In this tract the term, initial salvation, refers to the moment in time when a person extends a trusting-submitting faith in Jesus Christ for his personal salvation and thereby instantly receives the gift of salvation. At this same moment in time he passes from death to life, from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God (Jn. 5:24; Acts 26:18; 1 Jn. 3: 14). Such a person is set free from the slavery of sin (Jn. 8:32-36; Rom. 6:22). As a recipient of eternal life he has been declared righteous in God's sight and made a son of God because of his faith in Christ (Rom. 3:28; Gal. 3:26), who is now his Lord and Savior (Gal. 5:24; Eph. 5:24a).

Initial salvation simply refers to entering the kingdom of God, which only occurs for those who die righteous or are in such a state when the Lord returns. At this very moment, the physically alive, present-tense Christian is somewhere between his past conversion experience and his future entrance into the Kingdom, that is, assuming he endures to the end. He is now on the road that leads to life (Matt. 7:14). [Many reading this article are now on this road that leads to life.]

But is it possible for his entrance into the Kingdom of God to be negated or is it an absolute guarantee? Is the Christian's life now, because of grace, one in which he can sit back, relax, pursue the pleasures of this world and even start to live again according to the slavery of sin (Jn. 8:32-36; Rom. 6:22)? As a self-denying, cross carrying, Jesus follower a soldier in a battle (Phil. 2:3,4; 1 Thess 1:9)!

The Greek reveals a continuous tense “effort” to enter the Kingdom is to be exerted!

The Christian should never forget he is now in enemy territory. The devil, who is the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4), is our enemy! We are on his turf and he doesn’t like us here! We disturb him. Our value around throughout the earth looking for someone to accommodate an audience with sinful desires (Acts 20:30; 2 Tim. 4:3.4). Yet these teachers appear righteous (Matt. 7:15; 23:23; 2 Tim. 11:13-15; 2 Tim. 3:5). Dear reader, remember even the devil can quote Scripture (Matt. 4:6)! Rather than proclaiming the full counsel of God, such teachers stress only certain passages to the exclusion of others, because if they didn’t, their sought-after and easy-to-receive message would be clearly contradicted! These are truly “perilous times”! All of these are facts, as disturbing as they may be to some!

We are also warned of the danger of false teachers who distort the truth of God and who teach to accommodate an audience with sinful desires (Acts 20:30; 2 Tim. 3:4). Yet these teachers appear righteous (Matt. 7:15; 23:23; 2 Tim. 11:13-15; 2 Tim. 3:5). Dear reader, remember even the devil can quote Scripture (Matt. 4:6)? Rather than proclaiming the full counsel of God, such teachers stress only certain passages to the exclusion of others, because if they didn’t, their sought-after and easy-to-receive message would be clearly contradicted! These are truly “perilous times”! All of these are facts, as disturbing as they may be to some!

Now let’s carefully consider the issue of eternal life which is directly related to all of this. Many Christians are not aware of the passages, yet to be cited, regarding eternal life because of present-day false teachings. Please verify them for yourself.
with your own Bible. Since we are dealing with eternity the stakes are of infinite value. Therefore, carefully note them and prepare your heart to receive your findings. If necessary, adjust your theology accordingly.

What you are about to read is the result of looking up all the references in the Bible on “eternal life” and “eternalizing life” to learn more about this all-important subject. It would be good for you also to do this. [Sometimes eternal life is simply stated as “life” (Mk. 9:43; 1 Jn. 5:12), so this is another word that needs to be sought out.] As I now look back over all this data related to eternal life, I firmly believe it could be the key or the “missing part of the puzzle” for many regarding their personal misunderstanding of the believer’s security.

To the eternal security proponent who believes in an absolute and guaranteed entrance into God’s Kingdom, baseless on anything but faith in Christ, there will be some shocking Bible passages cited and examined! Shocking, not because they are taken out of context or misused in any way, but because they are hardly known and the reason they are hardly known is that they are problem texts for the eternal security teachers! Furthermore, many who embrace eternal security, unconsciously, skip over such Scriptures when teaching or while spending personal time in the Bible because they do not know the Son of God does not have eternal life. I write these things to you who believe [continuous tense] in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 Jn. 5:12,13).

These three passages, among others not cited here, clearly show we have eternal life the moment we believe on Christ and can “know” it at this time. Now those “awkward,” but equally inspired, Scriptures on the same subject are:

1. “Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt” (Dan. 12:2).

2. “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life” (Mt. 25:46).

3. “Will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life” (Mark 10:30).

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

5. “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). [The context reveals the harvest to be reaped is eternal life, and it will only be reaped “if” we do not give up sowing to please the Spirit. This was written by the Apostle Paul, the true grace teacher!]

6. “A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time” (Titus 1:2).

7. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes [continuous tense] in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (Jn. 3:16).

8. “I tell you the truth, he who believes [continuous tense] has everlasting life” (Jn. 6:47).

9. “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe [continuous tense] in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 Jn. 5:12,13).

“If necessary, adjust your theology accordingly.

In view of all of this, Heb. 12:1-4 appropriately says:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.”

Paul ran his race with “perseverance” to the very end of his life (2 Tim. 4:7). Dear saint of God, you can too, but you must follow the Scriptural directions on how to endure so that you won’t be just another casualty like Demas, Hymenaeus, Alexander, Judas, Solomon and many others. Paul was loving, humble, forgiving, faithful in prayer, and kept a clear conscience, just to mention a few of his many godly attributes. We will do well to pursue these. See also 1 Tim. 6:11, 12; 2 Tim. 2:22.

You are in a battle so don’t expect everything to go easy for you. Keep your thoughts on eternity and on the glorious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by staying in the Bible. There are multiple advantages from such (Ps. 19:7-14). “Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil” (1 Thess. 5:21, 22). Cast all your cares on God, for He cares about you (1 Pet. 5:7).

“Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love” (Eph. 6:24).

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