

CAN THE RIGHTEOUS
LOSE HIS SALVATION?

*Did the “Lamb of God” take away
the sin of the world?*

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About the cover

This subject is based on a central point:
Did the “**Lamb of God**” take away
the sins of the world?

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3.

Dedication:

For your glory, Lord Jesus!

A note from the author

The gospel of God.

The gospel of God (Romans 1:1), contains the Person and the work of the Savior God, and what must a person do to be saved. I have written three books on this subject:

1. **Jesus --- God by Nature.** In this book I have presented **the Person** of the Savior. Who is Jesus? Is He by nature the uncreated God, the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, who created all things for Himself (Colossians 1:16)? Or is it possible that He is a Created being as some religious institutions claim? What does the written word of God, the Bible, say about Him?
2. **The Gospel of Salvation.** Many have come up and preached that it is not necessary for one to believe that Jesus is God to be saved. They say that it is not necessary for one to know whether Jesus even existed to be saved. This teaching attacks the very foundation of the gospel. According to the gospel preached by Jesus and the apostles, salvation is God's free gift given only to those who **believe and confess with their mouth** that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, i.e., that He is the only Son of God's essence (Ephesians 2:8,9; John 3:16; Romans 10:9).

3. **Can the Righteous lose His Salvation?** Many preach that the truly born-again Christians, could lose their salvation. Is the truly born-again Christian in danger of losing his salvation if he sins? What is the promise of the gospel of God? In this book, I present the promises of the biblical gospel for **eternal life**, as they were given by Jesus, and as they were written down by the apostles.

Can the righteous lose his salvation?

Did the “Lamb of God” take away the sin of the world?

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO EXAMINE THIS SUBJECT?

It is necessary because a few “Christian” religions, have instilled **fear** in the hearts of our born-again brothers and sisters, and have created **doubts about the promises** of the biblical gospel, through sermons which proclaim that they could lose their salvation.

The Holy Bible is the written word of God, and **it is impossible to contradict itself**. It cannot provide us with scriptures which tell us that those who believe in the True Jesus of the Bible **will not perish**, but have **everlasting life** (John 3:16), and, at the same time, to provide us with other scriptures which tell us that **they can lose their salvation!** It is impossible for the biblical truth to have different ‘faces’, or, as some say, to have different levels, which contradict themselves and cause heresies! The biblical truth is **One** as its Author is **One**; and He is not a God of confusion but of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33). The apostle Peter warns us that there will be false teachers among us, who will secretly bring in **destructive heresies** (2 Peter 2:1,2).

The main characteristic of a false doctrine is the fact that it opposes the true teachings of the written word of God, and

that it is trying to change the biblical gospel. The true biblical gospel, presents four vital and necessary subjects **for salvation**:

1. **The Person of the Savior.**
2. **The work of the Savior.**
3. **The promises of the Savior.**
4. **What must one do to be saved!**

1. The Person of the Savior.

The True biblical gospel presents the True Savior, who is the Almighty God, the One who created all things for Himself (Colossians 1:16,17). Later, we will discuss this subject in detail, and we will use Scriptures to support it. A so-called 'gospel' which lessens the Person of the Savior and does not present Him as fully God (John 1:1), is, what the Bible calls, "**another gospel**" (Galatians 1:8,9).

2. The work of the Savior.

The true biblical gospel presents the work of the Savior, in other words, the fact that He poured out His blood on the cross for all our sins, according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that on the third day, He rose **bodily** from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 10:9,10; Acts 2:27, 31). The apostles reveal how the Savior keeps those who believe in Him **to the age**, through **His mediatorship** and through **His eternal priesthood which cannot be passed on to others** (please study Hebrews chapters 7,8). A so-called 'gospel' which **lessens the full effectiveness of the work of the Savior**, and demands additional works, additional mediatorship, and additional priesthood **to con-**

tribute to the eternal salvation of the believers, is ‘another gospel’ (Galatians 1:8,9).

3. The promises of the Savior.

What are **the promises for salvation** that God gives to all those who hear His gospel? Can they trust that He is **able** to fulfill them? A so-called ‘gospel’ that spreads doubt and lessens the trustworthiness of the Creator, is ‘**another gospel**’ (Galatians 1:8,9).

4. What must one do to be saved!

In this book, we will see, in a clear manner, God’s **requirements** for salvation. A so-called “gospel” which enslaves, exacts the full subjection of the believer to a religious institution or to created men to be saved, is “**another gospel**”. A so-called “gospel” which lessens “*the exceeding great riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus*” and demands from the believer to do **works** in order to be saved or to keep his salvation, is “**another gospel**” (Ephesians 2:7-9).

In Galatians 1:8,9, the apostle Paul said that those who preach, and those who believe in “**another gospel**” are cursed by God. Let us read his words:

“But even if we, or an angel out of Heaven, should preach a gospel to you beside the gospel we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, and now I say again, If anyone preaches a gospel beside what you received, let him be accursed.”

DISTURBING THE HARMONY THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINES.

When a religious institution presents a doctrine which

- a) **disturbs the harmony** that exists in the written word of God,
- b) **contradicts** other biblical doctrines,
- c) is **polemic**, and
- d) tries **to change the biblical gospel and its promises**,

that doctrine should be carefully examined under the light of the Scriptures. It should be **reasonably compared to other unshakeable doctrines of the Bible**, and, if it disturbs the harmony that exists between them, it should be exposed as a false doctrine!

The purpose of the present study is to examine the doctrine which declares that it is possible for **TRULY born-again Christians** to lose their salvation.

WHY DID I USE THE WORD “TRULY” IN THE ABOVE SENTENCE?

I used it because there are two kinds of “Christians” within the Christian community:

- a) Those who are **truly born-again Christians**, and
- b) those who **call themselves “Christian”**, go to church, but who do not have a personal relationship with the resurrected God and Lord Jesus Christ (John 20:28)!

Those who belong to the second group, who just call themselves “Christian”, who have come to the point of fully knowing the Christian faith, who have seen and tasted the power of the Holy Spirit, but who have not opened the door

of their heart for Jesus to enter and to dwell in them (Revelation 3:20), are only **“Religious”**. They call themselves “born-again”, but **they are not born-again children of God!**

The apostle John agrees with the understanding that there are **two groups of “Christians”** within the Christian community. In his epistle, in 1 John 2:19, we hear him saying:

“They went out from us, but they were not of us. For if they were of us, they would have remained with us; but they left so that it might be revealed that they all are not of us.”

The Bible presents the two groups of Christians through the parables of the Lord Jesus. It presents the **“Sheep”** and the **“Goats”** (Matthew 25:31-46), the **“good fish”** and the **“rotten”** (Matthew 13:48), the **“wheat”** and the **“darnel”** (Matthew 13:25), and the **“good trees”** and the **“corrupt trees”** (Matthew 7:17)!

Is it possible for the **“sheep”** to change its nature and to become a **“goat”**? Is it possible for the **“good fish”** to change their nature and to become **“rotten”**? Is it possible for the **“wheat”** to change its nature and to become **“darnel”**? Is it proper to attribute the characteristics of the **“goats”** to the **“sheep”**, of the **“rotten fish”** to the **“good”**, of the **“darnel”** to the **“wheat”**, and of the **“corrupt trees”** to the **“good trees”**? Is it reasonable, biblical, and just, to preach to the **“wheat”** that it might be thrown by God in the fire along with the **“darnel”**? If that were the case, wouldn't this act prove that there is injustice in God? Is it reasonable, biblical, and just, to preach to the **“sheep”**

that they are in danger of being thrown, by God, into the everlasting fire along with the “goats”?

Therefore, we must be sober, we must avoid inclusivism, and we must be able to differentiate between the two groups. Otherwise, we will be in danger of making a big mistake, in presenting “*another gospel*” (Galatians 1:8,9).

A GREAT CONTROVERSY

Is the doctrine which proclaims that it is possible for the truly born-again Christians to lose their salvation, biblical? Is it in harmony with the gospel preached by Jesus? Or does it lift itself up in opposition to His promises? (2 Corinthians 10:5) Is it possible that it contradicts other biblical doctrines?

To be able to answer the above questions, we ought to know what the Bible says about salvation. We ought to know exactly who the Savior is, what does His gospel include, what are His promises, what are God’s requirements for salvation, and **whether those who revealed them, like Jesus, Paul, and John, were credible.**

Furthermore, as we will be talking about TRULY born-again Christians, who are God’s “*workmanship*” (Ephesians 2:10), we must also talk about the “**Temple of God**”, the “**Body of Christ**”, the “**New Creation**”, and the “**Bride of the Lamb**”. At the same time, we must learn **when** does a Christian become part of these. In addition, it is necessary to examine the Scriptures to find out **whether God knows the future!**

In 2 Peter 1:2, the apostle Peter wrote:

“Grace to you, and PEACE be multiplied by a full knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.”

From the above verse, we realize that the peace of the believers is multiplied through their knowledge of God. For this reason, let us examine the Scriptures to understand God’s character, and **to grasp the magnitude of the grace which God has given us**, so we can replace fear and insecurity with His joy and peace.

WHAT MUST WE BE SAVED FROM?

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth and all that exist in them, the visible and the invisible. When God created Adam and Eve, He made them according to His image and according to His likeness. He created them with the ability **to live forever** and placed them in a beautiful garden where **they enjoyed a close personal relationship with Him**. At the same time, God gave them a command, which they ought to keep, and told them that the day they would disobey His command, **they would die**.

Unfortunately, one of the spirit beings which was created by God (Ezekiel 28:15), **rebelled** against his Creator. His **pride** caused him to lift himself up; he wanted to be like the Most High (Isaiah 14:14). The Bible does not reveal his original name, but we know him by different names/titles such as Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12), Satan, Devil, Dragon, Old Serpent, Deceiver (Revelation 12: 9; 20:2), Man Slayer, and Liar (John 8:44).

This Old Serpent, the Deceiver, deceived Eve and caused her to disobey God’s command. Later, her husband Adam joined her in the **sin of disobedience** and so, they grew old and **died**. The descendants of Adam and Eve inherited their

sinful nature through heredity. Hence, all men experience death because they all sinned.

In his letter to the Roman Christians, the apostle Paul wrote,

“For this reason, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, likewise, death passed to all men, because they all sinned;” (Romans 5:12; author’s translation).

Also, please read 1 Corinthians 15:22, where Paul wrote that in Adam, we *all* die. The word *“all”* does not exclude anyone because sin enters mankind the moment of their conception. It includes men and women of all ages and races. It includes all the newborn babies and all the mentally challenged. It includes you and me.

RECAP

From the foregoing, we conclude that all men lost their chance to live forever, and they all die **because they are all guilty of sin**. And as the Bible says, **the wages of sin is death** (Romans 6:23).

As **none** of the descendants of Adam and Eve could escape sin, all mankind was **alienated from the Most Holy God and was enslaved under the power of Satan** who introduced mankind to sin. For this reason, mankind was enslaved **under the power of sin which ruled mankind through death** (Romans 6:20; 5:21).

What a hopeless situation for humanity! Because of Adam and Eve’s sin of disobedience, they, and **all their descendants**, lost two treasures:

- a) **The personal relationship** they had with their Creator, and
- b) **The possibility of having eternal life.**

When this happened, mankind was powerless to change the situation, to reconcile with God and to have everlasting life. Why? What was the obstacle? The obstacle was: **SIN**. And as they had sinned against God, God was the only One who had the right to save them from their desperate and hopeless situation! No one else!

However, **God**, in His unfathomable love for mankind, **gave us a promise of hope**. Praise His Name! He said that **“the seed of the woman” would come to crush the head of the “Serpent”** (of Satan --- Genesis 3:15). Ever since, all mankind’s seers, prophets, and all those who loved God looked forward to the coming of that **“Seed”** who would conquer Satan (the corruptor of mankind and the cause of their hopelessness). It was that **“Seed”** which would reconcile them to God.

WHO WOULD THAT “SEED” BE?

Please consider the following:

- a) As **none of the sinful descendants of Adam and Eve** had the power to save mankind, the **“Seed”** would have to be someone whose origin was outside Adam’s bloodline, someone who would **not** have a corruptible and sinful human father.
- b) As **humans had sinned against God**, then, only God had **the right** to forgive them! As the task of the Savior would be **the redemption from sins**, then, **their Savior and Redeemer ought to be God Himself**.

The above reasoning is based on the Bible because in Isaiah 43:16-25, we read that **only God can save people from their sins**, and in Isaiah 59:15-20 and 60:16b, we read that **only God YHWH will be their Savior and their Redeemer**. Specifically, in Isaiah 43:11, God said, *“I, I am YHWH; and there is no Savior besides Me.”*

HOW, THOUGH, WOULD GOD YHWH SAVE THE WORLD FROM THEIR SINS?

It was God’s will to save mankind from their sins **by His “Word”**. His Word would become flesh (John 1:1,14) in order to die **for our sins** (Matthew 1:21), and to be raised from the dead **for our righteousness** (Romans 4:25).

WHO IS “THE WORD” OF GOD?

“The Word” of God is the Second Person of the True Godhead YHWH. The Bible identifies **“the Word” of God** with the **eternal Son of God** who, about two thousand years ago, became flesh and walked on this planet as the man Jesus Christ (John 1:1,14).

Now, let us further examine **the Person known as the “Word”** and His relationship to God the Father:

In the Greek language, the word for **“word”** is **“λόγος”** (logos). “Logos” is the oral expression of a thought (including the thought). Also, **“logos”** refers to **“reasoning”** (the mental faculty). The English word “logic” comes from the Greek word “logos”. For one to be **intelligent**, to be able to think and to express his/her thought, one must have **“the word”** (the logos) in him/her.

