



Dave Hunt

Versus

Dan Corner

Mini-Debate On The Believer's Security
Transcript With Analysis



Evangelical Outreach

PO Box 265, Washington, PA 15301

2 Dave Hunt Versus Dan Corner Mini-Debate on the Believer's Security

[Corner] What you're about to hear is a mini-debate I had with Dave Hunt on March 8, 2000. Much to my disappointment our total exchange was only approximately 12 minutes and 12 seconds, even though the day before the debate, when I was informed that I'd be debating Dave Hunt, I was told it would be "30 minutes or so." It was abruptly cut off after Dave's second response, when the subject was totally shifted to different subject—Ash Wednesday and Catholicism. Furthermore, only Dave was asked to comment and not me too. But, nonetheless, I would sincerely like to thank Dave, the moderator, and the radio station for allowing our brief exchange on this subject. God's word doesn't return void. Listen carefully to the "Hunt vs. Corner Mini-Debate":

[Radio Host] Before we let you out of here today, we're going to ask you if there are any ashes on your head today. They're saying, I heard on the news, that some Protestant churches are picking up this tradition of putting ashes on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday. Where did we get all of that? We're going to find out in a few minutes. But we're going to put you on hold right now so that you can hear from Dan Corner and hear him for about four minutes as to where he stands on this issue of whether believers or not, believers can lose their salvation. Dan, you got four minutes and then we'll let Dave counter with four minutes.

[Corner] Ok, thank you very much. **Eternal security teachers declare a partial truth about salvation as the whole truth and therefore deceive the listeners.** Number one, they say we are saved by grace not by works and they stop there, without telling people that **we can fall from the grace whereby we are saved** and if you fall by the grace whereby you're saved, then you would fall from the salvation that you were once in. They also magnify the truth that we are justified by faith. Amen, I say to this. Romans 5:1 does declare that, **but our faith in Christ can become shipwrecked after salvation.** Paul believed that could happen to Timothy (1 Timothy 1:19 and 20). He told Timothy some safeguards—holding on the faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme. So Paul believed they become a shipwreck of the faith. Jesus taught the same in Luke chapter 8, verse 13. Some believe for a while and in time of testing

they fall away. So though we are justified by faith, that faith can cease to exist. We can become an unbeliever. Unbelievers will be thrown into the lake of fire according to the Word of God. Eternal security teachers also declare the partial truth that eternal life is a gift and a present tense possession, and I agree with that. Romans 6:23, John 6:47 and many other Scriptures would teach this. But that's not all the Bible teaches about eternal life. **Eternal life is also, shockingly, listen to this, it is a hope, yet to be reaped, in the world to come, for only the ones who persist in doing good and do not grow weary and give up.** Now let me give you Scripture. Titus 3:7, that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to **the hope of eternal life.** Galatians 6:8 and 9 says this: 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. So we must not give up. We must endure. We must persevere according to Paul, who wrote Galatians 6:8 and 9. That's the true grace message, not works, not cultic, not legalism.** Furthermore, Jesus taught in Mark 10:30, But he shall receive an hundred fold now in this time, houses and brethren and sisters and mothers and children and lands with persecution. And **in the world to come, eternal life.** And then Romans 2:7, To those who by **persistence in doing good,** seek glory, honor and immortality, **he will give eternal life.** Now the teaching of once saved always saved does not say we have to persist in doing good. It says if you ever had a moment of true faith in Jesus, afterwards you can turn from the faith. **You can be more vile and wicked after initial salvation than you were before and you will still enter the Kingdom of God.** You can afterwards become a Hindu, a witch doctor, a serial killer, a serial rapist, even an atheist or a suicide and you'll still go to Heaven because you once had a moment of faith in Christ. This is not what the Bible teaches. This is not what Scripture declares. The Bible says when Jesus returns, with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers. In Hebrews chapter 5, verse 9, the Bible tells us that Jesus is the author of eternal salvation, but He's the author of eternal salvation to those who obey him. And in John 5:29, those that have done good will rise to live. **Those that have done evil will rise to be condemned.** All these Scriptures are avoided, perhaps even intentionally, by some eternal

security teachers, to present **their distorted view of salvation and grace.**

[Radio Host] All right, Dan, we're going to put you on hold and Dave, we're going to give you four minutes to respond to Dan Corner.

