

Keep From Sin

Is It Possible For A Child Of God To Sin And Be Lost (Route 6)

Many have been taught that once one becomes a Christian there is nothing he can do to be lost. This is the doctrine which is popularly called “once saved always saved” or, in the creeds and manuals, The Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints. It is the “P” in the “TULIP” of Calvinism.

However, the Bible teaches that it is possible for a believer to become an unbeliever, a child of God can so sin as to be lost. This subject needs to be taught because this erroneous view of perseverance is a deceitful doctrine that lures men into a false sense of confidence and a false system of justification.

1John 2:1-2 God’s Word will help us stay out of sin. If it dwells within us we will keep from sin.

2Peter 1:10 First, it is important that you make clear you do not believe in the inevitability of apostasy. This passage teaches that the believer is secure in Christ. However, the passage also teaches that there is a possibility of apostasy. The Christian needs to be concerned about avoiding sin.

1Corinthians 10:12 Israel entered into a covenant with God having Moses as their mediator upon crossing the Red Sea (cf. **Exodus 14:30**). They were in fellowship with God because they ate heavenly bread and drank heavenly water. However, they murmured and rebelled lusting after evil things—they were not satisfied with what God provided and turned back in their hearts to Egypt (**Numbers 11:5-7**). For their treachery God slew them until they all perished, except Joshua and Caleb (**Numbers 14:21-35; Deuteronomy 2:16-18**). Paul says that these things are for our learning; therefore, let him that thinks he is standing take heed to avoid falling as they did. Just as Israel fell and could not enter into Canaan, so we may fall and not enter into Heaven.

Hebrews 3:12-4:1 The Hebrew writer refers to the same series of events in the history of Israel as the Apostle Paul in **1Corinthians 10**. Notice that he warns brethren to take heed against an evil heart of unbelief (**3:12**) that will result in a departure from the living God. Can a believer become an unbeliever? This passage says that he can. The believer’s standing is maintained through steadfastness (**3:14**). The exhortation continues into chapter four where Christians are told to fear God. Those that follow the course of Israel will also miss the promised rest of eternal life (**Hebrews 4:6-9**).

Ezekiel 18:24-28 This text reveals an eternal principle of God’s righteousness. When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness by sinning and dies with guilt; he loses his soul (cf. **John 8:21,24**). However, a wicked man that repents will be saved.

Luke 8:13 Jesus taught that believers could sin and be lost in the parable of the Sower. Those on the rock had no root. They heard, believed and received the word with joy (they were saved). However, in time of temptation they sinned, and fell away (cf. **Mark 4:17; Matthew 13:20–21**).

John 15:1-10 Christ is the vine. Men are the branches (**John 15:6**). He will cut away the branch that does not bear fruit. The branch was once part of the vine but was taken away. It is not necessary that one become an unfruitful branch. He can continue in the commandments of Christ (**John 15:10**). Therefore, a believer can fall away and be lost.

1Corinthians 9:27 The Apostle Paul is certainly an example of a man that wanted to go to heaven. He was a man of great confidence in his salvation (cf. **2Timothy 4:6-8**). However, this stalwart defender of the faith said it was possible that even he could become a castaway and be lost.

Galatians 5:4 Those who were trying to justify themselves by the Old Law had fallen from grace. They had done that which some modern denominations tell us is impossible. They had left the faith, gone into error and were lost.

Hebrews 10:26-31 These had (1) received the knowledge of the truth, (2) sinned, (3) were without a sacrifice (4) had nothing to look forward to but a fiery judgment (5) worse than death (6) which would be directed at them, the people of God, (7) from the living God.

2Peter 2:20-21 Notice in this text that (1) they had escaped the pollution that is in the world, (2) were again entangled in it, (3) and overcome by it, (4) their latter end was worse than their former condemnation, (5) it would have been better for them to have never known the truth, than (6) after they had known it, to (7) turn aside from the holy commandment. The Christian that goes back into sin is like a sow that returns to wallowing in the mire and a dog that comes back to lick up his own vomit.

Acts 8:20-23 Here is the case of a Christian (a penitent, confessing baptized believer, see: **8:12-14**) that committed a grievous sin. Was he destined and doomed to eternal ruin? No, he could be saved from the consequences of his iniquity through repentance and prayer. So may you.

1John 1:7-9 God is faithful to forgive the Christian that confesses his sins, that is, He will always do it. We can be confident that Christ knows us because we are keeping this commandment (**1John 2:1-4**).

James 5:16-20 When the Christian confesses his sins to God in prayer his soul is saved from death and a multitude of sins are hidden.