The Eternal God of the Bible is an **intelligent** being. His **wisdom** is unfathomable (Romans 11:33,34). Therefore, it is easy to understand that **God always had “the Word”** in

Him because **God was never without the Word**, i.e., without the ability to think, to express Himself, and to create. Let us read a few words from the writings of Athenagoras, who wrote in 177 A.D. defending the Christian faith at a time when the Christian Church was undergoing a great persecution. In his explanation of who the Logos (the Word) is, he wrote:

“But the Son of God is the Logos (the Word) of the Father, in idea and in operation; for after the pattern of Him and by Him were all things made, **the Father and the Son being one...** Since through the unity and power of the Spirit the Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son, **the Son of God is the thought (mind) and the Word (Logos) of the Father.** If, however, in your superior intelligence, you should wonder what is meant by the expression ‘Son’, I will give you a brief explanation.

He is the First-Begotten to the Father, but not as if He were created. **From the beginning, God who is Eternal mind had the Word in Himself, because He is never without the Word. Rather, the Son came forth to be formative thought and creative power for all things material ...** How can a man know his way about if he hears people decried as atheists who confess **one God, the Father, and one God, the Son, and one Holy Spirit** and who prove that these have power in their oneness and yet are different in their order.” (A Plea regarding Christians, ch.10).

From the above words of Athenagoras we learn that the Word of God, who always is in God, (because God “is never without the Word”), **was the Son who “came forth to be formative thought and creative power for all things material”.**

Thus, from Athenagoras' confession that God is Eternal, and that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we conclude that the Son is Eternal because the Father and the Holy Spirit are Eternal!

The separation between God and His Word, i.e., between God and His Son who came out of the Father "to be formative thought and creative power for all things material" (in other words, to be the Creative Power that created all things), is an absolute impossibility, just as it is impossible to separate a mind from its own thought!

In the beginning, when God **thought** to create the universe, He **spoke** it into existence. For instance, when God **thought** to create the animals on the earth, He expressed His **thought** when He **SAID** (the Word),

"Let the earth bring forth the soul of life according to its kind: cattle, and creepers, and its beasts of the earth, according to its kind."

As soon as God spoke His Word, the Almighty Word (Logos) of God "came forth" (the Son) and created all the animals (Genesis 1:24)!

Whatever exists, visible and invisible were brought into existence by the Word of God (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-18). Therefore, the Almighty Word of God is not only eternal; He is also **the Creator of all things as God the Father is the Creator of all things**. This is the reason the Bible (when it speaks about the One who created all things), is using identical words about the Son of God (the Word), with the words that it is using about God the Father. Let us compare the following two verses:

a) In Colossians 1:16, it says about **the Son**, *“all things have been created through Him and for Him”*.

b) In Romans 11:36, it says about **God**, *“through Him and for Him are all things”*.

The above two verses have the same target: **They point to the Creator God, who created all things for Himself!**

IS HOLY SPIRIT THE CREATOR?

The True God of the Bible is not like the false gods which are not alive because they do not have spirit in them! The True God of the Bible is **Living** and has the Spirit in Him!

The Bible says that the Word of God, and the Spirit of God are Living and active, having the full Personality of the One God, **the Creator**. For instance, when we read Genesis 1:1, we realize that **God is the Creator**. There, it says,

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth;”

And in Isaiah 44:24, we read,

*“... “I am Yahweh, who makes all things; who **ALONE** stretches out the heavens; who spreads out the earth by myself;”*

However, when we read Hebrews 1:7-12 and Colossians 1:16, we observe that it was **the SON who created the heavens and the earth!** Let us read these two verses:

Hebrews 1:7-12

“but as to the Son, (it says), ... “You, Lord, at the beginning founded the earth, and the heavens are works of

Your hands.”

Colossians 1:16

“For all things were created in Him, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, the visible and the invisible; whether thrones, or lordships, or rulers, or authorities, all things have been created through Him and for Him.”

Now, regarding **the Creator**, let us pay attention to what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit:

In Colossians 1:16, we read that *“all things”* were created by the **Son**. Certainly, the expression *“all things”*, includes the creation of man. However, although Genesis 2:7 says that it was God who made man, Job 33:4 tells us that **the One who made man was the Spirit of God!** Let us read those two verses:

Genesis 2:7

“And Jehovah God formed the man out of dust from the ground, and blew into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Job 33:4

“The Spirit of God made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

From the above verses, therefore, we realize that **God** created, the **Son** created, and the **Holy Spirit** created! And yet, we do not have three Creators, **but One!** Thus, we conclude that the Creator of all things, is the Lord God, who created all things **with His Word and with His Spirit!** The Psalmist agrees with our understanding. In Psalms 33:6, he wrote:

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.”

IS THE HOLY SPIRIT A LIVING PERSON THAT POSSESSES LOGIC?

The Bible informs us that the Spirit of God has Substance, that He is a Person, that He is God. In Acts 5:3,4, we hear apostle Peter saying:

“But Peter said, Ananias, why did Satan fill your heart for you TO LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT and to secretly keep back from the price of the land? Remaining, did it not remain yours? And being sold, was it not in your authority? Why is it that this action was put into your heart? You did not lie to men, but to God.”

Many people who do not know the Holy Spirit, say that “it is”, simply, “**the active force**” of God, something like the electricity or radio waves, which are without personality, will, or logic. I wonder how they can believe in a God whose Spirit is an impersonal force, without will and without logic! I am astonished that they believe that the Spirit of God does not have a **personality**, when they read Scriptures such as the following:

“And while they were doing service to the Lord, and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ... separate both Barnabas and Saul to Me, for the work to which I have called them”
(Acts 13:2).

The words “*to Me*” and “*I have called them*” show that the Holy Spirit has a personality, that He is a Person!

I am astounded that they believe the Holy Spirit **does not**

have a will, when they read 1 Corinthians 12:11. There, it says:

“But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing separately as He wills.”

The words “*as He wills*”, reveal that the Holy Spirit has a will!

I am astonished that they believe the Holy Spirit is simply an “**active force**” **without logic**, when the Bible contains scriptures such as the following:

“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us ...” (Acts 15:28).

“but the Comforter, the Holy Spirit ... He shall teach you all things, and shall remind you of all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26).

“But when that One comes, the Spirit of truth, He will guide you into all truth;” (John 16:13).

“He, (the Spirit of truth), will announce the coming things to you. He will glorify Me ...” (John 16:13,14).

“And likewise the Spirit also joins in to help our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself pleads our case for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. But the One searching the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because He intercedes for the saints according to God” (Romans 8:26,27).

“... for the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God ... so also no one has known the things of God except the Spirit of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

From the above Scriptures it is plain, that as the Holy Spirit can “teach”, “remind”, “guide”, “announce the coming things” and “glorifies”, “helps”, “pleads our case”, “searches all things” and “knows the deep things of God”, **the Spirit is a Person who possesses logic!**

The doctrine which insults the Holy Spirit and presents Him as an energy, a force which is impersonal and without brains (no logic), **blasphemes against Him** (Matthew 12:31; John 16:13,14)!

DOES THE BIBLE FURTHER CONFIRM THAT “THE WORD” OF GOD IS A PERSON AND THAT HE IS GOD?

Yes, it does! The Word of God is not a dead sound like that of a human! The “*Word*” of God has Substance. In Hebrews 4:12,13, the Writer makes **four statements** by which he proves that **the Word of God is a Person** and that He is God. Let us read those two verses:

“For the Word of God is living, and working, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and (He) is piercing as far as the division of the soul and spirit, of the joints and marrows, and (He) is judge of thoughts and of intentions of the heart; and there is no creation that is hidden before Him; but all things are naked and laid open to His eyes, to whom we have to give our account.” (Author’s translation from the Greek text.)

Now, let us examine the above words, to identify the four statements which prove that **the Word of God is a Person** and that He is God:

- 1) **He is living and working** (compare with John 5:17; Revelation 1:18; 19:13; John 1:1-3,14; 1 John 1:1,2).
- 2) **He is able to judge the thoughts and the intentions of one's heart** (compare with Revelation 2:18,23 and Luke 9:47).
- 3) **Nothing in all creation can hide from His sight** (Jeremiah 23:24; John 1:48-50).
- 4) **It is to Him that we have to give an account**, in other words, we will give an account for our actions to Him. (Please note that in Romans 14:12, the apostle Paul says, "... *each one of us will give an account about himself to God.*" [Author's translation]).

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE NATURE AND THE FORM OF THE PRE-HUMAN JESUS?

The Living Word of God who became flesh (John 1:1,14), is also the **only begotten Son** of God (John 3:16). The title "**only begotten**" sets Jesus apart from all other sons of God because all of them, whether they are in heaven or on earth, are sons of His creative power! For this reason, as the pre-human Jesus was the **Only One** who came out of God's essence, **He was God by nature**, because, always, every son has the essence of his father! Therefore, as He was **the only One who was born** (who came out of the essence of God), He is God's **Only begotten Son!** He is Unique in the entire universe! No one else is like Him! And

as He came out of God's essence, He is of the same essence as the Father, as is the Holy Spirit, who always existed and who will always exist inside the Living God. For this reason, we realize that all the fulness of the Godhead, that is, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **are of the same essence, which we call God!**

As the Word of God was **God by nature** (John 1:1), He also had **the form of God**. Philippians 2:6-8, support our statement. There, we read:

“who (the prehuman Jesus) subsisting in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, having become in the likeness of men and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, having become obedient until death, even the death of a cross.”

RECAP

From the above scriptures, and from Hebrews 2:16 (KJV), it becomes manifest that a created man, has **the essence and form of created men**, and that a created angel, has **the essence and form of created angels!** For this reason, **it is impossible** for a created man, or for a created angel, to have the essence and the form of the uncreated God! However, the Word, the pre-human Jesus, had both! And **when He emptied Himself, He did not take the essence and the form of angels, but He skipped it**, and He took the essence and the form of men, which is lower than that of the angels (Hebrews 2:7,9).

Now that we have learned from the Scriptures that the Word of God is a living Person, One of the True Godhead YHWH, as are the Father and the Holy Spirit, we should

accept the fact that **He is trustworthy and that the gospel which He preached and the promises He gave, are also trustworthy!** For this reason, let us be careful so that we will not be found guilty of being **opposers**, a position which will force us to preach **“another gospel”** (Galatians 1:6-9). We must be careful, because on that day, we will stand before Him, to give an account for our actions and for our words (2 Corinthians 5:10 and Matthew 12:36,37).

HOW CAN WE BECOME OPPOSERS?

In John 3:16, we hear **the promise of the gospel** which the Lord Jesus preached. There, He said:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone believing into Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

In the above verse, **the promise of the Lord Jesus** is that **those who believe that He is God’s only begotten Son, WILL NOT PERISH, but have everlasting life!!!**

“Everlasting” means **“Lasting forever”** --- not “temporary”! However, those who believe that it is possible for the **truly** born-again Christians to lose their salvation, first they respond with the classic **“Yes, but”**, pretending that they agree with the promise of Jesus, and then they present different requirements which, if one will not fulfill, he/she will lose their salvation! They say,

1. If they stop believing,
2. If they will not cleanse themselves from their sins,
3. If they will not repent,
4. If they will not live a life of holiness,

5. If they will not belong to their religious institution,
6. If they will not subject themselves to the leaders of their religious institution,
7. If they will not believe all the things their religious institution teaches them,
8. If they will not keep all the things that their religious institution prescribes,
9. If they will not overcome all the adversities which Satan throws at them,

they will lose their salvation!

Jesus never mentioned any of the above requirements which the opposers present! In the foregoing verse, Jesus mentioned, basically, **only two** requirements for people not to perish but to have everlasting life: **To believe in Him and to believe that He is God's only begotten** (not only created) **Son! Period!** The doctrine which insists that those who have this faith can lose the everlasting life that the Lord Jesus promises, first **they create doubts regarding the credibility of His words**, and second, **they become opposers!**

The above requirements of the Lord Jesus for salvation and everlasting life in John 3:16, agree with His words in John 6:40. There, **Jesus revealed the will of His Father regarding salvation and everlasting life.** He said,

“And this is the will of the One sending Me, that everyone seeing the Son and believing into Him should have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Again, from the above verse, we observe that God's requirements for one to receive everlasting life are,

1. To **"see"** the Son, and
2. To **believe in Him!**

WHAT DOES THE EXPRESSION "TO SEE THE SON" MEAN?

Does the verb **"to see"**, in this case, refer to the function of the physical eyes? The obvious answer is **"NO!"** Jesus has not appeared to all believers. Therefore, the expression **"to see"** refers to one's **understanding**; it is the same as when we hold a conversation with someone and we say to him, "I can **see** your point". This expression does not mean that we can see his point with our eyes; it means that we can **understand** his point with our mind. Thus, according to John 6:40, one must:

1. **Understand** that (the prehuman) Jesus was **the only begotten Son** of the only True God, and for this reason, He was **God by nature**, or **God in essence**, and,
2. **believe in Him** in order to be saved.

The requirement of **"seeing"** the Son, reminds us of a profoundly serious case that Israel experienced in the desert. Let us read Numbers 21:5-9:

"And the people spoke against God, and against Moses, Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, and there is no water; and our soul hates this light bread. And Jehovah sent fiery (reddish) serpents among the people; and they bit the people, and many people of Israel died. And the people came in to Moses and said, We have sinned, for we have

spoken against Jehovah, and against you. Pray to Jehovah, and He shall turn the serpent away from us. And Moses prayed on behalf of the people. And Jehovah spoke to Moses, Make yourself a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that when anyone is bitten, when he sees it, he shall live. And Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it on a pole; and it happened, if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.”

Just imagine: People die around you from the bite of the serpents, and all you must do to avoid death, is **to look upon the copper serpent** which Moses placed on a pole! That case was a foreshadow of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. We know this from the words of Jesus Himself, when He said to Nicodemus the following:

“And even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that everyone believing into Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:14,15)

From all the above, we see that **understanding** who Jesus is, is a prerequisite for faith, and **faith** --- not works --- is a prerequisite **for salvation**.

RECAP

Up to this point, we have seen from the Scriptures, that the prehuman Jesus was **God in essence**, and that, naturally, **He is credible**. For this reason, we should trust His words and His promises, we should respect them and accept them **without any opposition!** The promise He gave was that those who recognize the fact that He is the Only Begotten Son of God, and believe in Him, have **everlasting life!** He did not mention that there would be a danger of losing sal-

vation, or that there would be additional requirements for keeping it!