[Hunt] Well, of course, he's given us all kinds of verses one after the other, and I don't have time to deal with these. The things that he says are, much of it is a slander against those who believe in eternal security. Nobody that I know of believes that you can become more vile and wicked than the worst person, that you can become a Hindu and so forth. He says that's not what the Bible teaches. That is not what we teach. The, the, our hope of eternal life, he talks about a hope. It's not something that you hope to get. It's something that is sure. Which hope we have which is secure within the veil, the Bible says. He's confusing salvation and rewards. But, you know, my hope, you know, Dan apparently is not sure whether he's going to get to Heaven or not, by his own standards that he set forth. If he doesn't live a good enough life, he's not going to get there. My hope of Heaven is not in the good life that I am going to live, but it is in the promise that Christ has given me. And he very clearly says, John 5:24, for example, he that hears my word, believes on him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death to life. Dan says, no, you can pass back again. You can lose your salvation. Well I don't get that from Jesus. 1 John 5:13, these things have I written unto you that believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have, present possession, eternal life, and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God. Now it sounds as though Dan, one day when he gets to Heaven, if he gets there by his rules, I'm not sure that he can make it, but if he gets there, he will be able to boast before the throne of God that he lived a good enough life to keep his salvation. He couldn't earn his salvation, but he's going to live a good enough life to keep his salvation and he tells people you've got to live a good enough life to keep your salvation. I, I'm not going to keep my salvation by living a good enough life. It is Christ who is keeping me, and he will not let me go. I give my sheep eternal life. They will never perish and no one can pluck them out of my hand. So I'm trusting in Christ, who is able to keep us from falling, to

present us faultless, Jude says, before the presence of his glory, with eternal joy. I'm trusting in him for my eternal security. Dan is trusting, apparently, in his ability to live a good enough life. He couldn't earn his salvation by his good works, but now he's going to keep his salvation by his good works. And that's not Biblical.

[Radio Host] All right, very good. We're going to hear from Dan Corner in just a minute, responding to Dave Hunt. Dave Hunt, of course, the author of "The Occult Invasion" and answers a lot of questions in his book, "In Defense of the Faith." He also has a book on prophecy, several books on prophecy, one of them is entitled, "A Cup of Trembling." There's "The Seduction of Christianity," published by Harvest House. We'll continue with Dan Corner, the author of "The Believer's Conditional Security" in just a moment.

[Break]

[Radio Host] Dan, go ahead. Let's hear from you now. You got about four minutes to respond to Dave Hunt.

[Corner] All right. Number one, I would like to say that I certainly did not slander or misrepresent the position of eternal security. I don't want anyone out there to think that. I have over 700 footnotes, well documented in my 801 page book refuting eternal security to back up what I've said. **Let me give you an actual quote from Charles Stanley. Stanley said this, "You can't tell a carnal believer from a lost man. That is, you can't tell the cold from the carnal because the truth is, they're both acting the same way."** Besides that, the Westminster Confession would refer to David and say that David was a man that was elect and for a time, he turned away. But then they have a nevertheless clause in there, which would imply that he remained saved all during that time. **Hence, David turned away to adultery, murder and a deceitful, lying kind of a lifestyle for at least nine months. And they would say, during that time, that he was saved all along. Dave Hunt would have to agree.** Don't be deceived that Dave Hunt is teaching holy living for salvation. He believes the person in 1 Corinthians 5, who was sexually immoral, was saved even though the

Bible calls him wicked. It says that he was not saved. **Dave Hunt and other eternal security teachers, being consistent with their position, would say that you can be adulterous, you can be a drunkard, you can be a murderer, you can be a suicide and still enter the Kingdom. It's taught everywhere. I'm not misrepresenting their position.**

