

QUESTION: Can a person turn their back on Christ and become unsaved?

ANSWER: No, a person who has truly believed in Jesus as their Savior, and has been born again, cannot become "unsaved" and "unborn," and they WOULD not walk away from Christ.

- **John 10:28-29** "My Sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them **ETERNAL life**, and **they shall never perish**; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **NO ONE** is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."
- **I John 5:13** "These things have I written unto **YOU that believe** on the name of the Son of God; **that YOU may KNOW that YOU have eternal life**, and that YOU may continue to believe on the name of the Son of God."

The problem we have in the churches is with people who APPEAR to be Christians, but have never truly given their lives to Jesus Christ, and when THEY "turn and walk away" from Christ, or go into heresy and false teaching, it is confusing and causes some to believe they "lost their salvation."

Jesus says in Matthew 13:24-50 that evil men and false prophets will infiltrate God's kingdom, and **they will look like God's people on the outside**, but they will be false. In Matt. 7:21-23 MANY will say to Him at the judgment that they did many things in His name, but Jesus will say **"I NEVER KNEW YOU!"** Please notice, Jesus says "I NEVER knew you," not, "I USED to know you, but you lost your salvation."

- **Matthew 7:15-17 & 22-23** "Beware of **FALSE prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **You will know them by their FRUITS**..... every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit." (Vs. 22-23) "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, '**I NEVER knew you**; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

II Peter 2:18-22 is used by some to "prove" that a Christian can lose their salvation by falling back into sin and being "overcome" by it. However, nowhere in these verses does it say these people are saved, chosen, or redeemed, nor does it call them saints or Christians. Peter is speaking about false prophets and the people whom they ensnare, entrap, and lure into following their sinful ways. In fact, verse 22 says, "...a sow (pig), after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire" which sounds to me like the pig was always a pig. In other words, an unsaved person was always an unsaved person. They may have joined a church, been baptized, and done a lot of the **outward things** Christians do, but **they never had a new birth** by giving their heart and life to Christ. A true Christian may take a few trips back to the old pig pen, but he will be miserable about it, and will eventually repent and turn away from it. He doesn't feel "at home" in the old pig pen and the mire (mud) anymore, because he is no longer a pig!

- **II Peter 2:1-9** "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as **there will be FALSE TEACHERS among you**, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom **the Way of Truth will be blasphemed**. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell

and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah.....then **the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations** and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment."

- **II Peter 2:20-21** "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them NOT to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them."

These are people who have **taken refuge in a FORM of Christianity**, and have cleaned up their lives to some degree, but still belong to Satan, and have never truly been saved (II Timothy 3:5). They have heard the gospel, sat in church and listened to God's word preached Sunday after Sunday. They "**KNEW the way of righteousness**" **INTELLECTUALLY**, but never actually surrendered their lives to Christ and entered His kingdom. Judas Iscariot is an example of this kind of person. He sat under the personal teaching of Jesus Himself, and yet never truly believed, because Jesus called him the "**son of perdition (hell)**", meaning that **Judas belonged to the devil all along**. Did Judas act like and look like the rest of the disciples? Yes, up until the point of the betrayal, because the other disciples didn't even know who Jesus was talking about when He said one of them would betray Him.

- **John 17:12** "...Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is **LOST except the son of perdition** (Judas), that the Scripture might be fulfilled."
- **John 6:64 & 70-71** "But there are some of you **who do NOT believe.**' For Jesus knew from the beginning **who they were who did NOT BELIEVE**, and who would betray Him." "Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and **one of you is a DEVIL?**" He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve."

IN CONCLUSION: What is the bottom line? Are you looking for "loopholes" so that you can live your life here on earth any old way you want to, but then still go to heaven? **If you LOVE Jesus you will keep His commandments!** You can talk all you want about how much you love Jesus, but He wants you to "**walk the walk, and not just talk the talk**". Jesus says that keeping His commandments is proof that you do love Him. Does that mean that you have to keep them perfectly, without ever failing, or without ever falling into sin? No, but **it does mean that you have a DESIRE to keep His commandments**, and that you repent humbly before God when you do fail. God knew we would not always keep His commandments perfectly, so He provided a "Plan B": Jesus as our Advocate (defense attorney), and the blood of Jesus to cleanse us of all our sins when we humbly confess them to God (I John 1:5-10 & 2:1).

- **John 14:15** "If you love Me, **keep My commandments.**"
- **John 14:21 & 23-24** "He who has My commandments and keeps them, **it is he who LOVES Me**. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." "Jesus answered and said to him, '**If anyone LOVES Me, he will keep My WORD**; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him. **He who does not love Me** does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.'"
- **I John 2:1, 3-6** "My little children, I am writing these things to you **that you may not sin**. And if anyone sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." "And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, **is a liar**, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself also **to walk just as He walked.**"

Or are you one of those Christians who keeps allowing Satan to beat them up with doubts and accusations, wondering, "**How do I know if I am really saved**, because I keep falling into sin?" Jesus said that keeping His commandments and abiding in His LOVE is proof that we belong to Him and love Him. God pours His love into us so that we can keep His commandments, and our obeying His commandments keeps us abiding in His love. If God Himself gives us the power to love and keep His commandments, then what is our responsibility, what is our part in the equation? Jesus said, "You shall LOVE the Lord your God with ALL your heart, with ALL your soul, and with ALL your mind." You must turn ALL of your strength and purpose, ALL of your emotions and feelings, ALL of your thought-life towards God, and **ASK Him to USE you** as a channel of His love. He provides the power, but He does not force it on you, or give it to you while your heart and mind are occupied in selfish, worldly concerns. **We must completely surrender our free will to Him**, because He is waiting for us to be willing vessels, and to ALLOW Him to pour out His love and power into us and through us to others.