To avoid misunderstanding on the fact that salvation is received **only through faith in Him**, in John 8:24, Jesus presented **the same requirement for salvation**, in a reversed fashion. There, He said to the unbelieving in Him Jews,

“... if you do not believe that I Am, you will die in your sins.”

So, we observe, one more time, that Jesus **did not refer to works** for receiving salvation, but **to faith!** Therefore, as salvation is not received through works, none of the saved persons will lose salvation because of works, although all of us will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one of us will receive **rewards** according to the things we have done through the body, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10).

THE APOSTLE PAUL

The apostle Paul was a persecutor of the Church of Jesus! When God, in His good will towards Paul, opened up his eyes to “see” Christ, He also gave him the ministry of revealing Christ and His promises to the world; and Paul responded by dedicating his entire life to the gospel (Galatians 1:15-23). Paul did not learn the gospel from men, but **straight from God** (Galatians 1:16). He did not become an apostle from men, neither through men, but **“through Jesus Christ and God the Father”** (Galatians 1:1). For this reason, Paul, like Jesus, is **trustworthy!** Thus, we can trust his words, we can respect them, and we can accept them **without any opposition.**

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION PREACHED BY PAUL?

Please study Romans 10:1-15. There, the apostle Paul presents the gospel of salvation with many details. In verse one, he talked about the Israelites who **had not been saved because they had not recognized the fact that Jesus was God**. Hence, in verse 9, Paul revealed God's requirements for salvation. He wrote,

"... if you shall agree with me [ομολογήσης (omo-lo-yee-sis/confess)], with your mouth, (that) Jesus (is the) Lord (accusative case – Κύριον Ιησούν), and if you shall believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;" (My translation with notes from the Greek text)

In the above verse, we observe that the three verbs, i.e., **"confess"**, **"believe"**, and **"saved"**, are found in the future tense and that the first two refer **to conditions** while the third one refers **to the promise** of salvation:

1. **"if you shall confess"**;
2. **"if you shall believe"**;
3. **"you shall be saved"**.

From the above, it is obvious that Paul's **"word of faith"** (verse 8), was not preached to already saved persons but to those Israelites of verse 1, who worshipped YHWH, who had zeal for God (verse 2), but, **who**

1. **had not acknowledged** that Jesus was the **"LORD"** (in other words, **God**, the YHWH of verse 13 [Joel 2:32]), **and**
2. **had not believed** that God the Father had raised Him from the dead.

Consequently, because of this unbelief, **they were not saved.**

“But”, one might say, “in the above verse, Paul did not say ‘if you shall confess with your mouth that **Jesus is God** you shall be saved’; he said, ‘if you shall confess with your mouth **that Jesus is Lord** you shall be saved. ‘LORD’ does not mean ‘GOD’. Is it possible that we are changing God’s requirement for salvation?”

Please allow me to explain this particularly important case, because **it is a matter of everlasting life and death**, and it concerns all those who do not believe that Jesus is God (the Son, not the Father):

When Paul said that one must confess (or must agree) with the fact that **Jesus is the “Lord”** to be saved, he meant that one must confess that **Jesus is God to be saved.** Let me support this statement:

In the Bible, the name “LORD” is a substitute of the name “YHWH” (Yahweh). When the Hebrews found it necessary to translate the Old Testament from the old Hebrew language into the Greek language (for the benefit of their own people, who spoke Greek), they decided (for valid and serious reasons), to replace the Hebrew name of God, the Tetragrammaton “YHWH”, with the Greek word “Κύριος” (Lord). Thus, in that translation, which became known as “Septuagint”, the God of the Hebrews became known as “Κύριος” (Kyrios --- Lord). When the Hebrews of the first century were talking about the “Lord”, they were referring to their God “YHWH” (Yahweh). Consequently, the name “Lord” (Kyrios) became synonymous with the name “YHWH” (Yahweh).

The New Testament writers continued to use the name “**Κύριος**” (Lord) in their writings and, they used it freely in naming God’s only begotten Son. They named Him “**Lord Jesus**” (Acts 8:16), “**Lord Christ**” (Colossians 3:24) and “**The Lord Jesus Christ**” (Acts 11:17).

An important point to remember here is that even the Pagans were using the word “**Κύριος**” (Kyrios-Lord) before the names of their gods and before the names of their emperors whom they worshipped as gods (for instance, Lord Serapes, Lord Nero, etc.). For this reason, **the early Christians preferred to die rather than to say, “Lord Caesar”!**

(The thoughts expressed in the previous two paragraphs, echo the writings of the commendable book, “**Ο ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ΓΙΑΧΒΕ**” --- ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ Ι. ΣΩΤΗΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ).

In Romans 10:9, the accusative case “(τον) **Κύριον Ιησοῦν**” [(the) Lord Jesus], brings the word “**Κύριον**” (Kyriion --- Lord) to its maximum extension. Jesus is not presented here as “a lord” or as “a master”. As there are many lords and masters, it would not be difficult for an Israelite to say with his/her mouth that Jesus is “a lord” because He has followers or servants. **Even today’s false prophets and false teachers** have no problem calling Jesus “lord” with the idea that “lord” means “master”. How, then, did the apostles and the early Christians understand and use the word “**Lord**” in connection with Jesus? Let us examine the testimony of Irenaeus.

Irenaeus lived from 130-200 A.D. He was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of the apostle John and lived from 65-155/6 A.D. Irenaeus became the Bishop of Ly-

ones. His writings were against heresies. About the name “**Lord**”, he wrote the following:

“The name of God or Lord is given only to Him who is called God and Lord of all; who said to Moses: ‘My name is I AM. And you shall say to the Israelites, HE WHO IS has sent me to you.’ The name of God or Lord is given also to His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, ... And the Son says to Moses: ‘I have come down to rescue this people.’ For it is the Son who descended and ascended for the salvation of men. Thus, through the Son who is in the Father, and has the Father in Himself, HE WHO IS has been revealed.” (Against Heresies, III, vi:2).

From the above information of Irenaeus, we understand that the name “**Lord**”, when it refers to the One who is God and the Lord of all, **is an explicit title for Deity and it stands for “YHWH”!** The apostles used it freely in naming God’s only begotten Son because they had believed that **Jesus is the “Lord of all”** (Acts 10:36).

From the foregoing information, we conclude that when Paul said a person must confess or acknowledge that **Jesus is the Lord** to be saved, he meant that a person must acknowledge or confess that **Jesus is God (YHWH) to be saved.**

The understanding that the word “**Lord**” in **verse 9** means “**YHWH**” is further supported by the fact that all the following verses that connect verse 9 to verse 13, start with the word “**because**” (γάρ---gar). Why is the connection between verses 9 and 13 important? Because in verse 13, the apostle Paul presents God’s standard for salvation as the prophet Joel revealed it. In the old Hebrew text Joel presents it as,

“Whosoever shall call on the name of YHWH shall be saved”,

while Paul, applying the above words of Joel to Jesus, quotes from the Greek translation of the above, from the Septuagint, and he presents it as,

“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Thus, *“the word of faith”* (verse 8) which Paul and the rest of the apostles preached, is loud and clear:

A person **must believe that Jesus is the YHWH** of verse 13, whose name he/she must call upon, (must pray to) **to be saved!**

This is the reason, in verses 14 and 15, Paul asks:

*“How then may they (the Jews and the Greeks verses 12,13) call on (pray to) **One into whom** (to Jesus) **they have not believed? And how may they believe **One** (Jesus) of whom they have not heard? And how may they hear (of who Jesus is) without preaching? And how may they preach if they are not sent? Even as it has been written, “How beautiful” “the feet of those preaching the gospel of peace, of those preaching the gospel of good things (in other words, the gospel).”***

Based on Paul’s questions, let us consider the following:

Q. Had the Israelites heard about God YHWH?

A. Of course they had!

Q. Did the Israelites believe in YHWH as their God?

A. Of course they did!

Q. Did the Israelites call upon the name of YHWH? Did they pray to Him?

A. Of course they did!

Q. In Paul's days, would God have found it necessary to send preachers to the Israelites to preach to them about who YHWH is?

A. Of course not!

Beyond any doubt then, Paul's Subject in verse 14, the word "Him", is not YHWH the Father, but YHWH the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the "**Lord**" in other words, **the YHWH** of verses 9 and 13!

From the foregoing verses (14,15), we realize that "*the word of faith*" that Paul preached, was that God sent preachers to the unbelieving (in Jesus) Israelites, so they would hear about Jesus, **in order to help them recognize that Jesus is the Lord (YHWH the Son), and to believe in their hearts** that God (the Father) raised Him from the dead, **in order to call upon His name** (i.e., to pray to Jesus), **in order to receive salvation!**

From the foregoing presentation of Paul's gospel, we observe that God's requirements for salvation are:

- 1. Recognize** Jesus as God.
- 2. Believe** that God raised Him (**bodily** – Acts 2:27, 31) from the dead.
- 3. Pray to Him** (to Jesus)!

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO PRAY TO JESUS TO RECEIVE SALVATION?

Prayer is worship. Worship belongs only to God (Exodus 20:1-5). Those who do not believe that Jesus is the True God (1 John 5:20; Romans 9:5), **do not pray to Him** because they do not want to pray to someone who, according to their opinion, is not God! So, when one comes to the True Jesus of the Bible to be saved, one must call on His name to show that he/she has now believed that He is **God's Only begotten Son**, and that for this reason He is truly God by nature, and that worship (prayer), belongs to Him (Revelation 5:8,9)! **Please pay close attention to the following paragraph:**

The first Christians, who had believed that Jesus is God, prayed to Him (Acts 9:14; 22:16; 7:59; 1 Corinthians 1:2). Therefore, all those today, who do not believe that Jesus is God, will do well to think seriously this particularly important point, because it concerns their everlasting salvation. If they cannot pray to Jesus as the first Christians did, then, it is obvious that the Jesus they believe today, is not the same Jesus as theirs; they believe in "another Jesus" (2 Corinthians 11:4). A false Jesus does not have the power to save anyone!

RECAP

Up to this point, we realized that as Jesus was **credible**, so was the apostle Paul. For this reason, we must trust his God-inspiring words, to respect them, and to accept them **without opposition.**

The main point of Paul's gospel is the same with the gospel preached by Jesus: Those who wish to be saved from their sins, **must recognize** the True Jesus of the Bible **and to believe in Him!** Neither Jesus, nor Paul mentioned that

men must add works to their faith to be saved! Both showed that salvation is received **through faith in God's only begotten Son**, in other words, **through faith in the God Jesus!**

In Ephesians 2:8,9, the apostle Paul clearly said that salvation is God's **gift** to those who **believe**. Let us read his words:

"For by grace you are saved, through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, that not anyone should boast;"

Neither Jesus, nor Paul mentioned that those who will be saved could be in danger of losing their salvation. Neither did they mention that there would be **added requirements to retain it!** In fact, in Romans 10:2-7, Paul criticizes the unsaved Israelites of verse 1, because they, although they had zeal for God (v. 2), **they were lacking the knowledge that righteousness is not received by works, but by faith and by subjecting themselves to the One who is the END of the Law**, in other words, to Christ, because now, **He is the righteousness for all those who believe in Him** (verse 4).

Therefore, since Jesus became their righteousness because they believed in Him, not through works, **how is it possible for God Jesus to fail them and to let those He made righteous be lost? Didn't the Lamb of God pay for ALL their sins on the cross?**

WAS THE GOSPEL PREACHED BY JOHN DIFFERENT THAN THE GOSPEL PREACHED BY JESUS AND PAUL?

Of course not! In his gospel and in his epistles, John presented the **Person and the work of the Savior** in a very

dynamic way. He also presented **God's requirements for salvation.**

In his gospel, in his opening words, John presents the truth about who Jesus is. John wrote that the prehuman Jesus was **the Word**, who existed before the beginning of any creation. John also wrote that **the Word was God, that He was the Creator of all things, and that the Word became flesh.** Let us read his words from John 1:1-3,14:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being ... And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. And we beheld His glory, glory as of an only begotten from the Father, full of grace and of truth."

In the above verses, John fully agrees with Paul that **Jesus is the Creator God.** In Colossians 1:16,17, Paul wrote about Jesus the following:

"For by him (Greek text: "For in Him") were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

The words, ***"For in him were all things created ... all things were created by him, and for him"***, emphatically tell us that Jesus is the One who conceived **in His wisdom** (in Him) **the shape** of all things which were created by

Him and for Him! Truly, the above verse points to the fact that the prehuman Jesus was the **DESIGNER and the MAKER who created all things for Himself!** The glory belongs to You Lord Jesus!

REQUIREMENTS FOR SALVATION ACCORDING TO JOHN

In his gospel, and in his epistles, John spoke about the sacrifice of the Son of God. In this way, he presented the gospel, the good news, that the blood of Jesus cleanses from their sins all those **who believe in Him** (1 John 1:7). In 1 John 2:25, he presented **the promise Jesus gave to those who believe in Him:**

“And this is the promise which He promised us: Everlasting life.”

In 1 John 4:15, John, like Jesus and Paul, shows **the importance of the confession that Jesus is the Son of God!** He wrote,

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

In 1 John 5:13, John, like Paul, shows the importance of **believing in the name of the Son of God.** Let us read his words:

“I wrote these things to you, the ones believing in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have everlasting life, and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God.”

Is this not the same gospel Jesus preached in John 3:16,18? Let us read these verses:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone believing into Him should not perish, but have everlasting life ... The one believing into Him is not condemned; but the one not believing has already been condemned, for he has not believed into the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

NECESSARY REPETITION

In the foregoing verses, the title “**only begotten Son**”, declares that the prehuman Jesus was **the only Son of God’s essence**. For this reason, to believe in **the only begotten Son of God**, is to believe that He is, at once, God by nature, God in essence; and according to John 3:16, **this faith is necessary for receiving salvation**.

