

### Lets see what the Holy Scriptures have to say about it. איניפר מוויראל עדו לי ביון לי ביון איני נותום אלי מווים ביום

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Ephesians 4:30 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed to the day of redemption."

- 1 Corinthians 1:8,9 "Who shall also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called to the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."
- John 6:37 "All that which the Father giveth me shall come unto me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
- John 6:39 "And this is the Father's will which has sent me, that of all which he has given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."
- Romans 8:38,39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

  Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"

John 10:28,29 "And I give to them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

Let's also look at passages that appear to tell the Christian that they would be saved even through predestination by Divine foreknowledge.

Romans 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Ephesians 1:11 "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Ephesians 1:13 "In whom you also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise"

2 Corinthians 1:21,22 "Now he which establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, is God; Who has also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

2 Corinthians 5:5 "Now he that has worked us for the selfsame thing is God, who also has given to us the earnest of the Spirit.

It must be noted that predestination by divine foreknowledge does not exclude freewill or the ramifications of deciding to turn from the Lord back into sin. All it means is that ultimately God will know who will and will not endure to the end. God knew that Judas would betray Christ for example and yet he was still selected. His freewill was respected but God also knew the ultimate outcome. God calls everyone to repentance but who will endure to the end is only known by him.

1 Peter 1:3-5"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith to salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 1:24-25 "Now to him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

These passages are referring to God's abilities and not our responsibilities. It should not be interpreted as an open ended promise, only of God's power and ability to keep his promises. It is not as if our disobedience in these promises hold no effect, only that God has the power to retain us and keep us from violating our responsibilities in the Blood Covenant IF we hold fast to all that has been provided to do so. No power in heaven or on earth can remove us from God. When we talk about the salvational contract this is the "seller's clauses" (I will cover this more in depth in slide 20)

As an analogy, these passages are like saying a person that has the ability to take us somewhere in car and has committed to do so; they have the car, the gas, the will to take us. But it says nothing about our responsibility to stay in the car to the final destination. If we require them stop every 5 minutes, or we decide to just get let off somewhere, all the promises of taking us to the final destination are made null by our actions.

#### God's Contract vs. Our Freewill Response

If what we covered so far were the only verses covering salvational doctrine, we would have to conclude that "eternal security" is the correct understanding. However, we have only looked at the promises that God has made us and is only part of the salvational "contract". They are what a lawyer would call the "sellers' clauses". We also have to look at all scripture to understand that the word also contains the "buyers' clauses" in this blood covenant contract.

God's promises are immutable (unchanging). He does not waver in his commitment to uphold all of them. No power in heaven or on earth can remove us from those promises.

However, does that remove our own responsibilities or freewill choices that impact our salvation? If it does, the doctrine of eternal security would be the only place in the bible for it to happen. Nowhere in scripture have promises been made by God that had no moral conditions or that removed the recipient's freewill choices and the ramifications of those choices.

2 Peter 3:17 "You therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things before, beware lest you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness."

Romans 11:22 "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in his goodness: otherwise, you also shall be cut off."

1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

Notice that all these passages are talking about a conditional aspect of salvation. "IF you continue", "Otherwise", "depart FROM the faith", etc. These are not unbelievers. They are not a person who is not "really saved". A person cannot depart from something that they were never a part of! These verses are speaking of the "buyers" clause in the blood covenant / salvational contract. If we do X, then Y will happen.

John 15:1-7 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer.

Every branch in me that bears not fruit he takes away: and every branch that bears fruit, he purges it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now you are clean through the word which I have spoken to you. ABIDE in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except you ABIDE in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches: He that stays in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.

If a man ABIDE not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

If you ABIDE in me, and my words ABIDE in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done to you

To be saved, we must ABIDE in Christ. This word in the Greek is μένω / Meno and means "to take up residence in". If we obey the commandments of Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we are abiding in him and our salvation is sure. But if we do not, these verses are a warning of what can happen. The keyword here is abide. Where do we "take up residence?" In Christ? Or in the way of sin? In Christ we are assured of salvation. In sin however, we have no such assurance as this scripture points out.

#### Parable of the Sower

Mathew: 13:18-23 "Hear you therefore the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and understands it not, then comes the wicked one, and catches away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that hears the word, and immediately with joy receives it; Yet has he not root in himself, but endures for a while: for when tribulation or persecution rises because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that hears the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that hears the word, and understands it; which also bears fruit, and brings forth, some an hundred times, some sixty, some thirty."

