

The “Eternal Security” or “Once Saved Always Saved” Issue



The Serpent¹—The Founding Father of the False Doctrine
of “Eternal Security”

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.—Genesis 3:4

As we begin this study on the Eternal Security issue, let's begin with a word of prayer.

Come, Holy Spirit Prayer (The Veni, Sancte Spiritus)

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful;
And enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

LET US PRAY . . .

O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant by the gift of the same Spirit we may always be truly wise
and ever rejoice in His consolation,
through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

In this Bible study we are going to approach the erroneous teaching of “Once Saved Always Saved”² (“OSAS”) and see WHY it is flawed.

¹ **REVELATION 12:9a** 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world . . .

² “Once Saved Always Saved?” (OSAS) also has some name variations which ultimately lead to the same conclusions. These variations are called “Eternal Security” and “The Perseverance of the Saints”. If you want more on that, ask me for my full study on this subject.

The Catholic Church Teaches That Salvation In The Christian Life Is A Moment Necessarily Followed By A Lifelong Process

The Church teaches us that the Christian life begins by a moment **but also followed by lifelong process**, (OSAS followers DENY this process **concerning salvation**) including the dimension of **justification** or our “being saved”.

When we are saved by Jesus, our salvation comes from the unmerited grace and gift of Jesus’ work on Calvary via our being “born again”—that is, our Baptism.

But Baptism is just the beginning or “the gateway” of a lifelong process of deepening that salvation.

CCC 1213a **Holy Baptism** is the basis of the whole Christian life, the **gateway** to life in the Spirit . . .

St. Luke’s Gospel reminds us “To whom much is given, much will be **required**.”

LUKE 12:48b 48b . . . Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more.

So even after you are GIVEN the gift and grace of Baptism, more is “REQUIRED”.

The Book of Revelation reminds us: “Let him who is just, be justified (further) still.”

REVELATION 22:11b (DRV) and he that is just, let him be justified still: and he that is holy, let him be sanctified still.

COUNCIL OF TRENT (Session 6 Chapter 10) On the increase of Justification received.

Having, therefore, been thus justified, and made the friends and domestics of God, advancing from virtue to virtue, they are renewed, as the Apostle says, day by day; that is, by mortifying the members of their own flesh, and by presenting them as instruments of justice unto sanctification, they, through the observance of the commandments of God and of the Church, **faith co-operating with good works, increase in that justice which they have received through the grace of Christ, and are still further justified, as it is written; He that is just, let him be justified still; and again . . .**

We will study these concepts more in various justification studies if you would like, but suffice it to say for now, our Baptism is just the beginning of the Christian life. But there is more. Much more.

The Principle Of ADDING The Word “Alone” To Any Scripture Passage When It Is NOT There, Leads To Erroneous Doctrinal Conclusions

In Bible-alone Christianity there are many doctrines shared among Protestants (Bible Christians) with the Catholic Church (i.e. The Incarnation of Jesus, The Virginal Conception and Birth of Jesus, The Resurrection of Jesus, Jesus is True God and True Man, etc.).

Unfortunately also within Bible-alone Christianity, there are also some doctrines that are partial truths and some flat-out errors.

A common **principle** of error concerning some of these “partial truths” among Protestant Christians is ADDING the word “alone” (in their mind) to a Scripture passage when the word “alone” is not there in that given passage.

For example. Concerning Scripture passages that talk about Scripture, in their minds they ADD the word “ALONE” and come up with the Bible “ALONE”. But the “ALONE” is not in the text.

Concerning Scripture passages that talk about our justification and faith, in their minds they ADD the word “ALONE” and come up with the tradition of justification by faith “ALONE”. But the “ALONE” is not in the text.

Concerning Scripture passages that talk about the timeline of our justification, SOME Protestants (not all of them) in their minds ADD the word “ALONE” and come up with the tradition of being saved in a moment “ALONE”. But the “ALONE” is not in the text.

- **Bible Alone (But no “alone” in any of the texts)**
- **Justification by Faith Alone (But no “alone” in any of the texts)**
- **Justification in a Moment Alone (But no “alone” in any of the texts)**

Catholics affirm the authority of the Bible (just not the Bible ALONE).

Catholics affirm the necessity of faith for our salvation (just not faith ALONE).

