

Eternal Security Disproved and gotquestions.org S. Michael Houdmann

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In an article by gotquestions.org entitled *Is a backsliding Christian still saved?*, Once Saved Always Saved (OSAS) teacher, S. Michael Houdmann, wrote: **"Yes, a true Christian who falls back into sin is still saved...."** Though Houdmann wasn't specific, he believes such "sin" could include: adultery, drunkenness, theft, homosexuality, murder, swindling, slander, idolatry, blasphemy, etc. and even be **"willful, continuous and unrepentant sin," as he explained in his flawed version of the *sin unto death*.** Such an image of a child of God is violently opposed to God's word, which describes **the Christian as: a saint** (1 Cor. 14:33; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:4; etc.), **a self-denying follower of Jesus** (Lk. 9:23; etc.), **one who puts into practice God's word** (Lk. 8:21), **a doer of the will of the Father** (Mt. 7:21), **one who obeys God** (1 Jn. 2:3,4) **and lives holy** (1 Thess. 4:7,8; 2 Pet. 3:11,12; etc.), etc. **Undoubtedly, eternal security teachers have distorted and smeared the true image of a Christian and reduced him into a spiritually weak and sinful person. They believe the saved can act the same detestable ways as the sin-addicted children of the devil and they even allow for *continuous unrepentant sin unto death*.**

In order to smokescreen conceal their license to sin, the eternal security teachers sometimes teach a *double message* and say if a professing Christian turns to the type of sins as specified above, then **"He was never saved to begin with"**. Such a message, however, is inconsistent with their belief about King David, who turned to both adultery and murder. **They all teach that David retained his salvation, while in those heinous sins in defiance to God's word** (Ezek. 33:18; 1 Cor. 6:9,10; Eph. 5:5-7; Rev. 21:8; etc.). **OSAS proponents believe the same about Solomon remaining saved, who turned to the vilest kinds of**

idolatries (1 Kings 11:1-8). Eternal security teachers want it both ways - teaching an outrageous backslider is still saved, then "he was never saved" if he does backslide. These glaring inconsistencies are already enough to reveal their *error and license to sin*, but there is even more with the teaching of the *Prodigal Son* (Lk. 15:11-32).

The prodigal *deliberately* departed from the Father into *wild living* and to be with the prostitutes. He finally turned away from those sins (repented) to return to the Father to serve him again. The Father said to the sorrowful and repentant prodigal, **"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate"** (Luke 15:24). Luke 15 clearly shows backsliders do indeed become spiritually dead and lost just like the prodigal did when he turned to wild living.

This stark reality of a change in spiritual identity is in contrast to *Once Saved Always Saved* dogma. **Remember that is Jesus' teaching about backsliders, that is, that they are spiritually *dead and lost*.**

Luke 15:24 also shows the prodigal became **"alive again,"** which proves (1) backsliders can return to salvation via repentance and (2) the prodigal had salvation before he died spiritually when he departed into wild living. Those truths are essential and prove eternal security is an incontrovertible false teaching and a license to sin. **All such OSAS teachers must argue (if consistent to their doctrine) that the prodigal retained his salvation when with the prostitutes, thereby inferring there are Christian whoremongers! If that extreme is not a license to sin, then what is?** This, however, is the *image of a Christian* they have created and want us to accept. **It is critical for**

backsliders to know they must repent for salvation's sake, but that truth is also sadly denied by Once Saved Always Saved.

Moreover, the unnamed incestuous and adulterous man of 1 Cor. 5:1-5, who was **committing sin which even pagans wouldn't do**, is said to have been a *Christian* by many OSAS teachers. Eternal security teacher, David J. Stewart of jesusissavior.org, has also openly admitted, "I am going to Heaven, regardless of how I live. But you say, that's crazy! No! That's Bible! **So do Christians have a license to sin? Yes**, if you want to view it that way." Furthermore, multiple divorced Hal Lindsey stated, "**I'm sad to say that some of the worst sins I ever committed have been after salvation.**" By stating that, Lindsey is saying a Christian can be more vile and wicked than before his salvation, yet retain his salvation through it all.

Just believing the OSAS doctrine itself sets one up for arrogance (Rom. 11:19-22) and a spiritual fall (1 Cor. 10:12). Such occurs because the proponents **think they are standing firm even to the point that their salvation is now irrevocable, irreversible and unalterable, and they see no need to fear being cut off. They don't believe their salvation can be imperiled by anything they do or don't do or anything they believe or don't believe, regardless of what it is.**

The *unspoken goal* of the eternal security teacher is to convince others that a Christian can stray and become wildly immoral, grossly sinful and flagrantly disobedient and still retain his salvation while unrepentant and only jeopardize his rewards, fellowship, etc., but never his salvation and relationship with God. **Those who object to that observation with their "never saved to begin with" sophistry and inconsistencies are immediately silenced by King David and the OSAS errant version of the sin unto death.**

The eternal security teachers calculatingly declare their OSAS doctrine is under and linked to the gospel, grace, the blood of Christ, infinite work of Christ, imputed righteousness, etc.

when it has nothing to do with any of these basic truths of Christianity. **The OSAS teachers also further distort the Christian opposition as teaching a works salvation, legalism and being cultic.**

