

# Bible Trek Ministries

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## CAN I LOSE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

(Excerpted from Bible Trek 3 and 4)

*Some people are firmly convinced that once you have become a Christian that you must then perform or God will remove this salvation from you. There are complete denominations who espouse this position. These people and denominations are totally sincere ... but I believe they are sincerely wrong. How do we know for sure? The best place to look is to the Bible, not to man's opinion – INCLUDING MINE!*

**Question:** Why would God save us and then take our salvation away? \*

**Question:** If salvation is the SOLUTION for sin, how can we say then that our sin (or a sin) will cause our salvation to be taken away? \*

**Question:** If there is an unpardonable sin (other than rejection of Jesus\*), then Christ did not die for ALL sin. Salvation then is available ONLY to a select group, since there are those who will not qualify for this salvation. This would mean that John 3:16 (along with a host of other verses) is not valid. \*

*John 3:16*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**Question:** Why would God (who knows the beginning and the end) not take us immediately to heaven if He saw that later in our life we would reject Him or sin to the point of being tossed out? \* After all:

*2 Peter 3:9*

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

\* *The Bible says in Luke 12:10 that the only sin that won't be forgiven is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, which is rejecting the Holy Spirit when he draws you to Christ.*

In light of Ephesians 2:8-9 which says...*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God**--not by works, so that no one can boast.*], *this next verse is one of my favorites:*

*Romans 11:29  
...for God's **gifts** and his call are irrevocable.*

According to the Bible our salvation is a **gift of God**. Romans 11:29 says that God's **gifts are irrevocable!** If your driving license is taken away it is REVOKED! God says His gift of salvation is irrevocable or can never be taken away!

*Paul, arguably the greatest of the Apostles, said the following:*

*Romans 7:14-20*

*We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. [15] I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. [16] And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. [17] As it is, it is **no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.** [18] I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. **For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.** [19] For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. [20] Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, **but it is sin living in me that does it.***

Now, if Paul says he can't stop sinning and he is a slave to sin, how can *I* ever hope to stop sinning? And if I can't stop sinning, EXACTLY which sin is it that will get me thrown out? If there is one sin that will cause me to lose my salvation (other than the rejection of the Holy Spirit's drawing to Christ ...see above), it only makes sense that a fair God would tell us what it is-- but He doesn't.

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In reality, the position that you can lose your salvation is rooted in one of the greatest sins of all (and it still won't cancel your salvation). That sin is pride – something we all have. It is the thought that Jesus made a way for me to now perform and thereby earn my salvation. For us to think that we can in any way contribute to our salvation is one of the greatest schemes of the devil and **REDUCES THE WORK CHRIST DID ON THE CROSS**. There can only be one author of this deception – Satan himself. This position when you dissect it is that Christ paid the penalty for sin BUT ... our performance, which is always doing the law, qualifies us for this salvation. If we fail in upholding the Law then we will lose our salvation. The Law, part of the old Covenant and the standard by which the Old Testament people lived by is, what adherents of this position cling to. Note that those who feel they can do this take great pride in this performance and point to all others who do not measure up to this standard as in a position of loss (their salvation) while they are in a position of gain (pride).

**But does the Bible say that?**

Hebrews 8:6-13

But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

[7] For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. [8] But God found fault with the people and said:

"The time is coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant  
with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah.  
[9] It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their forefathers  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,  
and I turned away from them,

declares the Lord.

[10] This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel  
after that time, declares the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds  
and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.

[11] No longer will a man teach his neighbor,  
or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest.

[12] For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more."

[13] By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

HEBREWS 8:6-13 – this is a **SUPERIOR COVENANT**. It replaces *THE OLD COVENANT BECAUSE THE FIRST IS OBSOLETE*.

**AND WHAT ABOUT THE LAW, THE COVENANT THAT IS NOW OBSOLETE?**

Hebrews 10:1-10

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices

*repeated endlessly year after year; make perfect those who draw near to worship. If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:*

*"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but a body you prepared for me;  
with burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you were not pleased.  
Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll--  
I have come to do your will, O God.' "*

*First Jesus said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings You did not desire, nor were You pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). Then He said, "Here I am, I have come to do Your will." **He sets aside the first to establish the second.** And by that will, we have been **made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.***

*If the Bible says that Jesus set aside ("He sets aside the first to establish the second." ) the first Covenant (doing the Law to atone or cover our sin to make ourselves ACCEPTABLE to God) to establish the second Covenant or New Covenant, why do we continually try to go against God's word by trying to re-establish the LAW **as a condition of salvation?***

## **WHEN WE CELEBRATE COMMUNION, WE CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT JESUS INSTITUTED THE NEW COVENANT:**

*Luke 22:19-20*

*And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."*

*In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is **the New Covenant** in my blood, which is poured out for you.*

Jesus Himself tells us that He is inaugurating the New. The minute He dies, the **Old Covenant** is done away with and we are now under the **New!** (**Why?** Because the penalty for sin has now been paid. The barrier that separates us from God is destroyed.)

