

ETERNAL SECURITY

IS "ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED" A SCRIPTURAL DOCTRINE?

SCRIPTURES SUPPORTING the position of ETERNAL SECURITY. (ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED)

six references found

These are only valid in the light of the faithful as shown in the scriptures rejecting the concept of eternal security. If we view the supporting texts in light of the rejecting texts, all scriptures may be understood at face value.

If we view the rejecting texts in the light of the supporting texts, we have to deny the rejecting texts to establish our position that we can not lose our salvation. That, my friend, is dangerous.

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

28 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.

30 I and the Father are one." (NIV)

John 17:1-12

1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-- the name you gave me-- so that they may be one as we are one.

12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. (NIV)

Rom 8:28-39

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

38 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. (NIV)

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(This speaks of the Love of God, which applies to all who go to Hell as well as to Heaven, **not** to Eternal Security.)

2 Cor 1:21-22

21 Now **it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ**. He anointed us,

22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (NIV)

1 Pet 1:3-5

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given **us** new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-- kept in heaven for **you**,

5 **who through faith** are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. (NIV)

Jude 1:20-25

20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

21 **Keep yourselves in God's love** as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

22 Be merciful to those who doubt;

23 snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear-- hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

24 **To him who is able to keep you from falling** and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy--

25 **to the only God our Savior** be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (NIV)

Jude 1:20-25

20 But **ye, beloved**, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 **Keep yourselves in the love of God**, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. (Ref. Greek text)

24 Now **unto him that is able to keep you from falling**, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 **To the only wise God our Saviour**, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (KJV)

Some cite the text of 1 Cor 5:5 claiming that the man living with his father's wife died without repentance and that God took him home early, so it was his body that died so his spirit would be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

The follow up of the same man shown in 2 Cor 2:5-11 indicates that he did not die but repented in response to the action of the Church, and now Paul is calling for the Church to forgive, comfort and to reinstate him into fellowship lest he be swallowed up with too much sorrow.

Paul indicated that his command to put him out of the Church was to test their obedience to his instructions. He concluded by saying, that whoever you forgive, I also forgive lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Therefore, this reference is not applicable to Eternal Security, but applied only to discipline of believers.

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SCRIPTURES REJECTING THE POSITION OF ETERNAL SECURITY. (ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED).

45 references found

Scriptures indicate that **salvation is conditioned** on various things:

On faithfulness, obedience to His commandments and sayings, avoidance of being deceived, endurance to the end, not being distracted by the cares of this life, continuing in His Word, remaining in Him, holding firmly to the Word, continuing in the doctrine, continuing in the faith, holding onto our courage and the hope, not being cut off etc.

These scriptures are clearer and less obscure than the ones supporting Eternal Security above.

Matt 7:21-23

21 "**Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'** will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only** he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' (NIV)

Matt 10:22 All men will hate you because of me, but **he who stands firm to the end will be saved.** (NIV)

Matt 24:4-5

4 Jesus answered: "**Watch out that no one deceives you.**

5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. (NIV)

Matt 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and **deceive** many people. (NIV)

Matt 24:13 but **he who stands firm to the end will be saved.** (NIV)

Matt 24:45-51

45 "Who then is the **faithful and wise servant,** whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?

46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

48 But suppose that **servant is wicked** and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,'

49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.

50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.

51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (NIV)

Mark 13:5-6

5 Jesus said to them: "**Watch out that no one deceives you.**

6 Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. (NIV)

Mark 13:13 All men will hate you because of me, but **he who stands firm to the end will be saved.** (NIV)

Luke 6:46 "**Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?**" (NIV)

Luke 21:8 He replied: "**Watch out that you are not deceived.** For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. (NIV)

Luke 21:34-36

34 "**Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life,** and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.

35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.

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36 Be always on the **watch, and pray that you may be able to escape** all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." (NIV)

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word**, then are ye my disciples indeed; (KJV)

John 8:51

51 "Truly, truly, I say to you, **if** anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." (NAS)

John 15:1-6

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 **He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit**, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

4 **Remain** in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. **If** a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

6 **If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.** (NIV)

John 15:9-10

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now **remain in my love**.

10 **If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love**, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. (NIV)

Acts 14:21-22

21 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,

22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to **remain true to the faith**. "**We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God**," they said. (NIV)

Rom 11:17-22

17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root,

18 do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.

19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in."

20 Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. **Do not be arrogant, but be afraid**.

21 **For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either**.

22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who **fell**, but kindness to you, **provided that you continue in his kindness**. **Otherwise, you also will be cut off**.

