**Oak Ridge, TN (2-20-22): Once Saved Does Not Mean Always Saved**

**Many today claim they follow Jesus and believe that once one is "saved" it is absolutely impossible for him to ever lose his soul, whether he lives godly or not. Maybe you have heard this from Bible studies with folks, or at funerals, in conversations, etc. This morning I want us to look at the scriptures and see what they say about this idea. Then I want us to consider some personal application to what the scriptures are teaching us.**

* **Matthew 7:21, 10:22**
* **John 8:31, John 8:51**
* **1 Corinthians 8:11, 9:27, 15:2**
* **Galatians 5:4, 6:8-9**
* **Colossians 1:21-23**
* **1 Timothy 1:19, 4:1, 4:16, 6:12, 6:20-21**
* **2 Timothy 2:16-18**
* **Hebrews 2:1-3, 3:6, 3:12-14**
* **James 5:19-20**
* **2 Peter 1:10-11**
* **1 John 1:7**
* **Revelation 2:10, 22:14**

**I think we can all see that the idea of “once saved, always saved” is in direct conflict with God’s Word. These scriptures show that once we become of disciple of Jesus Christ we need to continue to walk with Him, keep His commandments, and diligently serve Him to be pleasing on Judgment Day. Baptism is the beginning and not the end! And to maintain our faith we need to be praying, reading our Bibles, spending time with Christians, meditating on His Word, putting off the old man and putting on the new man, and sowing the seed by example and teaching. Much of the New Testament is devoted to warning Christians to be on guard lest they fall away and lose their reward (2 Peter 3:17-18).**

**But what about us, disciples of Jesus Christ? Do we sometimes take our salvation for granted? Do we sometimes let the idea of once saved always saved creep into our thinking when we:**

* **Put off repenting of our sins**
* **Put off making things right with a brother**
* **Put off facing our own habitual sins**
* **Put off, lovingly correcting a brother who is in sin**
* **Put off doing things we lack (e.g., rich young ruler)**
* **Put off growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**You see the warnings we read about are real. Satan would love for us to embrace the idea of once saved, always saved. I think we all need to consider this as we live our lives for Jesus.**

**What I have also found is that those who believe in “once saved, always saved” typically do not teach accurately how one can be saved in the first place. Paul was told by Ananias, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). If you have not truly heard the gospel, believed in Jesus, made the good confession that Jesus is the Son of God, repented of your sins, and been immersed in the waters of baptism, one thing is for certain. You are not in a saved condition. Why not submit to the Lord and repent of your sins and be baptized to wash them away today? Then after you rise up from the waters of baptism a new creature, dedicate your life to following the Lord. Then you can be sure that you will be saved for eternity.**