From the above, we see that the apostle John, the beloved disciple of Jesus (John 13:23; 21:7,20,24), **preached the same gospel of salvation that Jesus and Paul preached**. Therefore, **he is as credible as they!** For this reason, we must trust his words, respect them, and accept them **without any opposition!** John, like Jesus and Paul, did not say there would be a danger of losing their salvation! On the contrary, as we observed previously, he reminded them of **JESUS’ PROMISE:**

“And this is the promise which He promised us: Everlasting life.” (1 John 2:25), and,

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” (1 John 4:15).

The Bible provides us with more examples where the apostles preached the true gospel of salvation **with its**

promise of eternal life. In Acts 16:29-31, we read about the case of a jailer, who asked a very important question regarding **the requirements for receiving salvation.** Let us read these verses, to hear his question and the answer he received:

“And asking for lights, he (the jailer) rushed in. And becoming trembly, he fell before Paul and Silas. And leading them outside, he said, Sirs, what must I do that I may be saved? And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

In the above case, we did not hear Paul and Silas saying that there are other requirements which he would have to fulfill to be saved, or to keep his salvation after he is saved! The doctrine which proclaims that those who were saved are in danger of losing their salvation, **changes the promise of the gospel** preached by Paul and Silas.

A similar case is found in Acts 11:14. There, we read the words of the apostle Peter, who gave his testimony as to what happened when he preached about Jesus to Cornelius, a Roman centurion (please read Acts chapter 10). Peter reports that the angel of God said to Cornelius the following:

“... Send men to Joppa, and send for Simon who is surnamed Peter, who will speak words to you by which you and all your household will be saved.”

The apostle Peter did not say to Cornelius that after God saves him, he could, for some reason, lose his salvation! Paul, Silas, John, and Peter did not spread **doubts about the everlasting salvation** that God gives as a **gift** to all those who **believe** in His only begotten Son!

Here, it would be beneficial to remember the words of Paul, as they are recorded in Ephesians 2:1-9. There, the apostle directs his words to saved Christians and says,

*“and you being dead in deviations (transgressions) and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience, among whom we also all conducted ourselves in times past in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed of the flesh and of the understanding, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as the rest. **But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even we being dead in deviations, He made us alive together with Christ (by grace you are being saved), and raised us up together and seated us together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, that He might demonstrate in the ages coming on, the exceeding great riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you are saved, through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, that not anyone should boast;”***

From the above verses, we clearly see that formerly, before they believed in the only begotten Son of God, they were **dead** in the eyes of God **because of their sins**. But now, because God is rich in mercy, and because of His great love for those who believe in Christ, **He made them alive, He resurrected them with Him, and He sat them together with Him in the heavenlies, through Christ, in order to show in the coming ages, the exceeding riches of His grace, to those who believed through Christ**. God gave them the above glory **by grace --- not of works, neither of their good conduct!** Everyone should know that

they received salvation **by grace through their faith in Jesus**, exactly as the biblical gospel promises! The doctrine which preaches that those who have received the salvific grace of God **are in danger of losing it because of transgressions and sins, attacks the biblical gospel right on its foundation, right on its promise.**

“DEAD IN TRANSGRESSIONS AND SINS”

In the foregoing verses, Ephesians 2:1-9, we met the expression, “*you being dead in deviations (transgressions) and sins*”. The opposers say, “You see? If the saved Christians decide to go back to a life **of transgressions and sins**, they will lose their salvation!” According to the Bible, this reasoning does not stand for two reasons:

1. Christians are not sharers of the Old Covenant, which God made with the circumcised Israelites on mount Sinai! Christians are sharers of the New Covenant, which Jesus established in His blood!
2. **Jesus brought the end to transgressions and sins!** Neither transgressions nor sins effect the salvation of the truly born-again Christians!

Let us examine this case from the Scriptures:

Prophet Daniel gave incredible prophecies regarding the Person and the work of Christ. Let us pay close attention to Daniel 9:24. There, Daniel wrote,

“Seventy weeks are decreed as to your people, and as to your holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make atonement for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy (One).”

From the above verse, we realize that Gabriel (verse 21), presented to Daniel the gospel of salvation hundreds of years before the coming of Christ, **because he revealed the Person and the work of the Savior!**

What did Gabriel reveal about the Person of the Savior?

At the very end of verse 24, we read the following words:

“... to anoint the Most Holy One” (please check NIV’s footnote).

There is only one Person in the whole universe who is the *“Most Holy One”* --- **God!** From Gabriel’s words then, we realize that the One who would become the Christ to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21), would be God in the flesh (Philippians 2:6-11; John 1:1,14)!

What did Gabriel say about the work of the Savior?

He said that He would:

- 1. Bring an end to transgression!**
- 2. Bring an end to sins!**
- 3. Make atonement for lawlessness!**
- 4. Bring in everlasting righteousness!**
- 5. Seal up vision and prophecy!**

Now, let us examine the above, point by point:

1. Bring an end to transgression.

Did Jesus bring an end to transgression?

Absolutely! He brought an end to transgression **by removing the Old Covenant with its Law and ordinances** that were against the people of Israel (Colossians 2:14), and **by establishing the New Covenant in His blood** (Jeremiah 31:31; Matthew 26:28).

What connection is there between Law and transgression?

In Romans 4:15, the apostle Paul wrote that,

“... where there is no law neither is there transgression.”
(EMTV)

2. Bring an end to sins.

Did Jesus bring an end to the sins?

Yes, He did! Please consider the following scriptures:

Luke 24:47

“... remission of sins must be preached on His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

John 1:29

“On the morrow, John sees Jesus coming toward him and said, Behold! The Lamb of God, taking away the sin of the world!”

Acts 13:38

“... through this One remission of sin is announced to you.”

Hebrews 9:26

“... But now once for all, at the completion of the ages, He has been manifested for putting away of sin through the sacrifice of Himself.”

Matthew 26:28

“For this is My blood of the New Covenant which concerning many is being poured out for remission of sins.”

3. Make atonement for lawlessness.

Did Jesus make atonement (propitiation, reconciliation) **for lawlessness?**

Yes, He did! Let us read the following verses:

1 John 3:4,5

“⁴Everyone practicing sin also practices lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. ⁵And you know that that One was revealed that He might take away our sins, and sin is not in Him.”

Romans 3:24,25

“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation through faith in His blood, as a demonstration of His righteousness through the passing over of the sins that had taken place before, in the forbearance of God,”

Hebrews 2:17

“For this reason He ought by all means to become like His brothers, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the things respecting God, in order to make propitiation for the sins of His people.”

Titus 2:14

“who gave Himself on our behalf, that He might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify a special people for Himself, zealous of good works.”

1 John 2:2

“And He Himself is the propitiation relating to our sins, and not relating to ours only, but also relating to all the world.”

1 John 4:10

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be a propitiation relating to our sins.”

4. Bring in everlasting righteousness.

Did Jesus bring in everlasting righteousness?

Yes, He did! Let us consider the following scriptures:

Romans 3:21-26

“²¹But now a righteousness of God has been revealed apart from Law, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²²even the righteousness of God through faith of Jesus Christ toward all and upon all those believing; for there is no difference, ²³for all sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God set forth as a propitiation through faith in His blood, as a demonstration of His righteousness through the passing over of the sins that had taken place before, in the forbearance of God, ²⁶for a demonstration of His righteousness in the

present time, for His being just and justifying the one that is of the faith of Jesus.”

Romans 10:3,4

“³For being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness of God. ⁴For Christ is the end of Law for righteousness to everyone that believes.”

Hebrews 9:12

“nor through the blood of goats and of calves, but through His own blood, He entered once for all into the Holy of Holies, having procured everlasting redemption.”

1 Corinthians 1:30

“But of Him, you are in Christ Jesus, who was made to us wisdom from God, both righteousness and sanctification and redemption”.

Please note:

In Romans 3:22 and 10:4, the righteousness of God is towards **all those who believe in Jesus only!** To the Jews who did not believe in Him, Jesus said,

“Therefore, I said to you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:24)

And to the scribes and Pharisees, He said,

“Serpents! Offspring of vipers! How shall you escape the judgment of Hell?” (Matthew 23:33)

From the above words of the Lord Jesus, we realize that His everlasting righteousness would not apply to all the Jews as a nation, but only to those Jews who will hear the

gospel and who will believe that **Jesus is the YHWH** (the Lord) of **Romans 10:13** whose **Name they must call upon** (to whom they must pray) **to be saved** (Romans 10:1,9, 13-14)!

5. *“seal up vision and prophecy”*

Did Jesus seal up (fulfill) *“vision and prophecy”*?

Yes, He did! In Matthew 5:17 Jesus said that He did not come to annul the Law and the Prophets but to **fulfill** them! And from the Scriptures we know that He fulfilled (or *“sealed up”*) every prophecy which referred to the Person and the work of the Messiah concerning sin! On the cross He said, **“It is finished”** (John 19:30)!

E. How did Jesus accomplish the foregoing 5 points?

A. Through His death and resurrection!

That means that Christ, through His death on the cross, **took the Law out of the midst** (Colossians 2:14), and He saved from the guilt of **transgression and sins** all those who believe in Him (Matthew 1:21). **Because He, who is the righteousness of all those who believe in Him** (Romans 10:4) **lives forever, so is their righteousness: Everlasting --- not temporary!**

A SHORT PARENTHESIS

The fact that Jesus took the Law out of the midst, is extremely important. It is a point that those who insist that the truly born-again Christians could lose their salvation, must pay attention to. I am saying this because, in their attempt to prove that their doctrine is based on scripture, they use verses like Ezekiel 18:24,26. There it says,

“²⁴But when the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, according to all the abominations that the wicked do, he does, shall he live? All his righteousness that he has done shall not be remembered in his treason that he has betrayed, and in his sin that he has sinned, in them he shall die ... ²⁶When a righteous one turns from his righteousness and does injustice and dies in them, he shall die for his injustice which he has done.”

What they must understand on this point, is the fact that the above words are part of the Old Covenant, which, the apostle Paul called “*the ministry of death*” (2 Corinthians 3:7). **They are not part of the new, which is a ministry of grace and everlasting life!** When I explain this point, the opposers react with the following questions:

“Why? Did God change? Isn’t God the same yesterday, today and forever?”

My answer is, “No, God did not change! **His covenant changed!** He had promised that He would make a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31). And Jesus established the new covenant, with the blood of His cross (Matthew 26:26-28). Those who came to Christ and **received everlasting salvation, according to His promise**, became sharers of the new covenant --- not of the old!”

NOW BACK TO OUR STUDY

Truly, Christ fulfilled the foregoing prophecy of Daniel; and with His sacrifice, He brought in everlasting righteousness! Therefore, **those who say that a truly saved faithful person is in danger of losing his salvation because of sin, lessen the value, the significance, and the effectiveness of the eternal sacrifice of Jesus!** Jesus died for all the sins of those who believe in Him: For the sins they

committed yesterday, for the sins they commit today, and for the sins they will commit tomorrow! For **ALL** their sins! (Matthew 12:31) **Those who do not believe in Him, will die in their sins** (John 8:24).

Therefore, as I said earlier, since Jesus brought an end to the transgression and sins, neither the transgression nor the sins will affect the salvation of those who believe in Christ!

As we observed earlier, **Jesus the Righteous is the everlasting righteousness of all those who, simply, believe in Him!** Let us remember Paul's preaching from Acts 13:38, 39. There, he wrote,

"Then let it be known to you, men, brothers, that through this One remission of sin is announced to you, and every-one believing in this one (in Jesus) is justified from all things which you could not be justified by the Law of Moses."

I believe that the above words of Paul, say it all! However, the opposers are many, and they accuse me that such a gospel is from Satan! They think that I encourage them to live in sin! They think that I say, "Since you cannot lose your salvation when you commit a sin, then, you are free to go out there and commit any sin you wish!" Truly? Is this what I say? The preaching of the true gospel of salvation by the grace of God through faith in Jesus, **does not encourage anyone to live in sin.** In 1 John 2:1,2, the apostle John wrote:

"My little children, I write these things to you SO THAT YOU DO NOT SIN. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation relating to our sins, and not

relating to ours only, but also relating to all the world.”

Q. How does Jesus help if one of us sins?

A. Not only did He pour out His blood on the cross and He became the propitiation for our sins, not only did He become our Redeemer who paid the penalty which we were supposed to pay for our sins, but also, after His resurrection, He became our **High Priest** (Hebrews 2:17), and our **Mediator** (1 Timothy 2:5), who prays to God on our behalf. Let us examine these two positions, to see how they benefit us:

THE PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

From the seventh chapter of the letter to the Hebrews, we learn that Jesus became a Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. Let us read verses 15-17. There, it says,

“And it is still more abundantly clear that if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek, who has not become so according to a law of a fleshly command, but according to the power of an indissoluble (endless) life. For it is testified, “You are a priest to the age according to the order of Melchizedek.””

And in verses 24,25, it says about Jesus the following:

“but He has the priesthood not to be passed on, because of His remaining to the age. And from this He is able to save to the end completely the ones drawing near to God through Him, forever living to intercede on their behalf.”

From the above verses, we observe that the priesthood of Jesus cannot be “*passed on*” (in other words, it will not be

passed on to successors). For this reason, Jesus is able, i.e., He has the power, to save **“to the end completely”** (in other words, **forever, fully, and perfectly**) those who decide to come to God through Him (John 14:6)! And the words of Hebrews 5:9,10, ensure us that Jesus came to be the Author of **eternal salvation** for all those who obey Him. Let us carefully read these verses:

*“and having been perfected, He came to be the Author of **eternal salvation** to all the ones obeying Him, having been called out by God as a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.”*

HOW DOES JESUS SAVE AS AN ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST?