In this parable, only vs. 19 is speaking about an "unbeliever" every verse after that is speaking about someone who received the word. Each seed was sown, just in various conditions of "heart" of the hearers. To say that the person who had seed sown on stony places wasn't "saved" by their initial commitment as much as those on good ground is wrong. With Joy, they received it and committed their walk, but did not endure to the end. The same could be said for those that were sown among the thorns that were choked and overcome by the cares of this world and BECAME unfruitful. NOT that this person was not saved and didn't even at first bear fruit! Again, they just did not ENDURE until the end. Only the person in vs. 23 endured in their walk all the way to the end.

The Destruction of the Flesh

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I truly, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that has so done this deed, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

In this scenario we see that Paul was instructing the congregation at Corinth in a unified prayer to deliver a believer who was caught up in sin to Satan for the destruction of the flesh. This would have the effect of turning the believer to God for deliverance from it.

What I want to focus on however is that the intent of this deliverance of the believer's flesh to Satan, that it was in order that the spirit might be saved through the act! If a person was not in danger of a loss of salvation, then this statement in vs. 5 would mean nothing! They were doing it to keep him from being lost. This was not about his fleshly body but his spirit and eternity!

2 Peter 2:20-22 "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 therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

But it is happened to them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

Notice that this is a true believer. They had escaped the sin through the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Yet they are again entangled back into sin. A convict cannot escape a prison if he is still in the prison! A person can't be entangled again if they were never unentangled! To have escaped a Christian must have repented and given their life to Christ. The Christian was WASHED. A Christian can't still be dirty and yet washed! Only then they returned to wallowing in sin!

And the keyword we need to take away here is they were <u>OVERCOME</u>. This is not talking about a single sin, but being overcome by sin. This is a lifestyle shift. Notice too that <u>knowledge comes at a cost</u>. It is <u>worse</u> for a believer who returns to a lifestyle of sin than it is for an unbeliever who never knew the way of Salvation through Jesus Christ!

Hebrew 10:26-31 "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose you, shall he be thought worthy, who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant, with which he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has done despite to the Spirit of grace? For we know him that has said, Vengeance belongs to me, I will recompense, said the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

These verses further illustrate what it means to be "overcome" in sin. Sinning for a Christian should not be a willful thing but unwilful. We may have walked by a homeless person we could have helped, or saw an elderly person who couldn't open a door for themselves and we did not help. God will chastise us when this happens by pricking our conscience about it. As Christians, we repent and try to do better next time. However, sinning willfully is WANTING to sin and desiring to essentially return to our old way of life. As a Christian they are doing this despite being indwelled by the Holy Spirit! This is unacceptable to the Lord and essentially counts his blood and body sacrifice a worthless thing. Those who return to a lifestyle of sin will be judged more harshly than even an unbeliever.

Hebrew 6:4-6 "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again to repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

And lastly, we need to cover what is a sin unto death by a believer. These verses are not talking about a new Christian, but one who met all the requirements of the passage. 1) They were enlightened by the word, 2) they tasted of the heavenly gift in the salvation in Christ, 3) They were indwelt by the Holy Spirit, 4) They tasted the GOOD word of God / The deep things in the word, and 5) They walked in the powers of the world to come which are the spiritual gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. If they are OVERCOME and sin WILLFULLY it becomes impossible to renew them again to repentance as they have already counted his blood and body sacrifice worthless in returning to a willful lifestyle of sin. Why? Because this sin is equal to rebellion! They went from a place of KNOWING God and having been given powers / spiritual gifts from God, to rejecting him outright. This is the same reason that the angels who fell with Lucifer were never given a plan of redemption. They cannot use the argument that they didn't know. They didn't come from a place of ignorance but knowledge. The Christian who had been given all this is not ignorant either and is willfully siding with the rebellious Angels by rejecting God at this point.

### Conditional / Warning Promise Scripture Verses

Mathew 24:12,13 "And because iniquity shall abound, the love (αγάπη) of many shall wax cold.

But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved."

Romans 5:5 "And hope makes not ashamed; because the love (αγάπη) of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away (ἀποστασία) / Apostasy first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

The prophetic passage in Mathew is a warning to believers in the end times. 2 Thes 2:3 enforces that warning. The word "love" here in the original Greek is agape. This word was new for the times because before then it was a type of love that was unknown. It can only be for believers as Romans 5:5 states, and is "shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit". It is a fruit of the Spirit. This warning is stating that Christian believers unselfish love for one another will wax cold because of all the iniquity in the world. This is warning about backsliding in the end of days.

Notice that the person must ENDURE to the END to be saved. Unbelievers cannot fall away into apostasy because they were never saved in the first place!