**Over and over in the New Testament it says OUR ACCEPTANCE BY GOD for our salvation UNDER the Old Covenant is no longer in force; yet millions of church's still teach it!**

## **Q. WHAT ABOUT GOOD STUFF? HERE IS WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT OUR GOOD DEEDS:**

Isaiah 64:6

*All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like **filthy rags**;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*

**The literal translation of filthy rags is dirty, used menstrual rags!**

*From Strongs Concordance - Hebrew 5710 (`adah), Hebrew 5749 (`uwd)];  
**the menstrual flux** (as periodical); by implication (in plural) soiling :-  
**filthy.***

**IF THIS IS WHAT OUR GOOD DEEDS ARE, WHAT ARE OUR BAD DEEDS TO GOD? BEING GOOD OFFERS US NO HOPE OF BEING ACCEPTABLE ENOUGH FOR GOD.**

Col. 2:13-23

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us** and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

*Therefore do not let anyone judge you by **what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.** These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.*

*Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, **why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules:** "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.*

**THE QUESTION IS: WHAT IS THE BASIS OF OUR ACCEPTANCE AND SALVATION BY GOD?**

A. Our acceptance and salvation today (after Christ's death on the cross) **is based on what Jesus did** (not on what we do), and our assurance that our acceptance has

happened is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Our good works (that count) are the ones that we let the Holy Spirit do through us.

*Galatians 5:18*

*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.*

**The only way to be led by the Spirit is to be under the New Covenant!**

**STILL THINK YOU NEED TO KEEP THE LAW TO GET TO HEAVEN?**

*James 2:10*

*For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles **at just one point** is guilty of breaking **all of it**.*

*Galatians 5:6*

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

(Note: circumcision was a “work” the Galatians were requiring AFTER a conversion).

*Romans 4:2*

*If, in fact, Abraham was **justified by works**, he had something to boast about--**but not before God**.*

*Romans 4:4-5*

Now when a man works, his **wages** are not credited to him as a gift, but as an **obligation**. [5] However, to the man who **does not work** but **trusts** God who **justifies** the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

**Wages are owed, but a gift is not.**

*Romans 10:4*

*Christ is the **end of the law** so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.*

**UNDER THE OLD COVENANT THE MOTIVATION FOR DOING THE LAW WAS TO BE MADE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, VS. REJECTION BY GOD. UNDER THE NEW COVENANT THE MOTIVATION FOR DOING THE LAW IS LOVE.**

*John 14:23*

*Jesus replied, "If anyone **loves** me, he will **obey** my teaching. My Father will **love** him, and we will come to him and **make our home with him**.*

God takes up residence in us. This is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit under the NEW COVENANT! Remember that your God is whom you obey.

*Matthew 22:36-39*

*"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"*

*Jesus replied: " '**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: '**Love** your neighbor as yourself.'*

In reality, our performance as Christians (when it is good) is the work of the Holy Spirit working in and through us--not our own efforts. When our performance is not good, " *it is sin living in me that does it.* " (v. 17). Our position in Christ has not changed. Paul, the slave to sin, most certainly was not thrown out of God's Kingdom even though he could not stop sinning.

*Romans 8:38-39*

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, [39] neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**SINCE NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD, THEN THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE SEPARATED IS TO NEVER HAVE BEEN JOINED.**

The Apostle John addressed this issue of those who appeared to be Christians but later fell away from the faith:

*1 John 2:19-20*

*They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. But you have **an anointing from the Holy One**, and all of you know the truth.*

*"An anointing from the Holy One" = Holy Spirit (New Covenant)*

*This is not the same as backsliding (falling back into a lifestyle embracing sin) – since backsliding is a temporary condition (albeit from a human perspective the time period may seem excruciatingly long). Peter backslid when he denied he knew Christ. Thomas backslid when he refused to believe that Jesus had risen. Paul spoke of a man who had backslidden and was sleeping with his fathers wife but would be saved (I Corinthians 5).*

**SO, WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO MAINTAIN THIS RELATIONSHIP? ... NOTHING !**

But when we truly understand what God did for us, we will be motivated (by our growing love due to an increased understanding of God and what He has done for us) to allow God to accomplish the things He wants to do in our lives. **WE ARE A WORK IN PROCESS** (see the whole book of Ephesians). In fact, in Philippians 1:6, God tells us that “ He who has begun a good work in us, WILL perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

There is only one way we can be placed out of God’s salvation, that is to willfully turn our back on the Holy Spirit when he draws you to Christ and reject God’s provision for our sin--the Death of Jesus

Christ. Our performance (compared to God’s standard) will always be inferior, poor and full of sin (even if our only sin is PRIDE – thinking we can earn God’s salvation). *But our position will not change.* We are either out or in. Once in, never out, because Jesus Himself said:

*John 10:28-29*

*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. [29] My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

***The Apostle John says it this way:***

*1 John 5:11-12*

*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

**THE QUESTION IS: CAN I LOSE THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ‘SON’ ONCE I HAVE IT?  
THE ANSWER IS: NO!**

*“If God’s holiness compels him to take back the gift of eternal life from certain believers because of their sin, one of two things is true: Either God compromises his holiness for a time - through their small sins - or man’s good works can meet the requirements for holiness - at least for a short period of time. In that case Christ died needlessly.”*

Quote from Charles Stanley ETERNAL SECURITY pg 104