How did the priests of the Old Testament remove the sins of the people? Was it not through the offering of the blood of the animals? **Jesus offered His own blood**, and thus **He paid once for all time** for the sins of all those who recognized Him as God, and who confessed this belief with their mouth (Romans 10:9,10). His blood was not like the blood of the animals, which did not have the power to remove sins (Hebrews 10:4). His blood offering for the sins of those who believed in Him, was **eternal**. It occurred once for all time, and it has **“perfected in perpetuity” the believers** (Hebrews 10:10,14). In other words, it produced for the believers **“everlasting redemption”** (Hebrews 9:12).

The foregoing words, **“perfected in perpetuity”**, are especially important as far as our subject is concerned. Let us carefully read Hebrews 10:14-17:

*“For by one offering He has **perfected in perpetuity** the ones being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit witnesses to us also. For after having said before, “This is the covenant which I will covenant to them after those days, says the*

Lord: Giving My Laws on their hearts, and I will write them on their minds;" also He adds, "I will not at all still remember their sins and their lawlessnesses."

Therefore, as **the eternal sacrifice of Jesus produced eternal salvation for the believers** --- not for the unbelievers --- it is manifest that the doctrine which says that the believers are in danger of losing their salvation, opposes even this biblical truth. **It lessens the value, the significance of the eternal sacrifice of Jesus! It lessens its effectiveness!** If it would be impossible for the believers to sin, **there would be no need for the priesthood of Christ! Amen?**

Based on the above biblical truth, we ask:

Is it possible that the benefits of the eternal sacrifice of the Lord Jesus and His eternal redemption depend upon our good conduct? **Is it possible that the opposing doctrine, has helped its supporters to stop sinning?** If the answer is "Yes!", then we'll do well to read 1 John 1:8-10. There, John says,

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous that He may forgive us the sins, and may cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us."

THE MEDIATORSHIP OF JESUS

Previously, we read Hebrews 7:24-26. There, we met the things concerning the **priesthood** of the Lord Jesus, and we made comments on that issue. Now, let us read verse 25

again, and let us observe its last words, where the Author of the letter, refers to the **mediatorship** of Jesus:

“And from this He is able to save to the end completely the ones drawing near to God through Him, forever living to intercede on their behalf.”

The last words, ***“forever living to intercede*** (to mediate) ***on their behalf”***, are very important! They reveal that the Savior who lives forever, **has a purpose: To always mediate on behalf of the believers!** If it were not possible for the believers to sin again, **there would be no need for His mediation!** The opposing doctrine lessens **the need of the mediatorship of Jesus!** It places the responsibility for holiness exclusively on the shoulders of the believers, and this is the reason **they doubt** whether they will be able to keep their salvation!

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS THE SALVATION AND THE RETAINING OF THE SALVATION OF THE SHEEP? THEIRS OR THE SHEPHERD’S?

From John 10:11-15, we learn that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His own life to save His sheep (i.e., those who believe in Him). Let us read His words:

“¹¹I am the Good Shepherd! The Good Shepherd lays down His life on behalf of the sheep. ¹²But the hireling, not even being a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and forsakes the sheep and flees. And the wolf seizes them, and scatters the sheep. ¹³But the hireling flees because he is a hireling, and there is not a care to him concerning the sheep. ¹⁴I am the Good Shepherd, and I know those that are Mine, and I am known by the ones that are Mine. ¹⁵Even as the Father knows Me, I

also know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”

From the above verses, we learn that the One who saves the sheep from the “*wolf*”, is “*the Good Shepherd*”. To better understand this point, allow me to give an example:

The opposers say that to keep their salvation, the saved Christians must overcome all the adversities which Satan throws against them. Satan uses many methods against the “*sheep*” of the “*Good Shepherd*”. Some of his weapons are persecution, material possessions, and the flesh. Now, let us liken Satan’s ‘weapons’ to “*wolves*”. If a “*sheep*” faces one, or two, or more “*wolves*”, will it have the power to conquer them? Is it possible for the “*sheep*” to save itself? **Of course not!** Who, then, has the power to save the “*sheep*” of the “*Good Shepherd*”? Therefore, it is only logical to say, that **the responsibility for the salvation and for the continuous protection of the “*sheep*” belongs to the “*Good Shepherd*”, to the Almighty Jesus, who holds all things with the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3)! He has the power to hold His “*sheep*” in His hand, and at the same time, to fight against the “*wolf*” who tries to devour the “*sheep*”!**

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, gave the following promise:

“And I give eternal life to them, and they shall not perish to the age, never! And not anyone shall pluck them out of My hand.” (John 10:28).

Also, in John 11:26, the Credible Jesus repeated His promise saying,

“And everyone living and believing into Me shall not die to the age, never! Do you believe this?” (LITV)

Who wishes to use his/her reasoning to oppose or to lessen the foregoing **unshakeable promises of Jesus?**

At this point, the opposers mention the free moral agency, and they say the possibility exists that the “*sheep*” might want to exercise its own free will, **to jump out of the hand of Jesus/God, to run away from them, and to be lost!** I wonder, why do they persist with such zeal to take away from Jesus the glory for their salvation, and to give it to men! **Do they forget that Jesus said that He came to save the lost?** Didn’t Jesus say that if one of His sheep will get lost, He will leave the 99 sheep behind and that He will run to find/save the lost (Matthew 18:11-14)? **Do we believe that He has the power to perform it?** Should we not give the glory for our **full and complete salvation to God**, as Jude said, in Jude 1:24,25? Let us read his words:

“Now to Him being able to keep you without stumbling, and to set you before His glory without blemish, with unspeakable joy; to the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty and might and authority, even now and forever. Amen.”

From the above words, we observe that **the One who has the Power to keep the believers from stumbling**, and to set them before Him **without blemish**, is God --- not the believers! The apostle Peter said it straight forward, that **the believers are being GUARDED by the power of God**. Let us read his words:

“to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, having been kept in heaven for you the ones in the power of God being GUARDED through faith to a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time; (1 Peter 1:4,5)

Therefore, we clearly see that the responsibility for keeping the salvation of the believers, belongs to God, and that **HE WILL NOT FAIL!** The apostle Paul was confident that God **will not experience loss!** In Philippians 1:6. He wrote,

“Being persuaded of this very thing, that the One having begun a good work in you, will finish it until the day of Jesus Christ;”

One of the good things **God has begun** in the believers, is **the faith He gave them.** In Romans 12:3, the apostle Paul refers to the **“measure of faith”** which God divided to the believers; and in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, the apostle says that faith is one of the gifts which the Holy Spirit gives to the believers (verse 9). Thus, according to Philippians 1:6, as the One who begins the faith in the believers is God, He will keep that faith, and He will **PERFECT** it in them, until the day of the Lord Jesus Christ! The Writer of the letter to the Hebrews, in Hebrews 12:2, confirms that Jesus is **the Author and Finisher of our faith!** Let us read that verse:

“looking unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (EMTV)

The above statement of the word of God, **does not allow any room for failure!** If we become deceived and believe that the truly born-again believers can lose their faith, and for this reason they can lose their salvation, not only we will become opposers to the word of God, but we will also **insult Jesus** by insinuating that He is not able to be the **“Perfecter** (the Finisher) ***of our faith”!***

If you see any man **departing from the faith**, it will be one of those who are mentioned in Matthew 7:23 and 1 John 2:19. This man **appeared to be a born-again Christian**, but, in time, he came out of the group of the truly born-again believers, in whom **God had begun the good work of faith**. That person did not lose his salvation, because, **he never had it!** However, if he were a truly born-again person, his departing will be **temporary**, because **the Good Shepherd will bring him back to Himself! Jesus will not lose anyone of those whom God brings to Him for salvation**, exactly as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:8,9. Let us read these verses:

“who also will confirm you (sustain or support) until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

The fact that the keeping of the believers’ salvation belongs to Jesus, is made manifest from His own words. Let us see what He said in John 6:37-40:

“All that the Father gives to Me shall come to Me, and the one coming to Me I will in no way cast out. For I have come down out of Heaven, not that I should do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the will of the Father sending Me, that of all that He has given Me, I shall not lose any of it, but shall raise it up in the last day. And this is the will of the One sending Me, that everyone seeing the Son and believing into Him should have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

The foregoing revelation of **God’s will**, and **the promise of the Almighty Son of God** (that He will not lose anyone), **dissolves the false, the controversial doctrine of**

the opposition! However, the opposers continue their attack against all the above truths, and they say, “Yes, but, **if the believers do not live a holy life, they will lose their salvation!**”

The question is, **who sanctifies the believer?** Does the believer have the power to sanctify himself? Whose responsibility is it to sanctify the believers? Let us see:

In Ephesians 2:8-10, we read:

“For by grace you are saved, through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, that not anyone should boast; for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God before prepared that we should walk in them.”

From the above verses, we realize that those who have been saved **by the grace of God** --- not through works --- **are His own workmanship, they are God’s creation!** The good works which God prepared for them, are not for gaining salvation, but for walking in them **because they are saved!**

The saved persons are not their own creation, neither do they have the power to sanctify themselves. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23,24, we read that **God will sanctify** and keep the truly born-again believers **“fully”** --- completely! Let us read these words:

“And may the God of peace Himself fully sanctify you, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is the One calling you, who also will perform it.”

In addition, in 1 Corinthians 1:30, the apostle Paul said that **Jesus Christ Himself became our sanctification!** Let us read his words:

“But of Him, you are in Christ Jesus, who was made to us wisdom from God, both righteousness and sanctification and redemption”.

Finally, from Ephesians 5:25-27, we learn that **the One who has the power to sanctify His Church**, so that She be holy and blameless, without having spot or wrinkle, is **the Lord Jesus Christ:**

“Husbands, love your own wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her behalf, in order to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of water in word (Greek text: ἐν ῥήματι), that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she be holy and blameless.”
(Author’s translation from the Greek text.)

According to the foregoing words, Jesus has the power to cleanse, to **sanctify His Church, by His word!** Simply, He will say to those who make up the New Creation, which He brought into existence, “Be holy”, and they will be holy! Did He not bring the old creation into existence in the same manner? He “said”, in other words, He spoke the word, and they all came to be!

Therefore, **the responsibility for the sanctification of the believers belongs to God and to Christ** because the believers, i.e., the Church of the Living God, **IS HIS WORK!** All things came into existence by Them, and for Them (Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16). Let us praise God! Let us be filled with exceeding joy (Jude 1:24,25)!

TWO KINDS OF DEATH

According to the Scriptures, there are two kinds of death:

- A) The death which rules over every human being because of sin (Romans 5:17-21). **All men die, because all men, without exception, are guilty of sin;** and as the apostle Paul said, *“the wages of sin is death”* (Romans 6:23). This kind of death deprives men from the hope of having everlasting life. The only way for one to escape this without hope death, is to believe in the Son of God, because He is the One who has the keys of Hades and of death (Revelation 1:18). **Those who will not believe that Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of God, and therefore, God in essence** (John 1:1; 3:16; Romans 9:5), **will die in their sins** (John 8:24).
- B) The death which God uses **to discipline His saved children** when they live in sin, or when they do not take seriously the symbolism of the bread and the wine which symbolize the body and the blood of Jesus. If they view these elements as a common meal, if they do not remember with respect and appreciation the work that the Lord accomplished on the cross, **then, they could get sick and even die.** This statement is based on 1 Corinthians 11:27-30. Let us read these verses:

“So that whoever should eat this bread, or drink the cup of the Lord, unworthily, that one will be guilty of the body and of the blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and let him drink of the cup; for he eating and drinking unworthily eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the body of the

Lord. For this reason many among you are weak and feeble, and many sleep (die)."

The above death is **not the loss of their salvation!** For example, in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, we read about a born-again Christian who was committing fornication with his father's wife, and we learn that although his body would be given to Satan for destruction, **his spirit will be saved** in the day of the Lord. Let us read verse 5:

"... deliver such a one to Satan for destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

How do we know that this person was a truly born-again Christian?

Pay attention to verses 5 and 11-13. If he were not a born-again Christian, there would be no need to hand him over to Satan (verse 5) because he would have already been under Satan's authority (1 John 3:8). Also, in verses 12 and 13, we hear Paul saying that they ought **to judge those who are inside the church**, and that God will judge those who are outside. After all, if he were not a truly born-again Christian, how would his spirit be saved in the day of the Lord? The biblical gospel does not provide other ways by which a person can be saved!

Thus, from the above case, we realize that **a truly born-again Christian cannot lose his salvation because of sin.** But it is given that the above conclusion of the apostle Paul, **does not give the freedom, to truly born-again Christians, to live in sin.** The apostle John wrote,

“Everyone who has been begotten of God does not sin, because His seed abides in him, and he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God.” (1 John 3:9)

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A TRULY BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN TO COMMIT A SIN?

Of course, it is! This is the reason God provided us with the “mechanism”, so to speak, of **repentance** and **forgiveness**. In 1 John 1:7-10, we read:

“⁷But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of His Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from ALL sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous that He may forgive us the sins, and may cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.”

Also, in 1 Corinthians 3:15, the apostle Paul explains that **the work** of a born-again Christian, could be consumed, but **he will be saved!**

RECAP

From the above examples, we realize that the saved children of God, do not lose their salvation because of sin, because the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses them from **all** their sins. **They might get sick, they can even die** (Acts 5:5, 10), **but they will not lose their salvation!** The promise of the Lord Jesus is thunderous. In John 5:24, He said:

“I tell you for certain that everyone who hears my message and has faith in the one who sent me has eternal life and will NEVER be condemned. They have already

gone from death to life.”

