

# Salvation 101

## Lesson 7

### Perseverance

#### PART I EXPLANATION

**Introduction:** The doctrine of eternal security is one that really manifests what a person believes about salvation. For instance, there are many people that believe that you can “lose your salvation.” That immediately forces you to determine how salvation is obtained and upon what basis it is retained. It is essentially a Works vs. Grace Debate. While those who teach that you can lose your salvation would not accept that they are teaching a salvation of works, they are requiring more than the work of Christ to secure eternal salvation.

The doctrine of free grace in which salvation is “*freely bestowed on those who believe,*” requires nothing to attain and therefore there is nothing you can do to lose it. If on the other hand there is something that you can do to lose it, then it implies that there must be something you must do (a work) to keep it. It instantly becomes a conditional salvation and that condition, however small, is your work. If the inheritance of eternal life is freely bestowed, that means that it is unconditional. However, if there is a single condition that you must maintain in order to retain the inheritance, it is no longer freely bestowed. If you are saved by the blood of Christ, plus being a good Christian, you are really given an inheritance in heaven for being a good Christian. It makes the blood of Christ alone insufficient to retain eternal salvation. The obvious question then becomes, what is a good Christian? Where is the line that I must maintain to retain eternal salvation?

Where this teaching ultimately and logically leads is for such persons to claim a state of “sinless perfection.” That would be the only logical conclusion in order for the individual to be assured of eternal life and this is exactly where those in the Methodist and Holiness churches end up. Their adherents eventually end up looking for a “second blessing” where they attain to a level of sanctification where they no longer sin. This is no less heretical than absurd. It manifests a complete misunderstanding of the doctrine of salvation.

What really causes this argument in people’s minds is the realization that everyone that professes faith in Christ is not living according to the Bible definition and description of a Christian. The mistake comes in making the assumption that everyone that professes salvation is genuinely saved; when the Bible makes no such assumption. The Bible gives no assurance to those who: “*profess that they know God but in works deny Him,*” “*have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof,*” or call Christ Lord but do not do what He says. They may have a profession of faith but without works it is a dead faith that will not save them.

The biblical relationship between faith and works is that works are the fruit of salvation, not the cause of it. If there has been a genuine conversion it will eventually manifest itself through good works. Jesus told us how to identify false professors. “*Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit.*” “*Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire*” (of hell). That is why it is necessary to understand the components of salvation (studied in previous lessons) and the biblical chain of salvation found in Romans 8:28-30 to be able to identify genuine Christianity.

**Definitions:** For English use the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong’s Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong’s number is in parenthesis.

**English: Saved -**

**Perseverance -**

## **Glorification -**

Greek: (4982) **sozo** *sode'-zo* -

Hebrew: (2421) **chayah** *khaw-yaw'* -

(3467) **yasha** *yaw-shah'* -

(4422) **malat** *maw-lat'* -

### **Quotation:**

“When God calls a man, He does not repent of it. God does not, as many friends do, love one day, and hate another; or as princes, who make their subjects favorites, and afterwards throw them into prison. This is the blessedness of a saint; his condition admits of no alteration. God’s call is founded upon His decree, and His decree is immutable. Acts of grace cannot be reversed. God blots out His people’s sins, but not their names.” Thomas Watson

“As the apple is not the cause of the apple tree, but a fruit of it: even so good works are not the cause of our salvation, but a sign and fruit of the same.” Daniel Cawdray

“Good deeds are such things that no man is saved for them, nor without them.” Thomas Adams

“Glorification is the perfect conformity of the believer to the image of Jesus Christ, both in body and soul. It is the perfection of sanctification, when our body of humiliation will be conformed to the body of Christ’s glory and we shall be entirely “like Christ.” Alan Cairns

“There is indeed, mention made of a mercy-seat in the temple, but there was never heard of any school of merit but in the chapel of Antichrist.” John Trapp

“It is congruous to the wisdom and governing justice of God, that the same body which was partaker with the soul in sin and duty should be partaker with it in suffering or felicity.” Richard Baxter

“Many blessings are promised to our outward man, here in this life; and hereafter it is to be made a glorious and incorruptible body, like unto the glorious body of our Lord Jesus Christ: it is to be clothed with light and crowned with rays, never more to suffer injuries without or diseases within.” Ezekiel Hopkins

**Confessions** (Look up and read these articles)

### **New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith of 1833**

Article XI The Perseverance Of The Saints

### **London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689**

Chapter 16 Of Good Works - paragraphs 1-7

Chapter 17: Of the Perseverance of the Saints - paragraphs 1-3

Chapter 18 Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation - paragraphs 1-4

## **PART II EXPLORATION**

**Key Questions** (*Answer in writing*)

1. How does your view of eternal security manifest what you believe about salvation?
2. What does it mean to be freely bestowed?
3. Why would teaching that you can lose your salvation be considered adding works to salvation?
4. Explain why it is not possible for a Christian to lose their salvation.
5. How does God know who is saved and who isn't?
6. What does the teaching of losing your salvation ultimately lead to? Why?
7. What is the possible cause of leading people to believe that you can lose your salvation?
8. How does Article XI of the New Hampshire confession identify a genuine believer?
9. What does the London confession chapter 17 paragraph two claim that the perseverance of saints depends upon?

