

**ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED:  
NO IFs, ANDs, OR BUTs ABOUT IT?**

Calvinists believe that one who is saved can never be lost: a doctrine popularly known as Once Saved, Always Saved.

- a. "They whom God hath accepted in His beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved." (*Westminster Confession of Faith*)
- b. "We take the position that a Christian's sins do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul."

"All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bible he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the laws he may keep, all the ordinances he may observe, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer; and all the sins he may commit, from idolatry to murder, will not make his soul in any more danger."

"The way a man lives has nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul." (*Sam Morris, then Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Stamford, Texas*)

That sounds like, "There are no IFs, ANDs, or BUTs about it!"

But, let's talk about that last statement from Sam Morris, and then we'll talk about the IFs, ANDs, and BUTs in the Scriptures that contradict the doctrine of ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED.

**Let's first look at that last statement by Sam Morris.**

Sam Morris: "The way a man lives has nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul."

There are a number of Bible passages that stress the importance of living "soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age" (Tit 2:12).

- a. Matt 4:4 -- "But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but (man shall live, bw) by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
- b. 2 Cor 5:14-15 -- "For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."
  - ▶ The reason Christ died was to change the way we live!
- c. Gal 2:20 -- "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

- d. Tit 2:11-14 -- “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Him-self His own special people, zealous for good works.”

An there are a number of Bible passages that make it very clear that how we live our lives has something to do with the salvation of our souls.

- a. Jn 11:26 -- “And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”
- b. Rom 8:12-13 -- “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors -- not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”
- c. 1 Tim 5:5-6 -- “Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. 6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.”

**Now let’s talk about the IFs, ANDs, and BUTs that contradict the doctrine of ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED.**

### **IFs**

1 Cor 15:2 -- “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, **if** you hold fast that word which I preached to you -- unless you believed in vain.”

Heb 3:5-6 -- “And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, 6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are **if** we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Col 1:23 -- “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight -- 23 **if** indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, . . .”

1 Jn 1:7 -- “But **if** we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

2 Pet 1:10-11 -- “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for **if** you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so (“in this way” (NASB) an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Jn 8:31 -- “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘**If** you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed (“truly” - ASV, NASB).”

Jn 8:51 -- “Most assuredly, I say to you, **if** anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”

Jn 12:26 -- “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. **If** anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.”

Gal 6:9 -- “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap **if** we do not lose heart.”

Rom 8:13 -- “For **if** you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

Heb 10:38 -- “Now the just shall live by faith; But **if** anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

### **ANDs**

Lk 8:13 -- “But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while **and** in time of temptation fall away.”

Rev 3:3-5 -- “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast **and** repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. 4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; **and** they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”

Jas 1:25 -- “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty **and** continues in it, **and** is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

### **BUTs**

**Heb 10:38** -- “Now the just shall live by faith; **But** if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

**1 Cor 13:2** -- “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, **but** have not love, I am nothing.”

**Rev 21:6-8** -- “And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I

will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 **But** the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

**Consider how simple and straightforward the truth is:**

**Ezek 18:20-32** -- “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. 21 **But if** a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 22 None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. 23 ‘Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?’ says the Lord GOD, ‘and not that he should turn from his ways and live?’ 24 **But when** a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die. 25 Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? 26 **When a righteous man turns away** from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. 27 Again, **when a wicked man turns away** from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. 28 Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? 30 ‘Therefore I will judge you, O house of Isra-el, every one according to his ways,’ says the Lord GOD. ‘Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,’ says the Lord GOD. ‘Therefore turn and live!’”

**1 Tim 4:1** -- “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, . . .”

- a. ASV -- “But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, . . .”
- b. NASB -- “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,”
- c. NIV -- “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith . . .”

## Conclusion.

Why preach lessons like this to this congregation?

- a. New Christians need to be instructed in true doctrine . . . especially new, young Christians . . . they need to be prepared to defend truth and expose error.
- b. Young people who may soon be obeying the gospel need to be instructed in true doctrine . . . and prepared to defend truth and expose error.
- c. Older, mature Christians need to be reminded from time to time of things they already know and have known for a long time.
  - ▶ 2 Pet 1:12-15 -- “For this reason I will not be negligent to **remind** you always of these things, **though you know** and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by **reminding** you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a **reminder** of these things after my decease.”
- d. Christians who know the truth of these things must live in a way that is consistent with what they know.
  - ▶ If you know it is possible for a Christian to lose his salvation . . . then act like it!
  - ▶ Jn 13:17 -- “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”
  - ▶ Matt 23:1-2 -- “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, 2 saying: ‘The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.’”