Number two, while it's true that John 10:28 teaches that Jesus' sheep will never perish, no man will ever pluck them out of his hand, verse 27 describes the sheep. Jesus said, my sheep hear my voice, I know them, they follow me. **The word "follow" is a continuous tense in the Greek. So as long as we continue to follow Jesus, we'll never perish, we'll never be plucked out of his hand. So we must follow. If you turn away as Judas did, well then you're not following anymore and we know that Judas went to Hell when he died.** There's no judgment involved there. Jesus said that. Also, it's a misrepresentation of me to say that Dan is trusting in his ability to keep himself and to enter the Kingdom and there he will boast about his good works. I already said at the beginning of all this that **we are saved by grace, not by works. We're justified by faith.** And then I added to that what the Bible teaches. I said before that, that **it was a trusting, submitting and enduring faith in Christ that saves, one that produces good works and holy living.** I said that to a caller before Dave came on the air. So please do not misrepresent me. That's a very common thing that eternal security teachers do to exalt their own position. That's called the Strawman Fallacy. Dave said I have no assurance of salvation. The only assurance of salvation that's found in the Word of God is for those that are presently following Jesus, **those that have a present tense faith in Christ.**

[Radio Host] All right, hold on Dan.

[Corner] Go ahead.

[Radio Host] Let's give Dave Hunt now three minutes to respond. Go ahead, Dave.

[Hunt] Hahahaha. Well . . .

[Radio Host] You don't even need your coffee this morning.

[Hunt] Ha, right.

[Radio Host] Your adrenalin is running.

[Hunt] I don't know exactly how Dan is changing these things around a bit, but he says well you've got to presently follow. Okay, well, all right, is that good works or isn't it good works? It's some effort on your part, it's your faith on your part that is keeping you saved. I don't find that in the Bible. The man in 1 Corinthians, Paul delivers him to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that the spirit may be saved in the day of Jesus Christ. There's never a hint in 1 or 2 Corinthians that any of these people to whom Paul is writing and about whom he is speaking lost their salvation. I don't find anything in there, and they have, they were some really carnal Christians. And they had some problems. But never do I find Paul saying you've lost your salvation. Now you've got to get saved again. In Hebrews chapter 12, for example, it says that God chastens every son that he receives. Well, if you, if when you sin you're no longer a son, he doesn't have any sons to chasten. And he says that if you are without chastisement, you're bastards. He doesn't say you have lost your salvation, you've ceased to be a son. He says you never were a son. To those in Matthew 7 where, that say Lord, Lord, look at all the wonderful works we've done, Jesus says, I never knew you. He doesn't say, you were doing really well until you lost your faith or until you backslid. Furthermore, Hebrews chapter 6 very clearly says, if you can fall away, you can never get saved again. You would have, you would crucify to yourselves afresh the Son of God. If the first death of Christ on the cross is not enough to keep you, then you have to, he would have to be crucified again, and you hold him up to an open shame because Christ has purchased your salvation at infinite cost and now he's turned it over to you to keep it, and you can't keep it. It's just a, a, a, a tragedy.

[Radio Host] I know this is very frustrating to you guys, but it helps us and especially for those of us who have a difficult time reading. I mean we're able to hear the arguments and it's, it's, it, you're putting it in a concise manner and it really, really does help us. Before we let you go,

Dave, and we'll talk to Dan Corner again here in just a minute and close it out with him, but Ash Wednesday, where did that begin? . . .

-----An Analysis-----

[Corner] Now that the debate is finished I'd like to comment on several things:

- (1) Perhaps I'm wrong, but it seems that the moderator was favorably biased towards Dave Hunt. Why do I believe this? Well, Hunt always responded to my comments and was given the final opportunity to rebut what I said, without any rotation in order of presentation.
- (2) After Hunt's first response to my opening comments, the moderator revealed himself as biased by commenting regarding what Dave had just said with the words, "All right, very good."
- (3) Shortly after that comment the moderator mentioned numerous books that Dave wrote, but only one of mine, *The Believer's Conditional Security*.
- (4) At the beginning of my second opportunity to comment, the moderator said to me: "You got about four minutes to respond to Dave Hunt" but after 3:15 the moderator stopped me, with 45 seconds left, then went to Dave.
- (5) After Dave's second response was over, the moderator said: "Before we let you go, Dave, and **we'll talk to Dan Corner again here in just a minute and close out with him**, but Ash Wednesday, where did that begin?"

But what really happened was, it was much longer than "a minute" before I could again respond to the subject of the debate and that was to inform the listeners how to get a copy of my book! I also threw in an important Scripture truth to prove that the fornicating man of 1 Cor. 5, which Dave said was a Christian, was not saved but "wicked" and headed for the fiery furnace.