Our salvation is dependent on enduring the trials ahead that will come from temptations of sin and we must endure those.

## Conditional / Warning Promise Scripture Verses

Colossians 1:21-23 "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now has he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and blameless and unreproveable in his sight:

If you continue in the faith grounded and settled, and he not moved away from the hone.

If you continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which you have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; "

Hebrews 4:10-11 "For he that is entered into his rest, he also has ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

And here again are more passages speaking of salvation as a walk that is not finalized until we reach the end destination. We must continue in the faith and not be moved away, none of which would mean anything if this warning has no effect as would be the case of "eternal security". We must labor to enter into the eternal rest of heaven.

### Freewill Scripture Verses

God never takes freewill away from us. We always have a choice.

- Hebrews 3:12-14 "Take heed, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.
  - But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest <u>any of you be hardened through</u> the <u>deceitfulness of sin</u>.
  - For we are made partakers of Christ, <u>if</u> we hold the beginning of our confidence <u>steadfast</u> <u>to the end</u>;
- 2 Timothy 2:11,12 "It is a faithful saying: For <u>if</u> we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: <u>if we</u> deny him, he also will deny us:
- Revelation 3:14-16 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things said the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

  I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot: I would you were cold or hot.

  So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth."

Yet more verses leading to the understanding that salvation is a walk that begins when we accept Christ and in which we must endure until we leave this earth. All of these verses are about believers who must guard their heart to the end.

## The Blood Covenant of the Old & New Testaments

#### Israel - The type and shadow of N.T. Salvational Doctrine

Israel is also a type and shadow of the salvational process so lets briefly look at them for an example. They were first purchased by God by miracles wrought by him to remove them from bondage in Egypt. Just like we were purchased by the blood of Christ who removed us from our bondage in sin.

Exodus 24:8 "And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you concerning all these words."

Exodus 15:16 "Fear and dread shall fall on them; by the greatness of your arm they shall be as still as a stone; till your people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which you have purchased."

And then to further this analogy between Israel's blood covenant and ours, in Deuteronomy 11:29 God tells them that when they get to Mount Gerizim and to Mount Ebal they are to pronounce blessings on Mount Gerizim for following the Lord and then cursings on Mount Ebal if they should turn from him and his commandments.

## The Blood Covenant of the Old & New Testaments

God outlines his side of the contract with the Israelites in Exodus 20-23, but then the Israelites have to agree to the contract in Exodus 24:7,8. This is the blood covenant / contract. The blessings of the blood covenant are outlined in Deuteronomy 28 and the cursings should they not follow the Lord are outlined in Deuteronomy 27. There are two sides to every contract, and the blood covenant (Old & New Testaments) is no different.

This Old Testament type and shadow is followed in the N.T. salvational message. The only difference is that they had only the written word in the law with many commandments and they did not have the Holy Spirit to help change their nature in order to fullfill the law. They also had to have a blood sacrifice routinely.

On the other hand, we have the Holy Spirit (to help us and impart to us the divine nature of God) and only two commandments of Loving God with all our being, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Instead of sacrificing a bull over and over, Christ was only needing to be sacrificed once.

However in **BOTH**, the promises of God are always conditional on our responses to his commandments!

Nothing has changed in that regard!

## The Blood Covenant is a Contract with Both Sides of the Obligations.

We must look at the salvational message in the blood covenant as we would any contract because that is exactly what it is! If for example we have a contract to sell a car, the "sellers clauses" first lists a description of everything that is being sold. There are details about color, make & model, miles driven, condition, warranty after sale, etc. These are represented in God's promises of his blessings and ultimately eternal life.

But is that all there is to the contract?

#### No... Then there is the buyers clauses / obligation.

The buyer's obligation will list how much he is agreeing to pay as well as terms & conditions of the sale. If the buyer does not meet his obligations to the contract, the seller then reserves the right to repossess the car and any other penalties listed that may be imposed by the seller. These are salvational requirements to a believer.

Both parties entered into the agreement with their freewill and nothing holds the buyer to the agreement except the penalties as a deterrent.

And so it was & is with both the Old and New Testament blood covenant salvational message! To believe otherwise is to deny much of the bible and the principles of personal accountability

#### The Heart of God

Ezekiel 18:20-32 "The soul that sins, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be on him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be on him. But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he has committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he has committed, they shall not be mentioned to him: in his righteousness that he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? said the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

But when the righteous turns away from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All his righteousness that he has done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he has trespassed, and in his sin that he has sinned, in them shall he die.

