

Introduction

- Essential beliefs are what every one must believe in order to be a Christian.
- These beliefs are important and may feel foundational, but are not essential.
- Godly Christians can disagree and still be saved and worship alongside each other.
- The belief that Christians cannot lose their salvation is not an essential.

Overview

- View 1: There is nothing Christians can do to lose or give up salvation.
- View 2: Christians can forfeit their salvation if their sins are bad enough.
- View 3: Christians can forfeit their salvation through sin or through conscious choice.
- Views 2 & 3 are motivated by the warning passages in the Bible and a desire to preserve man's free will.

View 1: Saints Will Persevere

- "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God." 1 John 3:9
- "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Romans 8:35-39
- "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in your will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6
- "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-30
- "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy" Jude 24
- "if we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself." 2 Timothy 2:13
- Adoption, regeneration, and becoming a new creation are all final and irrevocable.
- Believers will fall into sin, but will repent and return.
- God is the one who does the work to help us persevere in the faith.

View 2: Saints Can Completely Fail

- "You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace." Galatians 5:4
- The parable of the sower in Matthew 13.
- "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12
- "Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall." 2 Peter 1:10
- "For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them." 2 Peter 2:20-21

- “For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.” Hebrews 6:4-6
- “For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.” Hebrews 10:26-27
- “For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.” Hebrews 12:17
- “I will never blot his name out of the book of life.” Revelation 3:5
- They say these passages warn us because it is possible to lose our salvation.
- Everyone knows people who once sincerely professed faith and maybe even bore fruit, yet have walked away from the faith.
- Objection: The warning passages are directed towards a mixed community.

View 3: Saints Can Quit

- This view is very similar to the view 2 and will use the same Scriptures.
- However, this view is also motivated by preserving man’s unconditional free will.
- Their concern is that eternal security means individuals are never able to change their minds and are now forced to always follow Christ.
- Someone can decide whenever they want to no longer place their faith in Christ.
- What keeps someone in salvation is primarily their conscious choice just as their choice was got them into salvation.

Takeaways

- This is significant and important, but Christians can disagree.
- We can have assurance of our salvation not but the assurance of others salvation.
- We should be encouraged to persevere with confidence that our perseverance depends on God’s grace.