

Once Saved, Always Saved



Calvinism

- In short, Calvinism is a set of doctrines that revolve around God's sovereignty. He is in absolute control of human salvation. Because of our total, inherited depravity, and our incapability of seeking God through an act of our own will, it is only by HIS sovereign and predetermined plan that anybody will be saved.
- Today's lesson will focus mainly on the "P" in the common acronym "T.U.L.I.P." – Perseverance of the saints, otherwise known as "once saved, always saved." Understand that there are different (if subtle) interpretations of this particular tenet of Calvinism.



“They, whom God has accepted in His Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved... This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father... Nevertheless, they may, through the temptations of Satan... fall into grievous sins; and, for a time, continue therein: whereby they incur God's displeasure...”

-Westminster Confession of Faith



Proof Texts Considered

- **Romans 8:35-39** – These are all outside forces at work. Spiritual ruin starts from within (Matthew 15:16-20).
- **John 10:27-29** – Nobody can snatch us away, but we can most certainly walk away from God willingly (Luke 15:3-7, Acts 20:28-30, Revelation 3:14-22).
- **1 John 3:9** – The context shows that Christians can (and do) sin so as to fall away from God.



Romans 7:25 & 8:1

- “The body sins but the soul is not condemned.” This is the only argument for why a regenerated, saved person still **OBVIOUSLY** commits sin.
- The context of Romans 7 & 8, however, shows that sins in the flesh can condemn the soul. Salvation, in part, depends on our obedience (“put to death the deeds of the body”).
- Other verses also show this: 1 Cor. 6:9–10, Mark 7:20–23, 2 Cor. 5:10, 1 Cor. 9:27.



“Well, it just wasn’t real faith then”

- The Bible doesn’t make a distinction between “real faith” and “faith that only looks real at first.” Faith is faith. So are we saved in faith or not? Consider the implications of such scriptures as:
- 2 Timothy 2:16-18
- 1 Timothy 1:18-20
- Acts 8:12-14
- Galatians 5:1-4
- Hebrews 3:12-13



The Real Challenge

John 15:1-6, Romans 11:16-24, Hebrews 6:4-8



The Danger Of Losing Your Balance