The above statement of the Lord, supports the fact that those who believe in Him, **are saved by the grace of God through faith in the True Jesus of the Bible --- not by works.** Salvation is **God’s GIFT** (Ephesians 2:8,9)! **They will never be judged between life and death because they have already gone from death to life!** The above promise of the Lord, go hand in hand with His words in John 3:18. There, He said to Nicodemus the following:

“The one believing into Him is not condemned; but the one not believing has already been condemned, for he has not believed into the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

When the time comes for the books to be opened, so that men will be **“judged out of the things written in the books”** (Revelation 20:12), the born-again Christians **would have already lived and ruled with Christ for a thousand years** (Revelation 20:6)! Therefore, the doctrine which says that the truly born-again children of God can lose their salvation, opposes all the foregoing teachings of the Bible that I have mentioned so far! **It ignores the statement of Jesus** that the moment they believed in Him, **they passed from death onto life! Period!** It is the promises of Christ which count --- not the words of men who say, **“Yes, but...if...”!** Christians base their faith on the foundation of the promises of Jesus --- not on hypothetical **“ifs”!**

WHAT ELSE HAPPENED TO THEM THE MOMENT THEY BELIEVED IN GOD’S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON?

Knowing **what they became the moment they believed in**

the only begotten Son of God, will help them get rid of the fears and doubt the controversial doctrine may have instilled in their hearts. It will help them restore their confidence in the power **“of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”** (Titus 2:13). Let us concentrate on the points that follow:

1. They became children of God (John 1:12,13).

Since the day of Pentecost, all those who believed in the only begotten Son of God, became **truly born-again Christians because the Holy Spirit came to dwell in them forever** (John 14:16). When that happened, **they became Children of God because they were regenerated by the incorruptible Seed of God who remains forever** (1 Peter 1:23). And, because **it is impossible for God’s incorruptible Seed to fail, they also remain forever!** The opposing doctrine cannot stand before this biblical truth! **It blasphemes the regeneration** (the state of being born-again) and it does not realize that **God’s incorruptible Seed cannot become corruptible, and therefore, He will never fail!**

2. They received everlasting life! Let us read John 3:36. There it says,

“The one believing into the Son has everlasting life; but the one disobeying the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

Please pay attention to the fact that the above verse says, ***“The one believing into the Son HAS everlasting life”***. It does not say, ***“will receive everlasting life”***! So, those who believe in God’s only begotten Son, receive, immediately,

everlasting life --- not temporary! And in 1 John 5:11-13, we hear John saying again,

“And this is the witness: that God gave us everlasting life, and this life is in His Son. The one having the Son has life. The one not having the Son of God does not have life. I wrote these things to you, the ones believing in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have everlasting life, and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God.”

The controversial doctrine cannot erase this **promise of the gospel!**

3. They became a “New Creation”.

Q. The New Creation --- what is it?

A. It is the unity between God and man!

The new creation does not consist of the believer alone. It also consists of the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who dwell inside all those who believe in the True Jesus of the Bible. **If the Godhead does not dwell inside a man, the new creation does not exist!** The above statement is supported by the following verses:

John 14:23

“Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word, and **My Father shall love him. And We will come to him and will make a dwelling place with him.**”

Revelation 3:20

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock: If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, **I will enter to him, and I will dine with him, and he with Me.**”

Romans 8:9

“But you are not in flesh, but in Spirit, since **the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone has not the Spirit of Christ, this one is not His.**”

2 Corinthians 5:17

“So that if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!”

The words, “**new creation**”, do not refer to the old creation of man. For those who believed in Christ, **the old man died** (Romans 6:6,7)! **It does not exist any longer!** Now, the believer has become a new creation which God brought into existence by His Word who became flesh, because nothing has come into existence apart from Him (John1:3; Colossians 1:16)! As the apostle Paul said, what counts now **is the new creation!** In Galatians 6:15, he said, “

“... in Christ Jesus neither circumcision has any strength nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.”

Is it possible for the old man, who was part of the old creation, whom God **regenerated and made him a new creation**, to be un-born-again? Is it possible to be “born” for a third time, so he can become old creation for a second time and lose his salvation?

Is it possible that **God did not know, before He made him new creation**, that one day this man would become

part of the old creation again, and that for this reason, he would lose his salvation?”

How silly the controversial doctrine is! How far it is from the biblical truth! **Truly, the opposing doctrine blasphemes the glory and the creative power of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit who brought the New Creation into existence! It insults God’s intelligence and His foreknowledge!**

4. **They became part of the “Bride of Christ”, who is the “Bridegroom”** (2 Corinthians 11:1; Revelation 19:7).

When the opposers tell me that saved believers can lose their salvation, I bring to their attention the fact that those who believed in Jesus, **became, instantly, part of His “Bride” and the Spirit of Christ dwells in them! It is impossible for those who truly became part of the “Bride” of Christ, to reject Him** (I Corinthians 12:3).

In response, they tell me that all people have free will to act anyway they want! I agree! We all have free will! And those who became the **“Bride”** of Christ, had accepted Him out of their own free will, and their free willed decision and action, **brought them eternal results: God gave them eternal life as a gift!** And **“... *the free gifts and the calling of God are unregrettable*”** (Romans 11:29)!

The above biblical truth, as so many others, has crashed the controversial doctrine!

5. They became the “Temple” of God.

In 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 2 Corinthians 6:16, the apostle Paul said that the believers make up the “**Temple**” of God, **because God dwells in them**. Let us read these verses:

1 Corinthians 3:16

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

2 Corinthians 6:16

“... For you are the temple of the living God, just as God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.””

Before we continue with this point of the “*temple*”, we must learn who is “**the one overcoming**” according to the Scriptures. The opposers say that “**the one overcoming**”, is the one who overcomes all his fleshly desires, all his weaknesses, and all the adversities that Satan sends against them! This is the reason for having **doubts** whether one can **overcome to the end** so that he will not lose his salvation! However, in 1 John 5:5, we hear John explaining, with simple terms, that “**the one overcoming**” is **the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God!** Let us read his words:

“Who is the one overcoming the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Now that we know that “*the one overcoming*” is **the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God**, let us hear **the promise the Lord Jesus gives to such a person**. In Reve-

lation 3:12, He said:

“The one overcoming, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall NEVER go out any more. And I will write the name of My God on him, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem which comes down out of Heaven from My God, and My new name.”

The doctrine which says that it is possible for those who believe and confess that Jesus is the Son of God, to lose their salvation, comes in direct contradiction with the above verse. In other words, it comes in direct opposition with **the promise** Jesus gave them, that **He will make them “pillars” in the temple of God, and that they will NEVER come out again!** Even this biblical truth causes the controversial doctrine to collapse!

6. They became the “Church” of God.

The Church of the Lord Jesus is not a religious institution. It is a **“body”** (Colossians 1:24; Ephesians 1:23), which consists of all those men and women who **believe in the True Jesus of the Bible.** It is they who **confess** that Jesus is **God over all and blessed forever** (Romans 9:5), and who have a personal relationship with Him because the Holy Spirit dwells in them (Romans 8:9; Revelation 3:20). This is the Church that Jesus builds upon the confession which is **the rock, or the foundation of the Christian faith.**

WHICH CONFESSION IS THIS?

It is the confession of the apostle Peter, who said to Jesus, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”** (Matthew

16:16)! The titles “**Christ**” and “**Son of God**” are explicit titles of Deity, titles that drove His enemies to kill Jesus for blasphemy (John 5:18; Matthew 26:63-66). Those who believe in the True Jesus of the Bible, make up **the Church which God has bought with His own blood** (Acts 20:28). Now let us pay attention to the following sentence:

It is impossible for the Almighty God to lose something that belongs to Him, something that He has bought with His own blood!

The opposing doctrine is in direct contradiction even with this biblical truth!

IS GOD’S FOREKNOWLEDGE LIMITED?

A few pages ago, under the subtitle, **3. They became a “New Creation”**, I wrote:

“Is it possible that **God did not know**, before He made him new creation, that one day this man would become part of the old creation again, and that for this reason, he would lose his salvation?”

The above question is especially important because it touches an important point of our study. **As the Lord God knows the end from the beginning, why should He give the gift of eternal life to those He knew that someday will lose it?** Is it possible that God’s foreknowledge, and His ability to save “*completely*” those who come to Him (Hebrews 7:25), should be in question?

Let us examine 2 Peter 2:13,14. There, the apostle Peter wrote:

“being about to receive the wages of unrighteousness, having deemed indulgence in the day to be pleasure; spots and blemishes reveling in their deceits, feasting along with you, having eyes full of an adulteress, and never ceasing from sin; alluring unsettled souls; having a heart being busied with covetousness; cursed children,”

From the above verses, we see clearly that there are **two groups of Christians inside the Christian community**: The truly born-again Christians, and those who are *“feasting along with”* them!

The opposers say that the above words are referring to those who once were born-again, but who fell away and became *“cursed children”*. If that is true, we must ask:

Did God know that those born-again children of His would, at some point in the future, become *“cursed children”*?

If yes, did God make a mistake for *“glorifying”* them along with Christ since the foundation of the world (Romans 8:29,30)? In other words, **is God’s foreknowledge true foreknowledge, or is it divination which sometimes fails?** Really, the controversial doctrine insults God’s ability to know the future!

However, those who wish to support the false doctrine that it is possible for truly born-again Christians to lose their salvation, **underestimate God by saying that God does not know the future** (as does the Open Theism)! They say that as God does not know the future, He gives eternal life to those who believe in His only begotten Son, but, later, when God sees that they fall away from the faith, or when they live a life of sin, **He takes it back!!!** But what does the Bible say on this subject?

DOES GOD KNOW THE FUTURE?

Absolutely! God knows all things which have taken place in the unlimited past, all things which are taking place today, and all the things which will take place in the unlimited future. **God has placed His reputation on His ability to know the future and to announce the coming events, before they take place** (Isaiah 41:26; 48:3-8; Lamentations 3:37, 38). In Isaiah 46:9,10, God says:

“Remember former things from forever, for I am God, and no one else is God, even none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from the past those things which were not done, saying, My counsel shall rise; and, I will do all My desire;”

From the above scriptures, we realize that **the God of the Bible is the God of true prophecy** which He foretells in detail. Please study Daniel 9:24-27; John 13:18,19; Matthew 26:34; Luke 22:10; 2 Peter 1:21.

Now, let us examine Ephesians 1:4 and Revelation 17:8. These verses prove, beyond doubt, that **God, truly knows the future:**

Ephesians 1:4

“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love,”

Please note:

If God did not know the future, it would have been impossible for Him to know, **before the foundation of the world**, who would believe in His Son!

Revelation 17:8

“The Beast which you saw was, and is not, and is about to ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth shall marvel, whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the Beast that was, and is not, and shall be present.”

Please note again:

If God did not know the future, it would have been impossible for Him to know who would worship the “*beast*” in the last days! But, because He does know the future, He knew exactly who will worship the “*beast*”, and for this reason, according to the above verse, He **did not write their names in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world!** As God **did not** write their names in the book of life from the foundation of the world, **would it not be pointless and without purpose, to give such men salvation, and then take it back?**

In 1 Peter 1:1,2, we read:

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect sojourners of the dispersion of Pontus, of Galatia, of Cappadocia, of Asia, and of Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in sanctification of the Spirit to obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you.”

The above words of the apostle Paul, prove that the teaching of the opposers, **is truly a polemic doctrine, which blasphemes God’s foreknowledge!**

THE BOOK OF LIFE

What does the book of life contain?

The book of life contains the names of all those who will enjoy everlasting life (Revelation 20:12,15). Other verses that speak about the book of life are Exodus 32:32; Psalms 69:28; Daniel 12:1; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 21:27; 22:19. **Those whose names are not found in the book of life, will be thrown into the lake of fire** (Revelation 20:15).

WHEN IS ONE'S NAME WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE?

Some believe that one's name is written in the book of life at the end of one's life, when he has finally proved that he overcame all his fleshly desires, all his weaknesses, and all the adversities Satan has sent against him! However, when we read Philippians 4:3, we hear the apostle Paul saying that the book of life contains names of believers who are still alive! Let us read his words:

“And I also ask you, true yoke-fellow, help those who struggled along with me and with Clement in the gospel, and the rest, fellow-workers with me, whose names are in the book of life.”

As we observed earlier, **according to the foreknowledge of God the Father** (1 Peter 1:1,2), **God chose us before the foundation of the world** (Ephesians 1:4)! And as we read from Revelation 13:8 and 17:8, the names of those who will worship the beast, **have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world**. So, we realize that the names of men **are either written or not written in the book of life since way back then**, because God, according to His foreknowledge, knew who would believe in His Son, and who would reject Him!

Therefore, we conclude again that **it would be pointless, and offensive to God's ability to know the future, if He**

would give salvation to those He knew, from before the foundation of the world, that they would reject Him, and then, take it back!

WHAT DOES THE FACT THAT ONE IS SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT MEAN?

In Ephesians 1:13,14, Paul said,

“¹³in whom also you, hearing the Word of Truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also believing you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is an earnest of our inheritance, to the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

The above verses tell us that those who believed in Christ, were SEALED. The sealing shows that **the action has already been completed! They were saved forever!**

In Ephesians 4:30, Paul said,

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed to the day of redemption.”

The doctrine that preaches that those who are sealed by the Holy Spirit can lose their salvation, comes in direct contradiction with the above PROMISE, and **lessens the great value, the significance of the salvific sealing of the Holy Spirit!** The Holy Spirit is the Almighty God! He will not lose anyone of those He sealed for salvation and redemption! **He will never fail --- not even once!**

RECAP

From our study, we observed that the doctrine which says that the truly born-again Christians can lose their salvation,

is opposing with passion against the truths of the written word of God, on the following points:

1. It ignores the fact that the responsibility for the salvation and for the retention of the salvation of the “*sheep*”, belongs to the Lord Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd --- not their own!
2. As the keeping of the salvation of the “*sheep*” (which is in their hand) is their responsibility, the doctrine which says that the truly born-again Christians can lose their salvation, does not underestimate the “*sheep*”, but the ability of the Savior God to safeguard their salvation!
3. It ignores the fact that God is the One who has the power to sanctify them completely, and that He will perform it because the born-again believers are His workmanship, His creation --- not their own!
4. It blasphemes God’s foreknowledge who foreknew them, who predestinated them to be conformed to the image of His Son, who called them, who justified them, and who glorified them before the foundation of the world!
5. It doubts the promises of eternal salvation, given by God and Christ, as the apostles so clearly presented!
6. It ignores the fact that salvation is God’s free gift, to all those who believe that Jesus is God, and it is going against the words of the Bible which say that “... *the free gifts and the calling of God are unregrettable.*”

7. **It blasphemes** the glory and the power of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **who brought the New Creation into existence! The New Creation cannot become old again in order to perish!** The old creation died with Christ on the cross (Romans 6:6)!
8. **It ignores** the fact that all **the believers in Christ have already been declared righteous since the foundation of the world** (Romans 8:30), not because of their worth, neither because of their works, but because they believed in Christ, and because **Christ who dwells in them IS their righteousness** (Romans 10:4).
9. **It blasphemes the regeneration** (the state of being born-again) which is not achieved **“by corruptible seed, but incorruptible”** (1 Peter 1:23). It does not realize **that the incorruptible Seed of God cannot fail, neither can He become corruptible to fade away!**
10. **It lessens the value, the significance, of the eternal and salvific sealing of the Holy Spirit, who has sealed them for salvation!**
11. **It ignores** the fact that **God Jesus has bought** each one of the members of **His Church with His own blood, and that it is impossible for God to lose something that belongs to Him!**

It is not possible, then, for the opposing doctrine to be true and biblical, since it is going against so many biblical truths, like those I have presented in this book!