1 Cor 9:27

27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, **lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified**.

(NAS)

1 Cor 15:2 By this gospel you are saved, **if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you**. **Otherwise, you have believed in vain**. (NIV)

1 Cor 16:13 **Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong**. (NIV)

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Gal 5:1 **Stand fast** therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and **be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.** (KJV)

Eph 5:6-7

6 **Let no one deceive you** with empty words, for because of such things **God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.**

7 Therefore do not be partners with them. (NIV)

Col 1:21-23

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--

23 **if you continue in your faith,** established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. (NIV)

1 Tim 4:16 **Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them:** for in doing this thou shalt both **save** thyself, and them that hear thee. (KJV)

2 Tim 1:13 **Hold fast the form of sound words,** which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

2 Tim 2:12 **if we endure,** we will also reign with him. **If we disown him, he will also disown us;** (NIV)

Heb 3:6-8

6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, **if we hold on to** our courage and the hope of which we boast.

7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice,

8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, (NIV)

Heb 3:12-15

12 **See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.**

13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

14 We have come to share in Christ **if we hold firmly till the end** the confidence we had at first.

15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." (NIV)

Heb 4:1-11

1 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, **let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.**

2 For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, `They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world.

4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work."

5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

6 It still remains that some will enter that rest, and **those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience.**

7 Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

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9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;

10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

11 Let us, therefore, **make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.** (NIV)

Heb 10:24-31

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

26 **If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,**

27 **but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.**

28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 **How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?**

30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."

31 **It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.** (NIV)

Heb 10:24-31

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

26 For **if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,**

27 **But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.**

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 **Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?**

30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.** (KJV)

Heb 10:35-39

35 So **do not throw away your confidence;** it will be richly rewarded.

36 **You need to persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

37 For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay.

38 But my righteous one will live by faith. And **if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.**"

39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved. (NIV)

Heb 12:14-15

14 **Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.**

15 **See to it that no one misses the grace of God** and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. (NIV)

Heb 12:25-29

25 **See to it that you do not refuse him** who speaks. **If they did not escape** when they refused him who warned them on earth, **how much less will we,** if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?

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26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken-- (that is, created things)-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain (spiritual things).

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, **let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,**

29 **for our "God is a consuming fire."** (NIV)

James 5:19-20

19 My brothers, **if one of you should wander from the truth** and someone should bring him back,

20 remember this: Whoever turns a **sinner** from the error of his way **will save him** from death and cover over a multitude of sins. (NIV)

2 Pet 1:10-11

10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For **if you do these things, you will never fall,**

11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (NIV)

2 Pet 2:20-22

20 **If they have escaped the corruption of the world** by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ **and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.**

21 **It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command** that was passed on to them.

22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud." (NIV)

2 Pet 3:17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, **be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.** (NIV)

1 John 2:24-25

24 **See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does,** you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.

25 And this is what he promised us-- even eternal life. (NIV)

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, **abide in him;** that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. (KJV)

2 John 1:8-9

8 **Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for,** but that you may be rewarded fully.

9 **Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God;** whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (NIV)

Rev 2:1 through 3:22

To each of the churches the promise was to **those who overcome.**

Rev 2:1-7

1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:

2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.

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5 **Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent** and do the things you did at first. **If you do not repent**, I will come to you and **remove** your lampstand from its place.

6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes**, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (NIV)

Rev 3:10 **Since you have kept my command to endure** patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. (NIV)

Is 59:1-2

1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

2 But **your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.** (NIV)

Acts 8:22 **Repent** of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. (NIV)

THE GRACE OF GOD

GOD HAS DONE WHAT MAN CAN NOT DO.

THERE IS NO WAY THAT A MAN CAN UNDO SINS HE HAS COMMITTED.

GOD HAS WASHED THEM AWAY BY HIS OWN BLOOD WHICH WAS SHED FOR ALL WHO COME TO HIM THROUGH JESUS CHRIST BY FAITH WITH REPENTANCE AND OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD.

Rev 1:4-5

John, to the seven churches in the providence of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from **Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,** (NIV)

1 John 1:9 **If** we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (NIV)

PREDESTINATION

How do you reconcile the view that some are predestined to eternal life while others are predestined to eternal condemnation as personal predestination with the following?

The statement of God saying **"I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,"** says the Adoney Yahweh. "Therefore turn and live." Ezekiel 18:1-32

It seems to me that God is saying that if the righteous man sins, he will die; and if the wicked repents he will live.