Now I'd like to comment on Dave's second response in defense of eternal security, where he was opposed to both "effort" and "faith" on the part of the Christian in keeping one saved. Jesus taught:

Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. (Luke 13:24)

The KJV uses the word "strive" which is the Greek word where we get our word *agony* from! Remember also 2 Peter. 3:14 which says, "**make every effort** to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him."

Furthermore, Jesus also taught a **continuous tense faith** is what would save! This is shown in John 3:16; 3:18; 3:36; 5:24; 6:35; 6:47 and many other places! In contrast, the Lord also taught one's faith can cease to exist, as shown in Lk. 8:13.

Dave also brought up the Heb 12 passage about discipline and connected to that "if when you sin you are no longer his son" then you are illegitimate. Several comments are in order here: (1) All sin is not a sin unto death! Remember 1 John 5:16,17:

If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. **There is a sin that leads to death.** I am not saying that he should pray about that. All wrongdoing is sin, and **there is sin that does not lead to death.**

So all sin is not of the same degree. We would therefore, be in error to try to compare sins of worry and unthankfulness to sins of adultery, drunkenness and greed.

Furthermore, all discipline administered by God does not work! Scripture states:

They turned their backs to me and not their faces;

though I taught them again and again, **they would not listen or respond to discipline.** (Jer 32:33)

Dave also brought up the popular Mt. 7:23 passage "I never knew you" but this passage doesn't cover all cases. In Mt. 25:12 the Lord also taught there are virgins that once had a lamp burning but afterwards those same lamps went out and they heard the Lord say to them "**I tell you the truth, I don't know you.**" Not "I never knew you." So the Lord no longer "knew" them. They were no longer saved, as they were when their lamps were burning.

Finally, Dave brought up the common Heb. 6:4-6 passage and stated that it says "If you can fall away, you can never get saved again." The truth is: we know people do "fall away" since Jesus clearly said such occurs in Lk. 8:13. Furthermore, the Lord said to His Twelve Apostles minus Judas:

This very night you will all **fall away** on account of me, for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." (Mat 26:31)

So the Lord's sheep can "fall away," according to Jesus. It is not hypothetical! It does happen. Also, there is no "If" in Heb. 6:6. That is an error in certain versions of the Bible. Furthermore, the Greek shows that the people referred to had already fallen away and couldn't come back to God! Apparently, they committed eternal sin, unlike others who also fell away but did return to the Lord, such as the Apostles. Remember, Jesus taught one can get saved again in Luke 15:24 and Luke 15:32.

So what does the Bible say about "keeping" our self? Here's the Lord Himself and His Apostles' teaching, so no one can falsely accuse me of a work's salvation or legalism:

Be dressed ready for service and **keep** your lamps burning (Luke 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. (John 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. (James 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 1:21)

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

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

Again, thanks to all who made the "Hunt vs. Corner Mini-Debate" possible. While Robert Morey and Jim White both continue to refuse to debate me on the subject of my 801 page book, Dave Hunt did.

But two final personal questions for Dave Hunt:

(1) Dave, would you be willing to debate me again on this subject for a longer period of time, preferably one or two hours?

(2) Dave, will you be offering our mini-debate in your ministry catalog for your readers to analyze for themselves as we are planning to do here?

God bless all who hear this tape. **Remember Jesus was not joking when he taught the disciples that they would have to endure to the end for their salvation sake (Mt. 10:22).** And "we have come to share in Christ **if** we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first" (Heb. 3:14).

The Believer's Conditional Security

By Dan Corner

- ◆ Exhaustive (801 pages)
- ◆ Contemporary
- ◆ Fully documented (700+ footnotes)
- ◆ Full subject index
- ◆ Full Scripture index
- ◆ Historical, little-known facts
- ◆ Comprehensive (195+ reference sources)
- ◆ Bibliography included

Softback \$23.50 (BCS-S)

Add \$7.86 postage

With over 700 footnotes, this is the most exhaustive, contemporary and comprehensive refutation to the once saved, always saved (OSAS), eternal security or the perseverance of the saints teaching ever written. It deals a deathblow to OSAS through a close examination of the Scriptures, exposes the real John Calvin and unmask the Synod of Dort. Stanley, Swindoll, MacArthur, Hunt, Hanegraaff, Ankerberg, Breese, Lindsey, Morey, White and many others are quoted and refuted.

Order Line 724-632-3210