Catholics affirm a moment for our salvation—baptism (just not a moment ALONE but a moment followed by a lifelong process of continual grace necessary).

The people who believe in OSAS or “Once Saved, Always Saved” would say, “I accepted Jesus into my heart X amount of years ago and then I was saved. Then Jesus says “It is finished” and I cannot lose my salvation.

Some of the OSAS people claim they KNOW with **infallible certainty** they are going to Heaven now no matter what.

Catholics **affirm a moment** in salvation. Catholics affirm verses that talk of salvation in a past tense.

Catholics also **affirm an ongoing process** also in salvation. Catholics affirm verses that talk of salvation in a present tense.

Catholics also **affirm a future aspect** in salvation. Catholics affirm verses that talk of salvation in a future tense.

The Catholic position: I was saved (Ephesians 2:8), I am being saved (John 10:27), AND I will be saved (Matthew 24:13). We believe ALL the verses.

Catholics would say: “I was saved by the grace of Christ, I am BEING saved by the grace of Christ and cooperating with that grace, and I will-be saved by Christ’s grace if I “persevere to the end” in a future tense. But Catholics would ALSO say: If I CHOOSE to reject Christ, I have that freedom to do so. It would be a catastrophic decision for me to reject Christ, but I do have that freedom to do so in this life.

With salvation being a MOMENT ALONE to an OSAS Christian, there is no subsequent ongoing “process” of salvation. Therefore, because their salvation is a moment-ONLY it is a “done-deal” immediately upon being “born again”, and their salvation is now fixed permanently. They (think) they cannot lose this salvation.

Bible-Only Christians Who ASSERT forms of OSAS

Baptists
Evangelical Free
Church of the Nazarene
Presbyterians
Many small Bible Churches
Others

Bible-Only Christians Who REJECT OSAS

Lutherans
Methodists
Episcopalians
Anglicans
Some small Bible Churches
Others

Various Eastern Orthodoxies are not Bible ALONE Christians, and like Catholic Christians, they all REJECT OSAS.

My Personal Experience Of The Once Saved Always Saved “Moment” Of Salvation Teaching

Personal experience: When I was a high school kid, I went off to Bible Camp.

The leaders asked us around the campfire to “repent of our sins and accept Jesus into our hearts as personal Lord and Savior”. (Have you ever had any of these experiences? Fair booths? Revivals? Bible studies?)

I did “repent and accept Jesus into my heart, etc.” (Nothing wrong with that, except that this is NOT what being “born again” is).

Then shortly after I (and others) did that, one of the Bible camp leaders gave me (and the others who did this “work”) a slip of paper saying something to the effect of:

“Today is the most glorious day of your life. You are now saved and a born-again child of God. You now CANNOT lose that salvation that you have just asked God for!”

What Does It Matter?

If the Once Saved, Always Saved Christian believes this OSAS, so what? What difference does it make?

There is an old adage that roughly says . . . “The law of belief is the law of practice” or “The law of what is prayed, [is] the law of what you believe.” . . . or literally in Latin ***“Lex orandi, lex credendi.”***

What you believe effects how you live. That’s WHY this matters. For example . . .

I once read an article from the newspaper, “USA Today” interviewing a Country singer (I cannot recall his name).

The singer talked about how he messed-up not only his own life, but the life of others around him. He discussed problems with his “womanizing” and how he dumped his wife and children for a new gal who he now had a civil marriage with and kids with her too.

He talked about how he knows this is sinful, but long ago (maybe at a campfire, or a revival, or a Bible study, or whatever) he “accepted Jesus into my heart as personal Lord and Savior” and so he KNOWS he is saved, and he just knows he’s going to go to Heaven anyway despite living in serious sin—adultery. But he is utterly **deceived**.

LUKE 16:18 18 "Every one who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.

1st CORINTHIANS 6:9-10 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived**; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, **nor adulterers**, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers **will inherit the kingdom of God**.

He is putting his "faith" in a false belief-system and on his judgment. He will have a big surprise waiting for him at his judgment on his death bed even if he repents and goes to Purgatory.

"My people perish for lack of knowledge"

Because of his **lack of knowledge** and the spiritual blindness (hardness of heart) he brought upon himself with his serious sin of adultery (not to mention the sin of scandal by him "teaching by example" that this lifestyle is "acceptable" to his legitimate children and also to his children out-of-wedlock that may possibly never be taught the truth, unless God sends someone else into their lives to teach them the fullness of truth in this matter) this probably will not end well on his, or his children's judgment.

