once saved always saved (OSAS) teachers will answer that question for us. This is what they have gone on record as saying regarding the importance of eternal security:

They Present it as the “Gospel”:

Eternal security is one of those outstanding glories of the Christian **gospel** (John Ankerberg).

The very **gospel** itself comes under attack when the eternal security of the believer is questioned (Charles Stanley).

One must believe in the perseverance of the saints if one is to accurately present **the gospel of grace**. To do anything else is to edit the **gospel** (James White).

Calvinism is the **gospel** and nothing else (Charles Spurgeon).

They Present it as the “Atonement”:

The eternal security of the believer arises out of the necessity and nature of the **atonement** (Robert Morey).

They Present it as “Grace”:

What **grace** it is that can give us not only forgiveness and eternal life through faith alone but also guarantee that the Giver will never renege on His gift! Nor can we give it back even if we try! (Charles Ryrie).

Once a son, always a son. Once you are born into the family of God, you will always be a member of the family of God. You cannot change your spiritual birth anymore than you can change your physical birth ... the moment you believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you were born into the family of God. At that point, you became a child of God, and for all eternity you will remain a child of God. **This is the grace of God.** There is nothing you can do to alter it (Robert Thieme, Jr.).

Calvinism is supposed to be "the doctrines of **grace.**"

They Present it as "Foundational to Christianity":

... the very **foundations of Christianity** begin to crumble once we begin tampering with the eternal security of the believer (Charles Stanley).

They Have Taught "Heretics" Oppose the Perseverance of the Saints:

The carnal mind is unable to comprehend this doctrine of the perseverance of the saints the **heretics** oppose it (Synod of Dort, Article 15).

Now that we know how this doctrine has been exalted to the zenith in importance by OSAS teachers themselves by equating it to **the gospel**, the **atonement**, **grace**, and **foundational to Christianity**, with **heretics** opposing it, let's now examine how they have presented their *gospel* to convince some people that it is Scriptural.

Eternal security teachers declare a partial truth about salvation as the whole truth and deceive their listeners by doing so. Five examples of this are:

1. They teach we are saved by grace not by works (Eph. 2:5-9), but they stop there! They never teach that Christians can *fall* from the *grace* that saves to the point where Christ is of *no value* :

Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, **Christ will be of no value to you at all**. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; **you have fallen away from grace** (Gal. 5:2-4).

Comment: Since a Christian can *fall* from the grace by which he is saved, **then he would no longer be with the salvation he once had because of grace**. Furthermore, for a Christian to fall from grace to the point where Christ is of *no value at all*, can only mean **no more salvation!**

2. Eternal security teachers declare **we are justified by faith (Rom. 5:1), but they stop there!** They never proclaim the additional truth that a true believer can cease believing and *fall away* (or die spiritually):

Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. **They believe for a while**, but in the time of testing they **fall away** (Lk. 8:13).

Comment: **A true believer can cease believing**, according to the Lord Jesus! Such would make him an *unbeliever*. Question: what did God Himself declare about the *unbelieving*? He taught:

But the cowardly, the **unbelieving**, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—**their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur**. This is the second death (Rev. 21:8).

Moreover, 1 Pet. 1:9 adds important truth to this by stating:

you are receiving the goal of your **faith**, the salvation of your souls.

Notice: The *goal* of our faith is ***the salvation of our souls***. Hence, **if our faith gets destroyed, then there can be no salvation for our souls in the end**.

Finally, Paul believed a Christian could have his faith *shipwrecked* and told Timothy what he needed to do to prevent this from happening to him:

holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have **shipwrecked their faith**. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme (1 Tim. 1:19,20).

Note: Paul knew that Timothy's saving faith could become *shipwrecked*, as Hymenaeus and Alexander's faith did, and told him what to do to prevent this from happening to himself. The implications of that are:

- (a) A Christian has free will and human responsibilities under "grace" that can affect our salvation.
- (b) A Christian cannot just throw off all holy restraints and be negligent. For him to think that since he has been sealed by the Holy Spirit he is eternally secure or that God will continue to hold on to him, even if he lets go of God, is fallacious!

3. OSAS teachers declare **eternal life is a "gift"** (Rom. 6:23) and a **present tense possession** (Jn. 6:47; 1 Jn. 5:12,13), but they stop there! The following supplementing Scriptures are not presented by them, which distorts the truth:

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the **hope** of eternal life (Titus 3:7).

The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit **will reap eternal life**. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest **if we do not give up** (Gal 6:8,9).

But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and **in the world to come eternal life** (Mk. 10:30).

To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, **he will give eternal life** (Rom. 2:7).

Jesus and His Apostles taught that eternal life is a *hope*, yet to be *reaped*, in *the world to come*, but only *if we do not give up* sowing to please the Spirit and *persist* in doing good!

Note: To get eternal life, **we must persist in doing good** (Rom. 2:7). This parallels how the Lord described those who would, in the end, enter the Kingdom of God:

Those **who have done good** will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned (Jn. 5:29).