Yet you say, The way of the LORD is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and dies in them; for his iniquity that he has done shall he die. Again, when the wicked man turns away from his wickedness that he has committed, and does that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

Because he considers, and turns away from all his transgressions that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. Yet said the house of Israel, The way of the LORD is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, said the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby you have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dies, said the Lord GOD: why turn yourselves, and live you."

Ezekiel 18 shows us the heart of God. A righteous man that begins his life in righteous living, but ends it as a sinner will be judged, and yet a man who begins his life in sin but recognizes that sin and turns from it and dies living for the things of God is rewarded. It is how they end their walk that is the concern.

Israel was rationalizing that if a righteous man walked righteously MOST of his life he should be forgiven. God said no! That it was how he ended his life that mattered. Did he die living righteously or in sin?

**God** does not waver in his commitment to us. His promises are resolute and unchangeable if we walk in his commandments to love him and our neighbors as ourselves we will inherit eternal life. No power in heaven or earth can remove us from those promises.

However, they are not unconditional. We have an obligation to obey the commandments as part of our salvational contract. Nowhere in scripture is there any unconditional promises made in either the Old or New Testaments. They all hinge on what we commit ourselves to. To holiness and righteous living? Or to sin and unrighteousness? Salvation is therefore not a <u>destination</u> but a <u>walk</u>. It is a lifestyle of one befitting a child a God and at the end of which are the promises "cashed in".

Paul stated concerning himself, that he was still on the path, and he did not count himself saved.

Philippians 3:10-14 "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable to his death; If by any means I might attain to the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Brothers, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

The believers walk may be short (like the repentant thief on the cross) or it might be long, but we must endure to the end as Mathew 24:13 states. At the end of our life whatever / whoever we are will be sealed and we will be judged on that. This is clear. Mathew 7:21 states "Not every one that said to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven"

Revelation 22:14 states "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Notice that this statement is conditional on those that do his commandments. Without doing that they will not have the right to the tree of life and enter into the New Jerusalem.

Salvation, is found in the walk of a believer who has turned from sin and is walking in the commanded life of a believer and child of God. We should <u>not</u> consider that we have <u>obtained salvation</u>, but that we are obtaining it through our consistent lifestyle all the way to the end of our earthly existence just as Paul stated in Philippians 3:10-14

It doesn't mean that we still may sin and that we immediately lose our salvational walk. But if we repent and turn from that sin and commit to trying not to sin again Jesus Chris is our advocate to forgive us. We may fail from time to time, but that is not our lifestyle, nor are we committed to a lifestyle of sin. That is where the danger is. Every time we sin, God chastises us. It is how we handle that chastisement that matters. Do we take the chastisement to motivate us to correction? Or do we choose to reverse our Christian walk and backslide into a lifestyle of sin again? If that happens, as 2 Peter 2:20–22 states we become as the washed pig does and return to wallowing in sin again.

If the pig that was washed returns to sin and it dies in that state, the scriptures are clear that it has lost it's salvation. If however, a person is backslidden and yet not "willfully sinning" and recognizes their error and returns to living a repentant life, God is faithful to forgive us of our sins just like the father of the prodigal son did.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not a "magic key" to enter heaven, and in fact can be used against a believer that drug it into a lifestyle of sin in that person's body.

No man knows the day or the hour in which they will pass this life so no one should see God's forgiveness as a license to sin and then just repent at a later date. You may never get that chance to repent.

Not to mention that choice, creates habit, habit creates lifestyle, and lifestyle creates a salvational or not a salvational walk. How we choose to live is what we will reap.

There are many passages that I did not use in this presentation that I could have, such as when Christ states in Revelation 3:5 how it is possible for him to "blot out" a person's name from his book of life, or the parable of the 10 virgins or even the parable of the talents. To make this presentation a reasonable amount of time I had to draw a line of where to cut it off. I invite you to study this for yourself as the evidence for what I have presented is voluminous for the conclusions finalized here.

The concept of eternal security is not correct. This denies the responsibility of the believer to maintain their Christian walk as part of the covenant. A person who is not living for Christ has no guarantee for reward or even salvation. I do not agree with some that state that this is a matter of interpretation but instead is a matter of properly dividing the word of God and using ALL of the scriptures to understand the blood covenant and salvation through the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

Repent now if you are in a backslidden state and make a commitment to walking according the commandments of God. You have no guarantee of salvation in a backslidden state.

Make the commitment to endure until the end of your life. Our eternal salvation and walking as Christ walked is the most important thing we can do in this life.

AMEN!