HOSEA 4:6-7 6 **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge**; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. 7 The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; I will change their glory into shame.

So in answer to the question: "What does it matter? . . . The answer is: "It matters a lot!"

Mortal Sin

In effect here, we are talking about "mortal sin³" or sin that is so extreme, it mortally wounds (kills) the life of grace in the Christian who had a special relationship in him with God.

In order to commit a mortal sin, three things must be present (See CCC 1857 for more details).

One. It has to be very bad stuff involved or "grave matter".

Two. You have to have full knowledge that this is "bad" (and ignorance due to laziness in your spiritual formation will not be acceptable for you if you think "because of my ignorance, I won't be held accountable!" — See Table 1). Ignorance in laziness or taking "little trouble to find out what is true" won't help.

According to the Catechism: A lazy "ignorance" (in conscience formation) "can often be imputed to **personal responsibility**. In such cases, the person is" still culpable (or responsible) "for the evil he commits."

Three. And you commit this sin willfully.

Grave matter. Check. Full knowledge this is bad. Check. Do it willfully anyway. Check. Mortal sin. Yep.

³ **1st JOHN 5:16-17** 16 If any one sees his brother committing what is not a mortal sin, he will ask, and God will give him life for those whose sin is not mortal. **There is sin which is mortal**; I do not say that one is to pray for that.

17 All wrongdoing is sin, but **there is sin which is not mortal**.

TABLE 1

Our Responsibility For The Formation Of A Good Conscience

CCC 1790 A human being must always obey the certain judgment of his conscience. If he were deliberately to act against it, he would condemn himself. Yet it can happen that moral conscience remains in ignorance and makes erroneous judgments about acts to be performed or already committed.

CCC 1791 This ignorance can often be imputed to personal responsibility. This is the case when a man "takes little trouble to find out what is true and good, or when conscience is by degrees almost blinded through the habit of committing sin."⁵⁹ **In such cases, the person is culpable for the evil he commits.**

CCC 1792 Ignorance of Christ and his Gospel, bad example given by others, enslavement to one's passions, assertion of a mistaken notion of autonomy of conscience, rejection of the Church's authority and her teaching, lack of conversion and of charity: these can be at the source of errors of judgment in moral conduct.

OK. What Verses Do The OSAS People Think Teach OSAS?

If these people profess to follow the Bible ALONE, and they come up with a doctrine of "Once Saved, Always Saved (OSAS)", it follows that they must at least **think** the Bible teaches this.

So WHAT passages in Scripture does the OSAS follower **think** teaches OSAS?

There are a handful of verses that are purported by the OSAS-Christians to teach OSAS. We will only look at a sample of them and see WHY NONE of them teach "Once Saved, Always Saved".

OSAS Position: Consider John 10:28-29. We will use the NIV Protestant translation here because many of today's OSAS Christians use the NIV and so this better helps us to meet them where they are. It puts the rebuttal to these erroneous teachings in verses and language they are already familiar with.

Jesus is trustworthy to not allow any one of His little ones to be "snatched" out of His hand.

JOHN 10:28-29 (NIV) 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
no one can snatch them out of my hand.
29 My Father, who has given them to me,
is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

OSAS Christian: "There you have it. Once-saved always-saved."

Answer: There are some big problems with this.

First of all nobody within Catholic Christianity is saying someone else can snatch you OUT of Jesus when you are IN-Jesus.

But the problem remains; **YOU can still CHOOSE to leave Jesus.** You can CHOOSE to "jump out of His hand".

Also John 10:27 puts John 10:28-29 in a contextual perspective and is necessary to review if you are going to look at John 10:28-29. So let's go to John 10:27.

JOHN 10:27 (NIV) 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27 does NOT say:

NOT John 10:27 (NIV) 27 My sheep **listened** to my voice; I **knew** them, and they **believed in me for a moment**.

Notice Jesus' sheep **listen to** (or "hear") His voice.

The Greek word for "hear"⁴ in this case means to "hear" **in an ongoing sense**.

If the OSAS claim were correct it should state, "my sheep heard my voice."

But of course it doesn't say that.

Jesus also says "I **know** them . . ."

This likewise suggests an ongoing relationship and not a mere one-time acceptance (at a stadium or campfire or wherever).