4. Frequently, the OSASers will misuse Jude 24 by stating a partial truth about it as the whole truth:

Now unto him that is able to **keep** you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy (Jude 24).

They conclude that it is God who *keeps* us from *falling*. But they fail to mention that saved people still *fall* and even *fall away*! See Mt. 11:6; 26:31,33; Lk. 8:13; Heb. 6:6; 2 Pet. 1:10; 3:17; etc.

Under *grace* we are told as Christians to *keep* ourselves, according to the Lord Himself and His Apostles' teaching. The following verses are cited in their entirety so no one can falsely accuse me of *a work's salvation* or *legalism*.

Be dressed ready for service and **keep** your lamps burning (Lk. 12:35).

The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will **keep** it for eternal life (Jn. 12:25).

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to **keep** oneself from being polluted by the world (Jam. 1:27).

Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life (Jude 21).

Dear children, **keep** yourselves from idols (1 Jn. 5:21).

... do not share in the sins of others. **Keep** yourself pure (1 Tim. 5:22).

5. Eternal security teachers oftentimes refer to certain religious people as *never really being saved to begin with*, based on Mt. 7:23:

Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

But additional truth from Mt. 25:1-12 reveals that five out of ten virgins from the last generation will have their lamps stop burning before the Lord returns. They will hear the Lord say something different to them:

"I tell you the truth, **I don't know you**" (Mt. 25:12).

Comment: The Lord Jesus did not say to those five foolish virgins, "I *never* knew you," but instead stated that He did not know those virgins any longer, with the words, ***I don't know you.***

As just proven, eternal security teachers declare a partial truth about salvation as the whole truth and deceive their listeners by doing so. Related facts are not mentioned, but rather avoided, which changes the conclusion from OSAS to a conditional security. Friend, remember the following:

1. A Christian can fall from *grace* to the point where Christ is of ***no value*** to him.
2. A saving faith in Christ can become *shipwrecked*. Also a true believer can cease believing and become an unbeliever.
3. Eternal life is a *hope*, yet to be *reaped, in the age to come*, but only for the ones who *sow to please the Spirit, persist in doing good and don't give up*.
4. Under ***grace***, Christians are commanded to *keep* themselves.
5. A person once *known* by God can later become unknown!

Besides partial truths presented as the whole truth, eternal security is also built on Scriptures used out of context! This too has deceived their listeners. For example, the wonderful promise of John 10:28,29 can only be properly understood in its context, which goes back to v. 27:

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and **they follow me**: And I give unto them eternal life; and **they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand**. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all;

and **no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand** (Jn. 10:27-29).

Some people see salvation with "no strings attached," that is, regardless how far one may stray doctrinally or sinfully, he will always be of the group that shall *never perish*. But the context of Jn. 10:27-29 destroys this deadly interpretation of the most commonly cited proof text for eternal security. Verse 27 describes the sheep and states they **follow** Jesus. The Greek word is a **continuous tense** and describes the only people that will *never perish* and won't get *plucked* out of God's hand (vv. 28,29).

Hence: OSAS is a false gospel and counterfeit grace message built upon partial truths presented as the whole truth and distorted Scriptures, as just proven.

More truth on the subject of salvation reveals that the Bible teaches a conditional security for the believer. For example, the Lord Jesus taught those already saved:

And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but **he that endureth to the end shall be saved** (Mt. 10:22).

Note: Jesus spoke those words to His disciples as they were being sent out to preach and heal. The context is **not** the Jews during the tribulation period, as eternal security teachers usually say! Moreover, Jesus was **not** joking when He taught Christians they would have to endure **to the end for salvation's sake!**

Furthermore, the Lord taught Christians, after his infinite work on the cross:

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. **Be faithful, even to the point of death**, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by **the second death** (Rev. 2:10,11).

Comment: Jesus mentioned faithfulness, but **not** God's faithfulness to us as stressed by the OSAS teachers, but **our faithfulness to God even to the point of death**. Such a person is promised something to receive and not receive. He will receive the crown of life and won't be hurt by the "second death" (another name for *the lake of fire*, according to Rev. 21:8).

The Writer of Hebrews Concisely Declared:

We have come to share in Christ **if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first** (Heb. 3:14).

Paul, the real grace teacher, also wrote:

By this gospel you are saved, **if you hold firmly** to the word I preached to you. **Otherwise, you have believed in vain** (1 Cor. 15:2).

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—**if you continue in your faith**, established and firm, not moved 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, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant (Col. 1:22,23).

1 Cor. 15:2 and Col. 1:22,23 declare the true gospel of grace has a **conditional security for the believer** attached to it! That was the original message, as taught by the Lord Himself and His Apostles. **Do not be deceived by the OSAS false gospel and counterfeit grace message, which is built upon partial truths and Scripture removed from its context.**

All documentation for this article can be found in our book, *The Believer's Conditional Security*, the most exhaustive and comprehensive refutation to the teaching of eternal security (once saved always saved or perseverance

of the saints) that has ever been written! Please contact us at our ministry address for more information:

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