

Can I Lose My Salvation After Being Baptized?

Some time ago David Martin, minister at the Solid Rock Baptist Church in Bartlett, TN, authored an article entitled "Common Sense Questions A 'Church Of Christ' Preacher Cannot Clearly Answer." This article contains 13 questions that address subjects such as the necessity of baptism and instrumental music. Through much study and reading on these subjects I have formulated answers that cite "book, chapter, and verse" references showing what the Bible teaches regarding these questions. This article addresses Mr. Martin's fourth question.

It is my prayer that anyone who reads this article will study the verses cited with an open mind to truly learn what God's Word teaches. Obedience to God's Word, nothing more and nothing less, is what will get us to Heaven. We all want to go, but we have to remember that those who reach Heaven will do so on God's terms, not man's.

QUESTION

If my past sins are forgiven when I am baptized in water, and it is possible for me to "lose my salvation" and go to hell after being baptized, then wouldn't my best chance of going to heaven be to drown in the baptistry?!! - before I had a chance to sin so as to be lost again? If I wanted to be absolutely sure of heaven, isn't that my best opportunity?

BOOK CHAPTER AND VERSE ANSWER

According to Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16 one's sins are forgiven when he or she is baptized.

Act 2:38

(38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Act 22:16

(16) And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

There is no "if". It is a fact. These verses plainly state that baptism is for the remission of sins or to wash away sins.

It is also possible for one to obey and obtain salvation and lose it. There is also no "if" here. Again, it is a fact. Let's look at a few passages that tell us this is true.

1Co 9:27

(27) But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

It could not be denied that Paul was saved. He was a baptized penitent believer who was working diligently for the cause of Christ. Yet he says that he had to

work to bring his body into subjection lest he would be a castaway. He knew he could be lost.

Read Acts 8:9-24. We see that Simon the sorcerer was saved. But we see that he fell away. He then repented. Salvation is conditional. Once Simon became greedy, he quit following after Christ. Once we are saved, we remain saved as long as we faithfully follow Christ. We see this in I John chapter 1.

1Jo 1:1-10

- (1) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;**
- (2) (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)**
- (3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.**
- (4) And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.**
- (5) This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**
- (6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:**
- (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**
- (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**
- (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**

From these passages we have seen that baptism in water does take away sin and that one can be saved but then lose his salvation. Let's look for a moment at the question "What is my best chance to go to heaven?"

Paul compared his Christian life to sporting events.

1Co 9:24-27

- (24) Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.**
- (25) And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.**
- (26) I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:**
- (27) But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

2Ti 4:6-8

- (6) For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.**
- (7) I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:**
- (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**

From what Paul says we see that he had worked hard for the cause of Christ and that he had “kept the faith”. Had he not done his best and had he not remained faithful, then he would have lost that reward. Christ says this same thing to the church at Smyrna, through John, in Revelation 2:8-10.

Rev 2:8-10

- (8) And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;**
- (9) I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and / *know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.**
- (10) Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

Donnie Autry