One of the primary proof texts for Once Saved Always Saved is **John 10:28**, which states the subjects will never perish and no man can snatch them out of God's hand. **The OSAS teachers say those promises apply even to the backsliders, but the context shows those wonderful promises only belong to the continuous tense followers of Christ (John 10:27), which excludes backsliders.**

S. Michael Houdmann of gotquestions.org also wrote, "The Bible tells us that if a person denies Christ, he never truly knew Christ to begin with." **Is it possible that Houdmann, and others like him, are unaware of Peter's thrice denial of Christ (Mt. 26:33,34)?** When Peter's denial (Mt. 26:70,72) is examined with Mt. 10:33, the same Greek term (*arneomai*) is found which pulverizes OSAS beyond repair. Why? **Because Jesus did disown Peter as he warned his apostles, "But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven" (Mt. 10:33). Therefore we know, since Peter disowned Jesus, Jesus likewise disowned Peter.** Afterwards, Peter repented and turned back to God (Lk. 22:32), but **the point is one is no longer saved if Jesus disowns him, as happened to Peter at that time.** That fact alone is another certain deathblow to OSAS.

Eternal security is also effectively demolished by the stern warning to *saints* not to take the mark of the beast or else they (the saints) will be tormented with burning sulfur, the smoke of their torment will rise forever and they will have no rest day or night (Rev. 14:9-12). **That bone-chilling warning would be impossible if eternal security were true.** There are many other *hell* warnings directed to *Christians* (Mt. 10:22; 10:33; 18:1-3; 18:8,9; Jn. 15:5,6; 1 Cor. 6:9,10; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:8,9; Eph. 5:5-7; 1 John 2:24,25; Rev. 2:10,11; 22:18,19; etc.) which also prove the same.

The eternal security teaching *wrongly* opposes and denies that the righteous can die spiritually, which is taught from Gen. 2:17 through Rev. 22:19, including five times in Ezekiel (3:20; 18:24; 18:26; 33:13; 33:18) and throughout the entire New Testament (Lk. 15:24,32; Rom. 6:16; 8:13; James 1:14-16; 5:19,20; 1 Tim. 5:6; Rev. 2:10,11; etc.).

Eternal security opposes the conditional security of the believer explicitly stated in the gospel itself (1 Cor. 15:2; Col. 1:23) and **nullifies the conditional scriptures related to salvation** (Ezek. 33:18; Jn. 15:6; Rom. 8:13; 11:21-23; Gal. 6:8,9; Heb. 3:6; 3:14; James 1:26; 5:19,20; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; 1 John 2:24,25; Rev. 22:18,19; etc.). **OSAS changes the meaning of an *apostate* - trying to get us to believe those who "have fallen away from grace" (Gal. 5:1-4) were never in grace and it is the false convert who "falls away" (Lk. 8:13; etc.)! Jesus taught it is the *sheep* who "fall away" (Mt. 26:31).**

Be assured there absolutely are no Christian adulterers, no Christian drunks, no Christian liars, no Christian thieves, no Christian homosexuals, no Christian Muslims, etc. It is vital for Christians to know that there is no *Once Saved Always Saved*. Why? **Because for salvation's sake, the Christian must: continue to sow to please the Spirit and not give up to reap eternal life (Gal 6:8,9); not be arrogant, but afraid, for he can yet be cut off and stands by faith (Rom. 11:20-22); bear good fruit or be cut down and thrown into the fire (Jn. 15:5,6; Lk. 13:6-9); forgive others who sin against him to be forgiven (Mt. 6:14,15; 18:34,35); not become lukewarm or get discharged from the body of Christ (Rev.3:16); not forsake God as his first love or have his spiritual lampstand removed (Rev. 2:4,5); keep his spiritual lamp burning unlike the foolish virgins who did not and whom Jesus didn't know when he returns (Mt. 25:1-13); see to it that what he has**

heard from the beginning remains in him to remain in the Son and in the Father (1 John 2:24,25); hold on to what he has so that no man can take his crown (Rev. 3:11); etc. It is the Christian's personal responsibility to do all these things under grace. God is not going to hold on to our crown for us.

Be sure that it is a definite and sure advantage to know the vital truths that a follower of the PRECIOUS Lord Jesus must endure hatred till the end for salvation (Mt. 10:22), hold firmly till the end the confidence he had at first to share in Christ (Heb. 3:14)

and be faithful to the point of death to not be hurt at all by the second death (Rev. 2:10,11). Such is true Christian teaching, but opposed by OSAS. These are key truths about *salvation* taught by the Lord Jesus and his apostles, yet *avoided or twisted* by OSAS.

Finally, to be consistent with the *Once Saved Always Saved* doctrine, **the OSAS proponents assert once you get saved *you can't get out***

of salvation, even if you tried. The George Sodini multiple homicides and suicide in 2009 are proof of how insidious eternal security can be. OSAS has resulted in untold suicides, broken homes through adultery, as well as criminal acts, all while the OSAS teachers become rich and popular. For much more information, consult *The Believer's Conditional Security: Eternal Security Refuted* and *The Myth of Eternal Security* by Dan Corner. Visit also EvangelicalOutreach.org (EOMIN.org) and EternalLifeBlog.com. The Spanish website is <https://www.alcanceevangelistico.org> (DBN-MIN.net). Write: **Evangelical Outreach, P. O. Box 265, Washington, PA 15301. 724-632-3210. Pass this teaching on to those you love and care about. God bless you.**

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