

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Once Saved...Never Saved?

August 19, 2018

Issue 375

Many of you are aware of a doctrine known as “Once saved, always saved”—there is nothing one can do—or not do—to lose his/her salvation. But what if a Christian lives a life that is wholly in contradiction to God’s will? The “Once saved, always saved” apologist will say, “That person was never really saved in the first place.” That is a convenient response to a doctrine that has no scriptural validity. “Once saved, always saved” is false for two primary reasons:

(1). *It fails the logic test.* If one’s spiritual condition cannot change after obedience to the gospel, then why would any Christian be commanded to repent?

(2). *It fails the book-chapter-verse test.* After listing many ways the ancient Israelites were punished for their disobedience, Paul warned, “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall” (I Cor. 10:12). Fall from what? Their good standing before God.

But even though “Once saved, always saved” is a false teaching, let’s not run to the opposite end of the theological spectrum and believe another false doctrine: “Once saved, never saved.” Unfortunately, there are many faithful Christians who do not know whether they will be saved. They fear the coming of the Lord. They say things

like, “I hope I make it.” Or, “God will never forgive me of that.” Jesus did not die on the cross so that His church would question their salvation. He wants His people to know beyond the shadow of a doubt that they are going to heaven. Yes, it is possible for you to fall from grace (Gal. 5:4). That is why you need to be faithful until death (Rev. 2:10). Confess your sins, and God will forgive you (I John 1:9). As a forgiven believer, live in the grace of God and be content in your salvation. Be thankful God sent Christ to solve your sin problem.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Kristine Garrett will have more tests this month and a course of treatment will be determined about Sept. 1.
- Maeleah Holtz, the daughter of Mike and Leigh Smith, had an irregular EKG last week.
- Rick Reed was in Vanderbilt last week with pneumonia.
- David Billingsley will be treated for arterial blockages Thursday.

Morning Sermon: “Do Not Rejoice In Unrighteousness” Tonight’s Sermon: Question and Answer

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: E. Walker

Pray: Hovis

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Garrett

Serve: Reed, Gupton, J. Walker

Pray: Billingsley

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

Romans 8:26
“In the same way the Spirit
also helps our weakness; for
we do not know how to pray
as we should, but the Spirit
Himself intercedes for us
with groaning too deep for
words.”

*“Success is not final, and failure is not fatal: it is
the courage to continue that counts.”*

Winston Churchill

*“Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—
not absence of fear.”*

Mark Twain

Who Packed Your Parachute?

Charles Plumb was a Naval aviator during the Vietnam War. He flew 75 successful missions before being shot down and captured by the enemy. He spent six years in a prisoner of war camp. He survived the ordeal and later reflected on his experience. He wondered who packed his parachute the day he was shot down. If the parachute malfunctioned, he would have surely died in the crash. He figured that a common sailor spent hours in the bowels of a ship carefully folding and forming that parachute so that it would function properly. What seemed like a menial task eventually proved to be a life-saving, heroic effort.

So, who packed your parachute? I

know, you probably have never worn a parachute or been anywhere near a war, but I also know that there have been hundreds or even thousands of people who have helped you get to where you are today. Teachers, coaches, aunts and uncles, elders, preachers, and others have nudged you in the right direction. What are their names? Have you told them “thank you”?

The apostle Paul was aware of all those who packed his parachute. Many of his epistles end with a list of his helpers. People like Rufus (“a choice man in the Lord”-Rom. 16:13) and Mark (“...he is useful to me for service”-II Tim. 4:11) were just a couple of Paul’s beloved co-

workers for Christ. Even though Paul’s work resonates 2,000 years later, he never even suggested that he did it all on his own. He said it was by the grace of God that he was able to accomplish his mission (I Cor. 15:10). He said the Philippians participated in the gospel with him from the first day until he penned his epistle to them (Phil. 1:3-5). He did not live his life as a Christian on an island, isolated from his brothers and sisters in Christ. He embraced them. He recognized their efforts. He highlighted their gifts.

Who packed your parachute? And whose parachute are you packing?

James Hayes