Jesus points out about His sheep that . . . "they **follow** me." Not "they followed⁵ me" on one occasion at a campfire.

Thinking you can do anything you want and be saved anyway, is the sin of **presumption** and is one of several ways to blaspheme the Holy Spirit.

OSAS Christians will often say something to the effect of . . . "Hey look. I'm born again. I'm saved! I can't lose my salvation!"

Some of the ancient Jews in Jesus' day said much the same thing focusing on not being "born again" but upon their genealogies. They probably likewise said: "Hey look. I'm of the Tribe of Judah or Benjamin. I'm saved! I can't lose my salvation!"

Here is St. John the Baptist severely criticizing the Jewish leaders for carrying out **the sin of presumption**.

MATTHEW 3:7-9 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit that befits repentance, 9 and **do not presume** to say to yourselves, '**We have Abraham as our father**'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham."

⁴ Is "akouo" (ακουει).

⁵ This implies an **ongoing following** or an accompaniment, not merely a moment of acceptance.

The Greek word that St. John uses for "follow" is "akoloutheo" or "ακολουθουνσιν."

John 10:28-29 does not teach OSAS. Nor does ANY verse in Scripture.

At this point the Catholic Christian (or Eastern Orthodox Christian or the Lutheran Protestant, etc.) OUGHT to be wondering . . . “OK. If you OSAS guys think this is a mere moment, what do you think occurs with guys who “accept Jesus into their hearts as personal Lord and Savior” and then after a while . . . go off and commit murder, rob a bank, commit adultery, etc. (and never repent)?

The OSAS Christian will answer this dilemma in one of two ways:

One: “It doesn’t matter” concerning salvation. This is often stated as: **“Well they are merely “backsliding!”** They are still “saved” but this is “backsliding” and he is going to Heaven despite this behavior.

Let’s take the adultery example from the country singer as long as we have already brought him up.

1st CORINTHIANS 6:9-10 (excerpt only) 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived; neither . . . adulterers (etc.) . . . will inherit the kingdom of God.**

NOT 1st CORINTHIANS 6:9-10 (excerpt only) **Do not be deceived; . . . adulterers, . . . are merely backsliding and if they accepted Jesus into their heart, they will inherit the kingdom of God anyway.**

Two: They were never REALLY saved in the first place. Their “acceptance of Jesus” into their hearts as “personal Lord and Savior” must have been “insincere.” They must not REALLY have known Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Answer: False. This of course is un-Biblical. Here is St. Peter discussing⁶ these exact type of people who KNEW Jesus as “Lord and Savior” in Scripture. Let’s listen to what Scripture has to say about them . . .

2nd PETER 2:20a 20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world **by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

St. Peter is about to tell us about some people who have escaped the corruption of the world by KNOWING our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (you cannot escape the “corruption of the world if that was false faith)!

2nd PETER 2:20a 20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and **overcome** . . .

Notice they can then be “overcome” by their choosing to get “entangled” again in the corruption of the world.

Are these guys going to Heaven anyway? After all they really KNEW Jesus as “Lord and Savior.” Scripture explicitly says so!

Are they going to Heaven anyway? No!

2nd PETER 2:20-21 20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and **overcome**, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. **21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness**, then to

⁶ Mnemonic = “2 Peter 22” taking you to 2nd Peter 2:2(0)

have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Now what? These saved people are **overcome** by getting **entangled in the corruption of the world!** **It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness**, then to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.” (Think also of Luke 12:48 which teaches the same principle: “to whom much is given, much will be required!”)

NOT 2nd PETER 2:20-21 20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and **overcome**, they are still better off **because they knew Jesus as Lord and savior and will go to Heaven anyway even though they turned their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.**

OSAS position: Well I’ll hold fast to Romans 8:1. I believe there is NO condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 8:1 1 Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus,

How are we as Catholic Christians going to respond to the force of Romans 8:1? By affirming it.

Catholic Response: Catholic Christians hold fast to Romans 8:1 too. Because we ALSO believe there is NO condemnation for those IN Christ Jesus! If the Bible teaches it, we as Catholics believe it (with the proper interpretation).

But if you *don’t remain* in Christ Jesus (we will get to these verses soon) then you obviously are not IN Christ Jesus anymore, and then there **IS** condemnation!

