

Article Title— "Lifestyles"

Article Category— Salvation Theology

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A former member of our **Link1**[™] Bible Research Team who briefly aspired to tenure couldn't quite make the cut. During our initial series of explorations into the topic of salvation theology that person could never get beyond the question, "What sin is so terrible that it could cause a person to lose his eternal salvation?" (Disciples of John Calvin often memorize that question.)

To that person, it was a legitimate question. To several people in our much larger *Bible Discovery*[™] group it was a sensible question, too. After all, a salvation that is *eternal* would be impossible to lose; wouldn't it? And sin is sin; isn't it? If the wages of sin is^(sic) death, then one sin simply couldn't result in a more severe form of death than another; could it? And there's this quip from comedienne Paula Poundstone: "The wages of sin are death, but by the time taxes are taken out, it's just sort of a tired feeling." 🤔

Key to our initial series of discovery were these two verses:

- > "All things...are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." —Paul, at 1 Corinthians 6:12
- > "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." —1 John 1:8,10

Collectively, our smaller research team came to paraphrase the essence of that first scripture like this: "I will not permit EITHER of my sins to become a lifestyle." That was to become a daily affirmation for each of us. For most, it continues today.

So! We concluded that the question, "What sinful LIFESTYLE is so terrible that it could cause a person to lose his eternal salvation?" would have been more appropriate. Still, though, we were collectively hogtied by the realization that anything *eternal* simply cannot be lost! I'll talk about how the scriptures, themselves, were to resolve that dilemma for us, below. For now though, let's cut to the "sinful lifestyles" chase. The following passages were/are addressed to CHURCH PEOPLE; *not* unbelievers. You'll do well to keep that critical fact in mind as you read:

- > Ten (10) sinful lifestyles that will preclude salvation 📖 "Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that [your] brethren. Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.." —Paul, at 1 Corinthians 6:8-11
- > One (1) sinful lifestyle that will preclude salvation 📖 "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...To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.." —Paul, at 1 Corinthians 5:1,5
- > Four (4) sinful lifestyles that will preclude salvation 📖 "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.." —Paul, at Ephesians 5:5
- > Eleven (11) sinful lifestyles that will preclude salvation 📖 "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience...But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth." —Paul, at Colossians 3:5,6,8
- > Eight (8) sinful lifestyles that will preclude salvation 📖 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." —Revelation 21:8
- > Six (6) sinful lifestyles that will preclude salvation 📖 "Blessed [are] they that DO (*Surprised?*) his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city...for without [are] dogs[^], and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." —Revelation 22:14,15

[^]"dog" —Strong's ref. #G-2965, *kyōn*: "...metaph. a man of impure mind, an impudent man." ("Strong's" = Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.)

To discover some of the complete surprises we eventually discovered about salvation theology, you may want to request a copy of the extensive scholarly research and analysis paper, "The Salvation Scriptures Objectively Analyzed." What we ultimately

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discovered didn't match what ANY member of our multi-denominational research team had always been taught. And what we had respectively been taught populated the full spectrum of salvation theology...both extremes and lots of stuff in between!

Among our surprises was the discovery that the Old and New Testament scriptures consistently characterize Salvation as a FUTURE Perfect condition—never Past Perfect or Present Perfect or Present Progressive. How the theologians of both the Calvinist and the Arminian camps missed that glaring and well-documented Bible fact is anybody's guess! Calvinists are correct (on the surface) when they say that eternal salvation cannot be gained and then lost. The Arminians are wrong (on the surface) when they say that salvation can be gained and then lost. In the final objective analysis, then, the mindsets of both theological camps are wrong. That's because, per 1 Thessalonians 5:8, below, what believers who actually follow Christ have is the HOPE of eternal salvation.

Calvinists presume that Salvation is a PAST PERFECT event which can never be undone, even voluntarily. Arminians also insist that Salvation is an event, but one that must be repeated or refreshed, perhaps multiple times, in order for one to make it into Heaven. Those are the terribly misguided *extremes* of Salvation theology. The abundantly clear Bible message regarding Salvation is this: When one accepts Christ as Lord and Master of one's life and one's lifestyle[^], one has taken the first important step on a journey toward one's FUTURE PERFECT salvation. Given the above scriptures AND the exceptionally strong warning of 2 Thessalonians 2:3,11,12, many sincere believers who will have taken that first step will NOT complete that journey.

[^]The best scriptural term for making Christ the Lord and Master of one's lifestyle is REPENTANCE. You may also find it quite interesting to learn that people who heard and believed the Gospel message in the First Century never "got Saved." They repented! Along with John the Baptist, Jesus and His First-Century disciples all preached Repentance.