10. What does the London confession chapter 17 paragraph 3 claim will happen to a genuine believer that falls into gross sin?

**Key Scriptures:**

Matthew 3:7-9 John the Baptist's response to the multitudes wanting to be baptized was to bring forth \_\_\_\_\_ to manifest their repentance.

Matthew 5:20 Jesus taught that if your righteousness did not \_\_\_\_\_ that of the extremely religious Pharisees that you would in \_\_\_\_\_ enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 7:15-20 We are warned against wolves who pretend to be sheep. We are taught to recognize them by their \_\_\_\_\_. Every good tree bringeth forth \_\_\_\_\_ fruit. A good tree \_\_\_\_\_ bring forth \_\_\_\_\_ fruit. By their fruits we shall \_\_\_\_\_ and identify them.

Matthew 7:21-23 Christ is not deceived by everyone that professes to be a Christian. He identifies a true professor as one that \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of His Father. In the day of judgment \_\_\_\_\_ will wonder why they have been condemned despite their many wonderful \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus will claim that He \_\_\_\_\_ knew them.

John 3:16 Those who truly believe in Christ shall \_\_\_\_\_ perish but \_\_\_\_\_ everlasting life.

John 5:24 Those who believe in Christ shall not come into \_\_\_\_\_.

John 6:37-40 \_\_\_\_\_ that the Father predestinates will \_\_\_\_\_ and those that come will not be cast out. Of all that God has given to His Son, He will \_\_\_\_\_ none but \_\_\_\_\_ them up in the resurrection.

John 10:27-29 Jesus identifies His sheep as those who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Those that do so will \_\_\_\_\_ perish neither can any man \_\_\_\_\_ them out.

Romans 3:24 We are justified \_\_\_\_\_ by grace without any mixture of works.

Romans 4:2-4 If we were saved by works we could \_\_\_\_\_ in ourselves for obtaining salvation. God would owe us salvation as a \_\_\_\_\_ for our good works.

Romans 8:1 There is no \_\_\_\_\_ to them who are \_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus and they are identified by not walking in the \_\_\_\_\_ but in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 8:5 Those who walk in the flesh \_\_\_\_\_ or obey the desires of the flesh. Those who walk in the Spirit obey the leading of the Spirit.

Romans 8:14 The true children of God are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:28-39 Those whom God predestinated will ultimately be \_\_\_\_\_. If God is for us who can be \_\_\_\_\_ us? It matters not what anyone else thinks. He gave up His Son and will \_\_\_\_\_ give us all things for that payment. It is impossible to \_\_\_\_\_ us from the love of Christ.

Romans 11:6 If salvation is of \_\_\_\_\_ it cannot be of \_\_\_\_\_ .

Galatians 3:11 No man can be saved by works or keeping the \_\_\_\_\_ .

Galatians 3:18 You cannot have an \_\_\_\_\_ by works and by a promised gift.

Colossians 1:4-6 The hope in heaven is prepared for those who bring forth \_\_\_\_\_ from the day they are saved.

James 2:17 Faith without works is \_\_\_\_\_.

I John 1:9 Saved people are cleansed from all \_\_\_\_\_.

I John 2:3-5 True Christians are identified as people that \_\_\_\_\_ God's commandments. He who professes to be saved who does not is a \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not in him. This is how we \_\_\_\_\_ that we are saved and we ought to \_\_\_\_\_ as Christ walked.

I John 3:9-10 A true Christian does not hate his \_\_\_\_\_ (fellow Christian).

**Key Chapter(s)** (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Romans 8

### **PART III EXPECTATION**

**Memory verse:** Romans 8:30

**Personal definition:** (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Perseverance -

Glorification -

**Personal Confession:** (*Study the confessions and write your confession in your own words*)

Perseverance of the saints-

**Meditation question:** (*be prepared for discussion*)

Can a saved person live any way they please (sinfully) and still go to heaven?

**Extra credit:**

Explain Hebrews 6:4-8 and 10:26 in relation to eternal security.