The OSAS person likely wishes the verse said:

NOT Romans 8:1 1 Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who were in Christ Jesus.

Catholics affirm if you are in a state of grace, if you are IN Christ Jesus, then there is NO CONDEMNATION for you. But you must REMAIN IN Christ Jesus. And if you choose NOT TO REMAIN IN Christ Jesus, then there IS condemnation for you.

ROMANS 8:1 1 Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Romans 8:1 does not teach OSAS. Nor does ANY verse in Scripture.

OSAS: Well I believe Romans 8:38-39 that **nothing** can separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus!

Catholic Response: Well I believe **nothing** can separate me from the **love** of God that is in Christ Jesus also!

ROMANS 8:38-39 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,
39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We as Catholics believe **nothing** can separate me from the **love** of God that is in Christ Jesus too!
But notice Romans 8:39 concerns the **LOVE** of God, NOT the **LIFE** of God.

When someone rejects Christ, we're not talking about someone separating themselves from the *love* of Christ are we?

Remember God so loved "the world" even while the human race was "enemies" with God (back before Christ's work on Calvary).

JOHN 3:16a, ROMANS 5:10 16 For God **so loved the world** that he gave his only Son, 10 For if **while we were enemies** we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

ROMANS 8:38-39 (Excerpt only) 38 For I am convinced that . . . (nothing) . . . **will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Notice what the verse DOESN'T say:

NOT Romans 8:38-39 38-39 For I am convinced that **grievous sin with willful rejection of God, will be NOT able to separate us from the life of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 8:38-39 does not teach OSAS. Nor does ANY verse in Scripture.

There are other verses that allegedly teach OSAS. All are just as weak or weaker than what we have already seen when carefully looked at. **No passage in the Bible teaches OSAS.**

Verses That Give Christians Warning Against OSAS

**Jesus Is The Vine. We Are The Branches
If You Are In Him, You Must "REMAIN" In Him
If You Don't "Remain" In Him, You Will Be Cast Aside And Burned**

Listen to Jesus' warnings to those who are IN Him.

JOHN 15:1-6 1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch **in me** that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. **No branch can bear fruit by itself**; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "**I am the vine; you are the branches.** If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not **remain** in me, he is like a branch that is **thrown away and withers**; such branches are picked up, **thrown into the fire and burned.**

Notice you can be IN-Jesus ("The Vine"), but if you don't bear fruit, you will be CUT OFF from Christ!
Notice the FATHER **cuts off** branches that are IN JESUS that choose not to bear fruit!

There is no: “He gets to remain IN ME anyway because he “accepted Me at a campfire.”

Let’s read on. Jesus is addressing people who are “**already clean.**”

JOHN 15:3-4a 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 **Remain IN ME**, and I will **remain** in you.

This guy is IN Jesus (but he is warned he has got to “REMAIN” in Jesus).

JOHN 15:4a 4 **Remain IN ME**, and I will **remain** in you.

You cannot “remain” in Jesus if you are NOT “IN” Jesus can you?

Again. **Notice this guy is already IN Jesus!** But . . . he must REMAIN IN Jesus!

JOHN 15:3-5 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Why would Jesus be telling us to REMAIN in him?

Fortunately Jesus tells us. (The consequences of us choosing to NOT remain IN-Jesus would be catastrophic.)

JOHN 15:6a 6 If anyone does not remain in me

What? What happens to those IN-Jesus, if someone does NOT “remain” in Jesus (notice again you can choose “not” remain in Jesus by the way). Let’s look at the consequences of this choice to **not remain** in Jesus!

Does Jesus say this . . . ?

NOT John 15:6 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that withers but **only loses crowns**; such slightly withered branches **are still in me though** because once they are IN ME, **they can never be thrown aside** and burned, but rather they will remain in me anyway.

Is this what our Lord Jesus says? NO!

Now let’s look at what is REALLY in Scripture.

JOHN 15:6 6 If anyone does not **remain** in me, he is like a branch that is **thrown away** and **withers**; such branches are picked up, **thrown into the fire and burned**.

Notice you can choose to “not remain in (Jesus) me!”

Does Jesus use this imagery (of being “thrown into the fire” where they “wither” and “burn”) tell you this guy is headed for Heaven? No! It doesn’t fit the context. He is headed for a place where he is “cast aside” or “thrown away” and “burned” in “the fire”.