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And again He said, 'As I live,' says Adoney Yahweh, '**I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O House of Israel?**'

Then in the New Testament, Peter seems to fully agree with the Old Testament when he says, 'The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**' 2 Peter 3:9

If God has predestined some to be lost **why would He say He has no pleasure in it,?**

Jesus said, '**Whoever** believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.' John 3:16

These all seem to indicate that there is **free choice** in the one being saved and not that election over-rides their own choice.

CONCLUSION

If you look at the **security** texts in the light of the others that call for faithfulness and perseverance of the Saints, and consider them as applying only to the **demonstrable believer**, then all scriptures can be believed at face value, and the true Saints are found to be very secure.

If we are speaking the Words of God, we will be faithful to call the sinner in the Church as well as the sinner outside of the Church **to repentance and to salvation.**

The position that it is impossible to lose your salvation, only strengthens the sinner, and places you in danger of being judged by God as the false prophets facing the Wrath of God as we find described in Jeremiah 23:9-40 and Ezekiel 13:1-23. That is not faithful ministry of the Word of God.

We need to call the sinner to repentance wherever we find them, in the Church or outside the Church. We dare not risk encouraging them in their sin.

For the faithful, it is good to encourage them that as long as they remain faithful, there is no power in Heaven or on Earth, or in Hell that can hinder their salvation which is safe in the hands of God. Security is indeed eternal for the true Saint of God. Still for the one who turns from his faith, there is only one destiny for the sinner, and that is the Lake of fire. Please read again all the scriptures I sent you in the first letter, they are very clear and not at all doubtful. No power in Heaven, on Earth, or in Hell can take away the Salvation of the faithful Saint, but sin will lead you to eternal death.

If you are eternally secure after saying you believe in Jesus, and there is no danger of losing your salvation, then: Why all these warnings?

Why is He so concerned about us being deceived?

Notice how the words **IF**, **SAVE**, and **SAVED** often appear in the scriptures.

You are saved by grace through faith, and it is a gift of God, not of works lest any one should boast. However if you want to stay saved, you had best accept Him as your Lord and obey His commandments.

God has made us all guilty equally so we can not save ourselves Rom 3:9, 8:6, Gal 3:22 He has done what we can not do in that He shed His own innocent blood to cover our guilt and sin. That is grace. Now He demands that we show our love for Him by obeying Him faithfully to the end.

He has cleansed us, and will cleanse us when we come for forgiveness after we sin. But He still commands us to obey.

There is severe penalty for falling away from His way.

What evidence is there of salvation for those who do not obey His commands?

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Too many people have it backwards, looking at the security texts that show security for the faithful Saints, and using them to encourage the sinner into a false sense of security. That is not faithful ministry of the Word of God. We need to call the sinning "Christian" and the sinner outside the Church to repentance, not encourage them in their sin and excuse it as "predestination" and "Election" and endanger our own position with God as false prophets.

If we tell the sinner in the Church or out of the Church that he can not lose his salvation, we strengthen him in his sin and are guilty of the error of the false prophets facing the wrath of God described in Jeremiah 23:9-40 and Ezekiel 13:1-23 see the texts below

Jeremiah 23:9-40

9 Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me; all my bones tremble. I am like a drunken man, like a man overcome by wine, because of the LORD and his holy words.

10 The land is full of adulterers; because of the curse the land lies parched and the pastures in the desert are withered. They follow an evil course and use their power unjustly.

11 "**Both prophet and priest are godless; even in my temple I find their wickedness,**" declares the LORD.

12 "Therefore their path will become slippery; they will be banished to darkness and there they will fall. I will bring disaster on them in the year they are punished," declares the LORD.

13 "Among the prophets of Samaria I saw this repulsive thing: They prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray.

14 And among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen something horrible: **They commit adultery and live a lie. They strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his wickedness.** They are all like Sodom to me; the people of Jerusalem are like Gomorrah."

15 Therefore, this is what the LORD Almighty says concerning the prophets: "I will make them eat bitter food and drink poisoned water, because from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land."

16 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; **they fill you with false hopes.** They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

17 They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The LORD says: **You will have peace.**' And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, '**No harm will come to you.**'

18 But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word?

19 See, the storm of the LORD will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the wicked.

20 The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. **In days to come you will understand it clearly.**

21 **I did not send these prophets,** yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied.

22 But **if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds.**

23 "Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away?"

24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.

25 "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!'

26 How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds?

27 They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship.

28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD.

29 "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

30 "Therefore," declares the LORD, "**I am against the prophets** who steal from one another words supposedly from me.