The doctrine which is opposing so many biblical truths, and which **lifts itself up like a stronghold against the knowledge of the promises of God and of Christ, is doing so to lessen their omnipotence!** In 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, the apostle Paul wrote:

“For walking about in flesh, we do not war according to flesh; for the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but powerful to God to the demolishion of strongholds, the demolishing of arguments and every high thing lifting up itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ,”

TWO MORE VERSES THE OPPOSERS ARE USING TRYING TO PRESENT THEIR DOCTRINE AS BIBLICAL

There are two places in the letter to the Hebrews, which the opposers are using as a foundation and as a stronghold in their attempt to present their doctrine as biblical. I feel that it will be beneficial to study them. These scriptures are **Hebrews 6:4-6** and **10:26-29**.

These verses contain strong warnings, and they inform us that some people will miss the opportunity to inherit everlasting life. The opposers insist that these warnings are directed to truly born-again believers. However, a careful study on the letter to the Hebrews, will help us determine whether the warnings are directed to them, or to those who have learned the gospel of salvation well, but **who refuse to enter it**. Let us begin by reading those verses:

Hebrews 6:4-6

“For it is impossible for those once having been enlightened, and having tasted of the heavenly gift, and becoming sharers of the Holy Spirit, and tasting the good Word of God, and the works of power of a coming age, and hav-

ing fallen away, it is impossible for them again to renew to repentance, crucifying again for themselves the Son of God, and putting Him to open shame.”

Hebrews 10:26-29

“For if we are willfully sinning after receiving the full knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice concerning sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment and "zealous fire being about to consume the adversaries." If anyone did not regard the Law of Moses, that one dies without pities on "the word of two or three witnesses," how much worse punishment do you think will be thought worthy to receive, the one trampling the Son of God, and having counted common the blood of the covenant in which he was sanctified, and having insulted the Spirit of Grace?”

To be able to fully understand the above verses, we must differentiate, from the letter to the Hebrews itself, whether it was written for a Hebrew Christian church which was comprised **exclusively of truly born-again Christians, or whether it included Hebrew ‘believers’ who had not been born-again yet.** Let us examine this letter more carefully.

WHO WAS THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS WRITTEN FOR?

The letter to the Hebrews was written for a Christian Church, which consisted exclusively of Hebrews. This is clearly seen from the fact that when we study the letter, we observe that **it does not mention Gentiles anywhere!** This letter was written to present who Jesus is, and to compare the Old Testament with the New. However, it does not mean that the epistle is not beneficial for **all** Christians,

whether they are Jews or Gentiles. When we study the letter, we realize that this Christian Church consisted of **three** different groups of Jewish believers:

The first group consisted of truly **born-again Christians**. This group had experienced persecution for their faith in Christ, but, **they had not yet matured in knowledge**. This statement is supported by the following two verses:

Hebrews 5:12

“For indeed because of the time you are due to be teachers, yet you need to have someone to teach you again the rudiments of the beginning of the Words of God, and you came to be having need of milk, and not of solid food;”

Hebrews 10:34

“For also you suffered together in my bonds; and you accepted the seizure of your possessions with joy, knowing yourselves to have a better and abiding possession in Heaven.”

The epistle was written to strengthen their faith **in the New Covenant**. The Writer brought to their attention that:

1. They did not need the old Temple any longer. Now they had **the true tent, the true temple** (Hebrews 8:2,7).
2. They did not need the old Levitical priesthood. Now they had **a new and better priesthood, according to the order of Melchizedek** (Hebrews 7:11).
3. They did not need animal sacrifices. Now they had **the unique and eternal sacrifice of Jesus** (Hebrews 10:11,12).

4. Now they had a **better covenant** (Hebrews 7:22), with **better promises** (Hebrews 8:6).

The **second group**, consisted of Hebrew “believers” who were new in the church, and who **did not know, or they had not yet believed that Jesus Christ is God**. This group needed to receive discipleship on this subject, and the Author presented this subject (in the first two chapters), in a dynamic way.

The **third group**, consisted of Hebrew “believers” who had heard the gospel, **they knew very well who Jesus Christ really is**, but they had **NEGLECTED** (ignored) **to enter God’s great salvation**. In Hebrews 2:1-4, the Writer gave this group a warning:

“¹For this reason it is needful for us more abundantly to take heed to the things having been heard that we should not slip away. ²For if the word spoken by angels was confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience received a just repayment; ³how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? Which having received a beginning to be spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by the ones hearing, ⁴God bearing witness with them by both miraculous signs and wonders, and by various works of power, even by distribution of the Holy Spirit, according to His will.”

In the above verses, the key to our understanding is the word “NEGLECT”. In the Greek text, the verb used for neglect is «αμελώ» (ameló). It means “ignore”, “I do not care about it”, “I do not pay attention to”. The CEV version presents this verse as, “***So if we refuse this great way of being saved, how can we hope to escape?***”

The opposers do not pay attention to the Greek word “**ἀμε-
λῶ**” (ignore/neglect). The words, “³*How shall we escape if
we neglect so great a salvation?*”, cannot be applied to truly
born-again Christians, because **they had not ignored it!**
They had entered it!

Therefore, those who had ignored such a great salvation, in
other words, **those who had refused to enter such a great
salvation, had not yet received salvation!** This is the rea-
son the Writer **gave them a warning with severe words!**
In other words, he told them,

‘You heard the gospel from those who, from the beginning
had heard it from the Lord. They confirmed this gospel to
you. You saw that God gave additional witness with mira-
cles and signs and various works of power. If you ignore
such a great salvation, how can you escape the just repay-
ment for your disobedience? Would you like to be like our
ancestors who received such punishment in the dessert be-
cause of their disobedience?’

Thus, we realize that this group of Hebrew “believers”,
knew the truth about Christ, but they had never committed
themselves to Him. Although they were convinced in their
mind that Christ was truly God, they were refusing to make
the life-saving confession (Romans 10:9,10). In the past,
some of their compatriots were in the same position. Let us
read John 12:42,43. There it says,

*“⁴²Still, however, even out of the rulers, many did believe
on Him. But because of the Pharisees they did not con-
fess, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for
they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God.”*

When I present Hebrews 2:1-4 to the opposers, to prove that the warnings are directed to this group of “believers”, they, instead of considering the word “αμελώ” (neglect/ignore/refuse), try to draw my attention to words like, “us” and “we”, by which the Writer includes himself.

“You see?” They say, “The warning is also directed to the Writer who was saved. So, it is possible for those who are saved, to be guilty of disobedience and to be punished by losing their salvation, like those who were punished in the desert, and lost their lives because of disobedience!”

Their reasoning is not supported by the Scriptures! As the Writer of the letter to the Hebrews was born-again and saved, it is not proper for us to say that **he had refused** to enter God’s great salvation! Their reasoning is a real oxymoron! Those who have received God’s saving grace, are those who **did not refuse to confess** with their mouth and with faith in their heart, that Jesus is the **LORD**, in other words, the **YHWH** of Romans 10:9,10,13, whose Name one must call upon to be saved!

HOW IS IT THEN, THAT THE WRITER USES WORDS WHICH SHOW THAT HE IS INCLUDING HIMSELF?

The fact that the Writer includes himself when he uses words such as “we”, “us”, and “brothers”, does not prove that he was addressing only born-again Christians, as the opposers insist! **Let us not forget that he was talking to his compatriots, whether they were saved or not!** When you talk to your compatriots, you include yourself, and you will use words like the ones we met earlier, such as “us”, “we”, and “brothers”. For instance, in Acts 22:1 and 23:1, Paul preached to his compatriots who **were not** Christians, and he called them “brothers”! Let us read these verses:

Acts 22:1

“Men, brothers, and fathers, hear my defense now to you.”

Acts 23:1

“And looking on the sanhedrin, Paul said, Men, brothers, I in all good conscience have conducted myself toward God to this day.”

However, when Paul preached to the Athenians, who were not his compatriots, he did not call them “brothers”, but “Men, Athenians”. Let us read Acts 17:22:

“And standing in the middle of the Areopagus, Paul said, men, Athenians, I see in everything how god-fearing you are;”

Therefore, when, in Hebrews 2:1-4, the Writer wrote, “... *it is needful for us more abundantly to take heed to the things having been heard that we should not slip away.* ²*For if the word spoken by angels was confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience received a just re-payment; ³how shall we escape if we refuse (neglect)” he did not mean “we the born-again and saved Christians”, but “we Hebrews”!*

To better understand this point, let us pay attention to Hebrews 13:10. There, the Writer said,

“WE HAVE an altar of which those serving the tabernacle have no authority to eat.”

In the above verse, the Writer said, “WE HAVE an altar”. Certainly, the words “WE HAVE” include himself. So, what can we say?

We know that the Writer was a born-again Christian, and that in Hebrews 10:10-12, he had told them that **the sacrifice of Jesus is eternal and that it had replaced the animal sacrifices**, which did not have the power to forgive the sins of the people!

Did the Christians have the need of an altar? Of course not! Therefore, we realize that with the expression "***WE HAVE an altar***", he meant, "**We Hebrews have an altar**" --- not we the born-again Christians"!

So, we realize that the Writer of the letter, encouraged this group of 'believers' to come to the faith that saves, (the faith which demands of them to make, with their own mouth, out of their own free will, with understanding of who Jesus is, and with faith in their hearts, the required confession that saves [Romans 10:9,10]). As we read earlier, in Hebrews 2:1-4, they should have known better the things of the Christian faith, because the truth had been confirmed to them from the apostles, with miracles, and with gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is the reason he told them **not to ignore** (not to refuse/neglect) such a great salvation. And this is the reason, in Hebrews 6:4-6, he gave them such a strong warning:

"It is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

Here, it is necessary to pay attention to the fact that he speaks about those who "***were once enlightened***". He did

not speak about those who “*were once saved*”. There is a great difference between “*enlightened*” and “*saved*”.

WHAT DOES “ENLIGHTENED” MEAN?

It means, “*they saw*” (John 6:40) the fact that **Jesus is the LORD**, the YHWH of Romans 10:13! It means that “*the brightness of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God*”, had dawned on them (2 Corinthians 4:4).

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ONE TO BE ENLIGHTENED BUT NOT SAVED?

Of course, it is! In Matthew 7:22,23, Jesus said that “*Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many works of power? And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; "depart from Me, those working lawlessness!"*”

From the above words of Jesus, we observe that there are people who have been enlightened **because they realized the fact that Jesus is the LORD (YHWH)**! After all, this is the reason in the above verses, they called Him “*Lord*”! In addition, they prophesied, and they used the Almighty Name of Jesus to perform many miracles and to cast out demons (also, please read Mark 9:38-40)! Even so, on that day, Jesus will say to them, “*I NEVER KNEW YOU*”! In other words, although they had been **enlightened**, they had **tasted the heavenly gift, they had become sharers of the works of the Holy Spirit, they had tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the coming age, yet they were not saved!**

WHAT WAS MISSING?

What was missing was the relationship! The Greek verb “to know” is “Γινώσκω” (Ginosko). “Ginosko” means that there is a **personal relationship** between two people. We can verify this from Matthew 1:25. There, it speaks about Joseph and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and says,

*“and (Joseph) **did not know her until she bore her son, the First-born. And he called His name Jesus.**”*

The words, “**did not know her**”, do not mean that Joseph did not know Mary until she gave birth to her firstborn Son. They mean that Joseph had not “known” her as a husband knows his wife, until she gave birth to Jesus!

Those men that Jesus talked about in Matthew 7:22,23, were like those ‘Christians’ who were part of the Christian Church in Laodicea, **who had not opened the door of their hearts for Jesus to enter**. This is the reason, in Revelation 3:20, Jesus said to them,

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock: If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will enter to him, and I will dine with him, and he with Me (relationship).”

When Jesus comes to dwell in a believer, along with Him come the Father and the Holy Spirit (John 14:23; Romans 8:11)! At the same time, the Spirit of God bears testimony with the spirit of the believer that he is a child of God (Romans 8:15,16)! **It is then that a personal relationship is established between God and the believer!** Otherwise, men might shout out loud all they want that they are Christian, but **they are not saved!** They might have **Religion, but they do not have relationship!** If the Spirit of Christ does not dwell in them, they do not belong to Him (Ro-

mans 8:9). They are neither born-again, nor part of the New Creation which God brings into existence by dwelling in them!

Therefore, they might have **tasted** the heavenly gift, they might have **tasted** the good word of God, they might have **tasted** the powers of the coming age, they might have become **sharers of the works of the Holy Spirit**, but **they had not become sharers of the Person of the Holy Spirit!** One becomes sharer of the **Person** of the Holy Spirit, only when **He dwells in him!** When the Godhead dwells in a believer, the believer **will NEVER lose his salvation!**

When we realize the above points, we see that the opposing doctrine **presents a very weak Godhead!** A Godhead which later, after they have saved the believer, although Jesus and the Father hold their “*sheep*” in their hand (John 10:28-30), **in the end they will not be able to save it** if it falls, or if, as they say, it jumps out of their hand! What a blasphemy against God’s and Christ’s ability **to guard and to save the believer** (1 Peter 1:5)!