John 15:1-6 warns us against following after the false doctrine of OSAS, as do MANY verses in Scripture.

St. Paul Himself Is Concerned About Remaining In Jesus!

Who would deny St. Paul was a saved man? Nobody. Yet St. Paul himself expresses concern about him falling away.

Yet with all this “assurance” of salvation, listen to Holy St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, express concern about falling away HIMSELF!

1st CORINTHIANS 9:22b-27 22b I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 **I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.** 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, **I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.**

The Greek word for “disqualified” or “rejected” that St. Paul uses here for HIMSELF is “adokimos” (a-dock-ee-moss). If you do a word study, you will see this word is used for people who will not receive salvation.

St. Paul knows he could be “disqualified⁷ for the prize”!

1st CORINTHIANS 9:27 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, **I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.**

St. Paul doesn’t believe in OSAS, and neither should we!

St. Paul does not teach or suggest OSAS (nor does any verse). St. Paul specifically refutes the false doctrine of OSAS and states he himself could be “disqualified or rejected for the prize”.

1st CORINTHIANS 9:22-27 warns us against following after the false doctrine of OSAS, as do MANY verses in Scripture.

Even The “Our Father Prayer” Bible Verses Contextually Warn Us Against OSAS

Let’s go back to Matthew 6 and see what Jesus says to people who have God as their FATHER (!), people who have a family relationship with God.

MATTHEW 6:7-13 7 "And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread; 12

⁷ The Greek word for “disqualified” or literally “rejected” is “adokimos” (Greek = ἀδοκιμος) which if you do a word study, you will see this word used for people who will not receive salvation.

And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors; 13 And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

First of all, notice Jesus is addressing people who have God as “their Father”.
You cannot have God as “your Father” in this sense without some kind of a relationship.

Not everyone has God as their Father relationally. Listen to Jesus talk to SOME of the Pharisees

JOHN 8:42-44 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I proceeded and came forth from God; I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 **You are of your father the devil**, and your will is to do your father's desires.

Back to Matthew 6

MATTHEW 6:12-14a 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. 14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; 15 but if you do not forgive men their trespasses . . . (What?) . . .

What happens to these guys who we know have God as their Father if they now decide to be unforgiving?

Well here's what does NOT happen

NOT Matthew 6:14-15 14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, **your Father** has forgiven you anyway unconditionally and your Father can't take away eternal life from you otherwise it wouldn't be eternal so I guess you are saved anyway.

Compare that with the REAL Matthew 6:14-15

MATTHEW 6:14-15 14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; 15 but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, **neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

If you do not forgive men their trespasses, **neither will your Father forgive your trespasses!**

Matthew 6:7-14 warns us against following after the false doctrine of OSAS, as do MANY verses in Scripture.

In this study we saw that OSAS may be the earliest false teaching teachings in history. And that the way you think, has consequences to the way you live.

We looked carefully at some of the common passages used by OSAS followers and noted **none of these passages teach OSAS.**

We also discussed that there is not one verse or passage in the Bible that teach Once Saved Always Saved.

We saw just some of the many verses that warn AGAINST following after OSAS.

When God gives you those opportunities, please warn others against falling for this OSAS trap.
At this point it would be fitting to close out this study with the Our Father prayer.

God bless you.

TABLE 2

Some Other OSAS Warning Verses To Ponder (On Your Own)

MATTHEW 18:32-35 32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat **each of you** unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

This guy was a “servant of the Master” (the “Master” is Jesus Christ).

MATTHEW 24:12-13 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most **will grow cold**,
13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

The prophet Ezekiel tells us there is life for the wicked that really repent!

EZEKIEL 18:21-22 21 But if a **wicked man** turns away from all the sins he has committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, he will surely live; he will not die. 22 None of the offenses he has committed will be remembered against him. Because of the righteous things he has done, he will live.

BUT in verse 24 Ezekiel warns what happens if A RIGHTEOUS MAN turns from his righteousness (**notice you CAN “turn from your righteousness”**).

EZEKIEL 18:24a 24a But if a **righteous man turns from his righteousness** and commits sin **and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live?**

Well let’s find out if this guy who is already described as “righteous”, but now he’s going to turn from his righteousness. Let’s find out if he’s saved anyway.

