

## Eternal Security Debate

By Mark E. Moore

1. In some ways it is a moot point. Some say you can fall away, others argue that an apostate was never saved in the first place. Neither, however, doubt the destiny of one like Judas Iscariot (Jn 17:12); Simon Magus (Acts 8:18-23); or Hymenaeus & Alexander (1 Tim 1:19-20).
2. We must be cautious here because we are generally judging others' salvation, not taking any warnings to heart.
3. Both camps can be justly criticized. Eternal Security for "lawlessness" and Apostasy for preaching "Eternal INsecurity."
4. Paradox is not a horrible thing. Let each text stand on its own even if you have difficulty blending or combining two seemingly paradoxical statements.
5. Our conclusion may depend on our starting point. (See Section 76a, p. 302, Ftn 18-19). Let each text speak honestly what it desires to say.
  - a. There are wonderful promises about the faithfulness of God in protecting his people (cf. Jn 10:28; Rom 8:35-39). God expends more effort on sustaining our faith than we generally give him credit for.
  - b. There are also some very clear warnings about abandoning our faith (Rom 11:20-22; Gal 5:1-4; 1 Tim 1:18-20; Heb 6:4-8). We apparently are given a choice to be faithful to God's covenant or to abandon it.
    - i. Love necessitates freedom of choice.
    - ii. Covenant necessitates fidelity to the terms. There are a number of imperatives in the N.T. connected with salvation:
      1. Repentance (Lk 13:5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30-31; Rev 2:16, 22).
      2. Confession (Mt 10:32-33; Jn 12:42; Rom 10:90-10; 1 Jn 2:23; 4:2-3, 15).
      3. Immersion (Mk 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-5; Gal 3:27; 1 Pet 3:21).
      4. Forgiveness of Others (Mt 6:14-15; 18:35; Eph 4:32; James 2:13).
      5. Calling on Christ's name (Acts 2:21; 22:16; Rom 10:13).
      6. Obedience (Jn 3:36; Heb 5:9; 11:8; 1 Jn 5:1-3).
      7. Works/Fruit (Mt 7:21-23; Jn 15:2; James 2:20-26).
      8. Love (Gal 5:6; 1 Jn 3:10-24; 4:7-21).
      9. Benevolence (Mt 25:31-46; 1 Jn 3:17).
      10. Remaining faithful unto death (Jn 15:6; Heb 3:6, 12; 10:23-31, 36-39; Rev 2:10, 26).

## ETERNAL SECURITY WORKSHEET:

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On the front side of this sheet is a list of scriptures that are used to support the doctrine of eternal security. On the back side are scriptures used to support the doctrine that a person can fall away. Using the space to the right, record what each passage specifically states and what each implies about this doctrine:

Scripture:

What it Teaches:

Psa 89:30-35

John 4:14

5:24

6:37-40

10:27-30

Rom 8:29-39

11:29

14:4

1 Cor 1:8

2 Cor 1:21-22

5:4-5

Eph 1:13-14

4:30

Phil 1:6

1 Thess 5:23-24

2 Tim 1:12

2:19

4:18

Heb 6:17

7:25

1 Pet 1:3-5

1 Jn 2:18-19

3:6

5:12-13

Jude 24

Others:

Scripture:

What it Teaches:

Josh 24:19-20

Neh 1:7-9

Psa 95:7-10  
(w/ Jn 10:27-30)

Mt 10:22

13:1-9

13:18-23

18:21-35

24:13

Lk 12:42-46

Jn 15:1-6

Rom 11:20-22

1 Cor 9:24-27

10:1-13

15:1-2

Gal 5:1-4

6:7-9

Col 1:19-23

1 Tim 1:18-19

4:1

2 Tim 2:11-13

4:10

Heb 3:1-19

4:1-13

6:4-8

10:26-31

10:36-39

12:15-17

2 Pet 2:20-22

Jude 6

Rev 2:5, 7, 10, 11, 17, 26

3:5, 12, 21

21:7