That "getting Saved" thing first sprang up in the early Nineteenth Century, parcel to the first-ever "altar calls" phenomenon. A study of church history discloses that the fiery revivalists of that era needed a tool with which to "close the sale." And that timing is especially curious, too! Those who'll continue studying the resources on this site can gain some eternally valuable insight into that and much more.

The following HOTLINK will take you to a very recent article about the history of the "getting 'saved'" phenomenon—

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_3d67d6224bee4c1ab9d7f8f333c02f63.pdf

As if that weren't enough, there's this...

> "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish it? Lest, haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish [it], all that behold [it] begin to mock him, Saying, this man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, when the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace." —Jesus, as quoted at Luke 14:28-32 (Check the context of this passage: It's clearly pertinent.)

Here is a small sampling of the New Testament scriptures that yield exceptional confirmation of these conclusions. (The pertinent Old Testament scriptures are also consistent.):

> For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved (a future perfect condition) by his life." —Paul, at Romans 5:10

> "And that, knowing the time, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep: for now [is] our salvation nearer (a future perfect condition) than when we believed." —Paul, at Romans 13:11

> "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself (a future perfect condition), and them that hear thee." —Paul, at 1 Timothy 4:16

Bet you would've thought that, as pastor of that flock, Timothy was already "saved." Don't fret, though, because that's precisely what most believers think. It's a side effect of constant exposure to either of the two extremes of Salvation theology.

> "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the HOPE of salvation (a future perfect condition) ." —Paul, at 1 Thessalonians 5:8

> "But he that lacketh these things (i.e.: *the fruit of the Spirit*) is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his OLD sins." —2 Peter 1:9


Many readers have always heard that Christ's death and resurrection purged them of ALL their sins...past, present and future! Both they and the professional christians from whom they've gotten that sugar-coated Salvation message will have a really difficult time on Judgment Day[^].

[^]It's a little-known fact that there's to be just one (1) Judgment. It's in our future. My Christian mentors wouldn't *intentionally* have misled me, but they all taught me that when Christians die, they go straight to Heaven and when Sinners die, they go straight to Hell. Here's what bothers me about that: If there's just one Judgment – and it's to be at some point in the future – then that teaching (albeit sincere) can't be true...can it?

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Per 1 Corinthians 15:20, when Jesus died on the cross He became "the firstfruits of them that slept." As the "firstfruits," Jesus' death experience became the benchmark (i.e.: the best example of or the prototype) for our own death experiences. So let's examine that objectively—

Q. Did Jesus go to Heaven upon His death?

A. Per Jesus himself, at Matthew 12:40, He went to the center of the earth.

Q. Then, where will you and I go upon our deaths?

A. ???

While contemplating your answer, you may do well to recall what many of us say about the deceased – good or bad: "May he rest in peace."

Many are also not aware that Jesus also became the "firstfruits" of the Resurrection, so here's a bonus question for you—

Q. Did Jesus get raptured up to Heaven on the day of His resurrection or did He stay right here, but in that "changed-in-the-twinkling-of-an-eye" body?

A. ???

Those who complete our Online Bible Study series up through Lesson Twelve will be able to answer this question with complete confidence. Here's a HOTLINK to the Intro document: <https://www.link1.info/online-study>.



And there is the ever-present nemesis of the gospel according to John Calvin—Hebrews 6. The most highly polished spin master theologians have been embarrassingly unsuccessful in their ongoing attempts to explain it away. Read that in your own Bible, as-if-no-one-had-ever-explained-what-it-means. Then read Ezekiel 18:20-32 for Old Testament confirmation, being fully aware that we serve an unchanging God.

Yes, there's to be just one (1) Judgment. No one will be declared "saved" or "not saved" until then. I know that's a hard pill to swallow. It was really hard for me, too: I grew up singing, "I'm Saved and I Know That I Am!" even in children's church.

> "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things DONE in the body, according to what he has DONE, whether good or bad." —Paul, at 2 Corinthians 5:10

For those who're wondering about those people (righteous and unrighteous) who will have already experienced physical death when that time comes, that's when they'll be judged, too.


Another bonus question for you...

Q. Per 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "The dead in Christ shall rise first." Given what you now know, where will they rise from?

A. ???

The appropriate question, then, is this: "What SINFUL LIFESTYLES are so terrible that they will cause sincere believers to miss out on the promise of future salvation?" Will you now join with us in repeating this daily affirmation? —"I will not permit EITHER of my sins to become a lifestyle." Meanwhile, there is this:

> "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." —1 John 1:9

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! www.Link1.info/contact-us.

To participate in sensible Bible-related discussions, join us at TC's Friends Club. Here's the hot link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>

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