NOT Ezekiel 18:24 24 But if a **righteous man turns from his righteousness** and commits sin **and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live?** Yes. None of the righteous things he has done matter but none of the detestable thing he did matter either. Because he accepted Yahweh and Jesus into his heart as personal Lord and Savior **he will live**. None of the offenses he has committed will be remembered against him. Because he accepted me into his heart, **he will live**.

What does God *really* teach through the inspired Prophet Ezekiel?

EZEKIEL 18:24-26 24 But if a **righteous man turns from his righteousness** and commits sin **and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live?** **None of the righteous things he has done will be remembered.**
Because of the unfaithfulness he is guilty of and because of the sins he has committed, HE WILL DIE.
25 “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, O house of Israel: Is my way unjust? Is it not your

ways that are unjust? 26 If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin, he will die for it; **because of the sin he has committed he will die.**

Listen to what happens with this “faithful” (full of faith) and “wise” steward who decides to beat the menservants and maid servants. Listen to where he gets “assigned”.

LUKE 12:42-46 42 The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? 43 It will be good for the servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. 44 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 45 But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the men-servants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. 46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. **He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.**

1st CORINTHIANS 10:1-12 1 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, **brothers**, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3 They all ate the same spiritual food 4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, **God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.** 6 **Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things** as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did -- and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. 9 We should not test the Lord, as some of them did -- and were killed by snakes. 10 And do not grumble, as some of them did -- and were killed by the destroying angel. 11 **These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us**, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. 12 **So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!**

You CAN LOSE your gift of faith. St. Paul in his letters to Timothy makes just this warning.

- Some have “wandered away (from a pure heart and a good conscience **and a sincere faith**)” (1st Timothy 1:6)
- Some have “shipwrecked their faith” (1st Timothy 1:19)
- Some “abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.” (1st Timothy 4:1)
- Some have “denied the faith” (1st Timothy 5:8)
- Some have “wandered from the faith” (1st Timothy 6:21)
- Some have “wandered away from the truth” (2nd Timothy 2:18)

You can sadly choose to throw away your faith! And if you DO throw away your faith are you saved anyway? No! Sacred Scripture warns us in Hebrews 11 . . .

HEBREWS 11:6a 6 And **without faith it is impossible to please God**, . . .

TABLE 3

OSAS is sometimes called “Calvinism” because a Protestant “Reformer” an ex-Catholic theologian named John Calvin in the 1500’s started RE-TEACHING OSAS (recall, the devil also erroneously taught Adam & Eve that they can’t lose their salvation in Genesis 3:4).

Once Saved Always Saved is “a tradition of men that nullifies the Commandments of God” whether taught by John Calvin or anyone else.

2nd PETER 2:1-2, 4 1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, **even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them**-bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. . . 4 For **if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell**, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; . . .

Keeping this warning concerning false teachers in mind, listen to Chuck Swindoll⁸, a popular Calvinist Protestant radio and TV “Bible preacher” from one of his radio segments:

If you trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are still a child of God.

You may deny Him, but He will never deny you. Though you are faithless, He will remain faithful. And the grace of God, the seal of the Holy Spirit, preserves you permanently. This is called the doctrine of eternal security.

But is that what Sacred Scripture teaches? No!

Here is what Calvinists *wish* 2nd Timothy 2 said:

NOT 2nd Timothy 2:11-13 11 Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him, we will also live with him;

12 if we accepted Jesus into our hearts, we will also reign with Him.

If we disown Him, He will never disown you assuming you accepted Him into your heart as personal Lord and Savior.

But Swindoll’s statement is an *explicit contradiction* to Sacred Scripture!

Let’s listen to St. Paul (in his real letter to St. Timothy) and NOT Chuck Swindoll this time.

2nd TIMOTHY 2:11-13 11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; 12 **IF we endure, we will also reign with him.**

If we disown him, he will also disown us:

13 if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Look at the contrast:

- If you trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are still a child of God.
You may deny Him, but He will never deny you.—Chuck Swindoll
- **IF we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us**—St. Paul

Who are you going to believe? Beware of false teachers!

⁸ From Dan Corner on Chuck Swindoll. The Problem of Defection, audiotope YYP 6A. BEWARE! Dan Corner is very anti-Catholic and often misrepresents the Catholic faith when he is attacking the faith.

Once Saved Always Saved is a tradition of men that nullifies the Word and Commandments of God.