31 Yes," declares the LORD, "**I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, 'The LORD declares.'**"

32 Indeed, **I am against those who prophesy false dreams,**" declares the LORD. "They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least," declares the LORD.

33 "When these people, or a prophet or a priest, ask you, 'What is the oracle of the LORD?' say to them, 'What oracle? I will forsake you,' declares the LORD."

ETERNAL SECURITY

IS "ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED" A SCRIPTURAL DOCTRINE?

34 If a prophet or a priest or anyone else claims, 'This is the oracle of the LORD,' I will punish that man and his household.
35 This is what each of you keeps on saying to his friend or relative: 'What is the LORD's answer?' or 'What has the LORD spoken?'
36 But you must not mention 'the oracle of the LORD' again, because every man's own word becomes his oracle and so you distort the words of the living God, the LORD Almighty, our God.
37 This is what you keep saying to a prophet: 'What is the LORD's answer to you?' or 'What has the LORD spoken?'
38 Although you claim, 'This is the oracle of the LORD,' this is what the LORD says: You used the words, 'This is the oracle of the LORD,' even though I told you that you must not claim, 'This is the oracle of the LORD.'
39 Therefore, I will surely forget you and cast you out of my presence along with the city I gave to you and your fathers.
40 I will bring upon you everlasting disgrace-- everlasting shame that will not be forgotten." (NIV)

Ezekiel 13:1-23

1 The word of the LORD came to me:

2 "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now prophesying. Say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: 'Hear the word of the LORD!'

3 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: **Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!**

4 Your prophets, O Israel, are like jackals among ruins.

5 You have not gone up to the breaks in the wall to repair it for the house of Israel so that it will stand firm in the battle on the day of the LORD.

6 **Their visions are false and their divinations a lie. They say, "The LORD declares," when the LORD has not sent them; yet they expect their words to be fulfilled.**

7 Have you not seen false visions and uttered lying divinations when you say, "The LORD declares," though I have not spoken?

8 "'Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: **Because of your false words and lying visions, I am against you, declares the Sovereign LORD.**

9 My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign LORD.

10 "'**Because they lead my people astray, saying, "Peace," when there is no peace,** and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash,

11 therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall. Rain will come in torrents, and I will send hailstones hurtling down, and violent winds will burst forth.

12 When the wall collapses, will people not ask you, "Where is the whitewash you covered it with?"

13 "'Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: In my wrath I will unleash a violent wind, and in my anger hailstones and torrents of rain will fall with destructive fury.

14 I will tear down the wall you have covered with whitewash and will level it to the ground so that its foundation will be laid bare. When it falls, you will be destroyed in it; and you will know that I am the LORD.

15 So I will spend my wrath against the wall and against those who covered it with whitewash. I will say to you, "The wall is gone and so are those who whitewashed it,

16 those prophets of Israel who prophesied to Jerusalem and saw visions of peace for her when there was no peace, declares the Sovereign LORD." '

17 "Now, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who prophesy out of their own imagination. Prophesy against them

18 and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the women who sew magic charms on all their wrists and make veils of various lengths for their heads in order to ensnare people. Will you ensnare the lives of my people but preserve your own?

19 You have profaned me among my people for a few handfuls of barley and scraps of bread. By lying to my people, who listen to lies, you have killed those who should not have died and have spared those who should not live.

20 "'Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against your magic charms with which you ensnare people like birds and I will tear them from your arms; I will set free the people that you ensnare like birds.

21 I will tear off your veils and save my people from your hands, and they will no longer fall prey to your power. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

22 **Because you disheartened the righteous with your lies, when I had brought them no grief, and because you encouraged the wicked not to turn from their evil ways and so save their lives,**

23 therefore you will no longer see false visions or practice divination. I will save my people from your hands. And then you will know that I am the LORD.'" (NIV)

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Sinners need to be told that your sins and iniquities have separated you from your God. Isaiah 59:2

Yet **for the faithful**, it is good to encourage them that as long as they remain faithful, there is no power in Heaven or on earth that can hinder their salvation which is safe in the hands of God. Security is eternal for the **Saints of God**.

Therefore, let us encourage those who are faithfully walking the Christian walk in obedience to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord, and trusting in Him for Grace, Mercy, and Forgiveness, that their Salvation is secure, and that no power in Heaven or on Earth, or even from the powers of Satan and his demons that can cause us to lose our Salvation.

However, let us be careful not to encourage the sinner into false expectation by telling him that he can not lose his salvation by his sin after he has claimed to accept the Lord as Savior.

Let us be faithful to call sinners both in the Church and outside the Church to come to repentance and faith in God for their Salvation.