And what can we say about the Holy Spirit, **God’s incorruptible Seed** which indwells the born-again believer? (1 Peter 1:23) Is it possible that God’s Seed can become corruptible and fail? How is it possible for such a doctrine to be biblical and true? I call all those who believe in this doctrine to come to repentance! Do it now!

NOW BACK TO THOSE THE WARNING IS DIRECTED TO

As we observed earlier, those who have been enlightened and fully understand that Jesus Christ is the **LORD**, that is, the **YHWH** of Romans 10:13, and yet **they refuse to con-**

fess Him with their mouth (John 12:42,43), and they do not open the door of their hearts for Him to enter (Revelation 3:20), **are without excuse**. In this case, God will do nothing else but **to give them a warning**. When a person **knows the truth and rejects it**, as other Hebrews did at the time Jesus was on earth (John 12:42,43; 3:18), they will receive the worst of punishments.

We see, therefore, that the warnings were not directed to truly born-again Christians, but to those who had learned the things of the great salvation God offers, they had come close to salvation, but **they had neglected (or refused) to enter it!**

If we wish to understand the book of Hebrews correctly, we must accept the fact that it is directed to more than one groups of Hebrew believers. If it had been written for truly born-again believers only, and if the warnings were written for them (as the opposers claim), then, we would have serious problems in our attempt to explain verses, like Hebrews 10:26-29, which **CANNOT POSSIBLY** apply to them. Let us read those verses:

"²⁶For if we are willfully sinning after receiving the full knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice concerning sins, ²⁷but a certain fearful expectation of judgment and "zealous fire being about to consume the adversaries."²⁸If anyone did not regard the Law of Moses, that one dies without pities on "the word of two or three witnesses," ²⁹how much worse punishment do you think will be thought worthy to receive, the one trampling the Son of God, and having counted common the blood of the covenant in which he was sanctified, and having insulted the Spirit of Grace?"

“You, see?” say the opposers, “This is one of the strongest warnings that the Bible gives to born-again Christians! It says that if “**WE**” are willfully sinning, **there remains no more sacrifice concerning our sins!** We will receive the worst of the punishments, because if we commit a sin willfully, we trample the Son of God, we count common the blood of the covenant, and we insult the Spirit of grace!”

Really? Please think seriously the following:

It is impossible for the Holy Spirit, who is the Real Inspirer of the Bible, to go against His own doctrines! Let us remember a few of these:

1. The promises of the gospel for **eternal salvation**.
2. The position of Jesus as **the Shepherd**.
3. The position of Jesus as **High Priest**.
4. The position of Jesus as **Mediator**.
5. His **eternal sacrifice** for the sins of those who believe in Him.
6. The fact that **Jesus is the Righteousness** of the believers.
7. **God’s foreknowledge**, when He wrote the name of the saved one in the book of life **before the foundation of the world** (Ephesians 1:4).
8. The teaching about **repentance**.

9. The work of the Holy Spirit who **intercedes** on their behalf (Romans 8:26,27).

10. The teaching about forgiveness.

How is it possible to ignore the fact that **your controversial teaching aims to subvert all the above doctrines**? If the problem of your understanding lies on Hebrews 10:26-29, let us examine these verses more carefully. Let us read them:

“²⁶For if we are willfully sinning after receiving the full knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice concerning sins,²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment and "zealous fire being about to consume the adversaries." ²⁸If anyone did not regard the Law of Moses, that one dies without pities on "the word of two or three witnesses," ²⁹how much worse punishment do you think will be thought worthy to receive, the one trampling the Son of God, and having counted common the blood of the covenant in which he was sanctified, and having insulted the Spirit of Grace?”

First, let us carefully examine **verse 26**. There, it says,

“^aFor if we are willfully sinning after receiving the full knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice concerning sins”

What do the above words mean? In other words, if a truly born-again Christian commits a sin, even repeatedly, is he condemned? Truly there remains no more sacrifice to cleanse him from his sins? What does the written word of God say on this point? Let's see:

If the foregoing words, “*there remains no more sacrifice concerning sins*”, were to be applied to truly born-again Christians, they would go directly against other scriptures, such as 1 John 1:7-10 and 1 John 2:1,2. Let us read them:

1 John 1:7-10

“⁷But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of His Son Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous that He may forgive us the sins, and may cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.”

1 John 2:1,2

“¹My little children, I write these things to you so that you do not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²And He Himself is the propitiation relating to our sins, and not relating to ours only, but also relating to all the world.”

THEREFORE, WHAT DO THE WORDS, “THERE REMAINS NO MORE SACRIFICE CONCERNING SINS”, MEAN?

Apparently, this church of the Hebrews, was in the city of Jerusalem, and they had experienced persecution. It seems that this persecution was generated by their compatriots, the Jews, who mocked them, and seized their possessions. This fact is also supported by Hebrews 10:32-34 and 1 Thessalonians 2:14. Let us read these verses:

Hebrews 10:32-34

“But call to mind the former days in which having been

enlightened you endured MUCH CONFLICT OF SUFFERINGS; indeed being exposed both to reproaches and to afflictions; and having become partners of those so living. For also you suffered together in my bonds; and you accepted the seizure of your possessions with joy, knowing yourselves to have a better and abiding possession in Heaven.”

1 Thessalonians 2:14

“For, brothers, you became imitators of the assemblies of God being in Judea in Christ Jesus, because you also suffered these things by your own fellow countrymen, as they did also by the Jews,”

Perhaps the above persecution was the reason some of those who were going to that church, avoided assembling (Hebrews 10:25). Perhaps it was this persecution that caused some of them to consider leaving the Christian faith, and returning to Judaism, becoming apostates, so they can escape it (Hebrews 3:12; 4:11,14)!

Those who had approached the Christian faith, had fully understood that **in the eyes of God, the animal sacrifices had no value any longer!** They knew that if they would willingly commit a sin, the animal sacrifices would not have the power to cleanse them from their sins!

Also, they had fully understood who Jesus is, but they had **neglected** (Hebrews 2:3), to make the confession that **He is their God!** They had **neglected** or **refused** to enter such a great salvation from their sins which God had offered them! For this reason, **if** they would run away **from Christ and His eternal sacrifice**, **if** they would return to Judaism to escape persecution, **if** they would willingly commit a sin,

which sacrifice would cleanse them? Neither the sacrifice of Jesus, nor the animal sacrifices! This is precisely the reason the Writer told them that if they would willingly commit a sin, *“there remains no more sacrifice concerning sins”!*

So then, we realize that the above warning is not directed to truly born-again Christians, because Christ, through His own blood, has obtained for them *“eternal redemption”*. Let us read Hebrews 9:11-15:

“But Christ came as a High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered once for all into the Holies, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling those having been defiled, sanctifies for the purity of the flesh, by how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, will cleanse your conscience from dead works in order that we might serve the living God? And on account of this He is the Mediator of the new covenant, so that, since a death has occurred for redemption of the transgressions at the time of the first covenant, that those having been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

Now, let us examine verse 27. There, we read:

“but a certain fearful expectation of judgment and “zealous fire being about to consume the adversaries.””

According to the promises of the gospel, **it is impossible** for the words, “*a fearful expectation of judgment and zealous fire*”, to apply to truly born-again Christians, if they, willingly, commit a sin! Let us remember the great example we met earlier in our study when we examined 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. There, we observed that although the born-again man who was committing sin willingly was to be handed over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, **his spirit will be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus! And God is not a respecter of men** (Acts 10:34)! Verse 27 above, shows us clearly that such a punishment will fall upon the “*adversaries*”!

WHO ARE **NOT** THE ADVERSARIES?

When the truly born-again Christians commit a sin, they do not become “*adversaries*” of God and of Christ. They fall into sin because of the weakness of their flesh, and as they are God’s workmanship (Ephesians 2:10), He will help them to become strong enough to repent (Acts 5:31; 11: 18; Romans 2:4) and to stop sinning (Philippians 4:13)!

WHO ARE THE ADVERSARIES?

When we read 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16, we learn who the “*adversaries*” were. There, it says:

“For, brothers, you became imitators of the assemblies of God being in Judea in Christ Jesus, because you also suffered these things by your own fellow countrymen, as they did also by the Jews, who both killed the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, also having driven us out, and not pleasing God, and being contrary to all men (opposers, adversaries), hindering us from speaking to the nations in order that they be saved, to the filling up of their sins always. But the wrath to the end is come on them.”

Therefore, the above words of the Writer, "***but a certain fearful expectation of judgment and 'zealous fire being about to consume the adversaries'***", seems to refer to the prophecy Jesus had given about the destruction of Jerusalem, which took place in the year 70 AD. Let us read the words of the Lord Jesus from Luke 21:20-22, and Matthew 23:34-39:

Luke 21:20-22

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

Matthew 23:34-39

"Because of this, behold, I send to you prophets and wise ones and scribes. And some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will flog in your synagogues and will persecute from city to city; so that should come on you all the righteous blood poured out on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Berechiah whom you murdered between the Holy Place and the altar. Truly I say to you, all these things will come on this generation. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one killing the prophets and stoning those sent to her. How often I desired to gather your children in the way a bird gathers her chicks under her wings! And you did not desire it. Behold, "your house is left to you desolate." For I say to you, In no way shall you see Me from now on, until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Therefore, if those who had come to fully know the Christian faith were to return to Judaism, **which was opposing Jesus**, they would also become, inevitably, **adversaries**, and they would become sharers of the fearful judgment and zealous fire which would burn down Jerusalem in the year 70 AD!

Now, let us examine verse 28. There it says,

“If anyone did not regard the Law of Moses, that one dies without pity on the word of two or three witnesses,”

The above words are simple. It is a brief reminder of things that happened under the Law of Moses, and the Writer used it as an introduction for the following verse.

Let us move to verse 29:

“how much worse punishment do you think will be thought worthy to receive, the one trampling the Son of God, and having counted common the blood of the covenant in which he was sanctified, and having insulted the Spirit of Grace?”

Again, before we say anything else, we must agree that when the truly born-again Christians commit a sin, **they do not trample the Son of God, they do not regard His blood as common, and they do not insult the Spirit of Grace!**

HOW DOES ONE TRAMPLE THE SON OF GOD, AND HOW DOES HE REGARD HIS BLOOD COMMON?

The expression **“trample the Son of God”**, means that one places Jesus under his foot. It means that he does not rec-

ognize who Jesus is. For this reason, he does not honor the Son exactly the same as one honors the Father (John 8:48,49; 5:23; Revelation 5:13)!

The Jews did not accept His testimony that He was God's only begotten Son and that precisely for this reason, He was God by nature (John 3:16; 1:1). They thought He was a mere man, and for this reason they wanted to kill Him (John 5:18; Matthew 27:43)! Therefore, as they considered Him to be a **common**, an ordinary man, it only makes sense that they would also consider that **His blood was common** --- that it did not have any greater value than the blood of a common man!

HOW DOES ONE INSULT THE SPIRIT OF GRACE?

When Jesus cast out demons, the Pharisees said,

"... This One does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, ruler of the demons." (Matthew 12:24).

In verse 28, we hear Jesus saying to them, *"... if I cast out the demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come on you."* And then, in verses 31,32, we hear Jesus saying,

"Because of this, I say to you, Every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men, but the blasphemy concerning the Spirit shall not be forgiven to men. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, not in this age nor in the coming one."

From the above case, we realize that when a person attributes the works of the Holy Spirit to Satan, this person in-

sults or blasphemes the Holy Spirit! And it is totally impossible for a truly born-again Christian to utter something like that! Please allow me to give you an example:

Let us suppose that a paralyzed man sits in a handicap chair, and a truly born-again Christian asks God, in the name of Jesus, to heal him. If God honors his prayer, and the man gets up and walks, do you believe that there is a remote possibility that this truly born-again child of God, will attribute the healing of this paralyzed man to Satan? Do you really believe that it is even possible for a truly born-again child of God to insult and to blaspheme the Holy Spirit who indwells him, in such a vulgar way? **Would you do such thing?** If a man does it, it will be proof that he had never been born-again! It would mean that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit had never come to dwell in him! I beg you, please stop fighting against the truly born-again children of God! Do not try to break the morale of those who although, in the past, they were dead because of their sins, now God has made alive with Christ and raised them up and seated together with Christ in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:5,6)!

Therefore, it is obvious that the Writer of the letter to the Hebrews refers to **unbelieving** (in Jesus) people --- **not to believers** whom God made a **New Creation** and who fell away, as the controversial doctrine says! Only an unbeliever could trample the Son of God, and count His blood common, and insult the Holy Spirit --- not a truly born-again child of God who may have fallen into sin! This is impossible to happen because **God who has begun a good work in them, has the power to finish it** (Philippians 1:6)!

FINAL COMMENTS

I believe that I have presented enough scriptures to support the true gospel of God (Romans 1:1), and to glorify the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirt for the work they do on their New Creation, which they brought into existence with so much love!

I obeyed the words of Jude, who, in Jude 1:3, wrote,

“Having made all haste to write to you about the common salvation, beloved, I had need to write to you to exhort you to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints.”

I exposed the false doctrine of those who preach that it is possible for the truly born-again Christians to lose their salvation! I pray that God, in His grace, will help them see the deception of their doctrine! When this takes place, I hope that they also will begin to support the true gospel of God, the gospel which promises **ETERNAL LIFE** (not temporary) to all those who will,

1. believe, and confess that Jesus is God the Word who became flesh (John 1:1,14), and
2. pray to Him, so that, according to His promise, they will be saved **FOREVER** (Romans 10:9,10,13,14; John 10:28).

May the Lord God bless you!