

SERMON STUDY NOTES

23rd August 2020
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Can a Christian lose their Salvation? 2 Peter 2:20-22

1. This question has been debated by Calvinist and Armenian Christians for centuries. These groups take opposite sides on this issue. *Which group takes which point of view? Who are notable teachers in each group?*
2. Both groups agree that many people who claim to be Christians aren't. As a result, 'born-again' people are living just like everybody else. In reality biblical salvation is a life-transforming experience that reorients every corner of our lives John 8:34-36. *Do you agree?*
3. What if someone comes to Jesus and is transformed and then goes back into a life of sin and has no interest in the things of God? Discuss in relation to the Parable Of The Sower *Matt 13:18-23*. Discuss also in relation to the prodigal son. Lk. 15:13, 18-19
4. In *John 3:16* the word 'believes' in the Greek is in the present continuous tense meaning that we are to keep on believing. *Mark 13:13* also suggests we must continue our belief until the end. Discuss.

5. Rom 8:35&27-39 tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. The only thing that can separate us from our eternal security in God is ourselves. (2 Peter 2:20-22, James 5:19-20, Heb 6:4-6). David Pawson likens this to falling off a ship and having a lifesaver thrown to you. As long as you keep holding onto it, your life will be saved, but if you choose to let it go, then you will be responsible for your own actions. Discuss

6. A man in Corinthian church was having a sexual relationship with his father's wife (1 Cor 5:1-5) and was to be put out of the church. Can a person become so wicked that he's unfit for church fellowship, yet still fit for eternal fellowship with God in heaven?

7. John Vianney said "*We have nothing of our own but our will. It is the only thing which God has so placed in our own power that we can make an offering of it to Him.*" Discuss this with regard to eternal salvation.

8. With every trial, with every temptation, there comes a possibility of either a good work or a dead work. A good work is when the trial is dignified, and the temptation is resisted. If sin does emerge and is confessed, broken off and repented of before it goes too far, there's still some element of a good work to be seen. *Discuss in relation to 1 Cor 3:15.*

9. Mature Believers still sin, but they are increasingly spiritual! They grow 'from glory to glory,' and learn to live in the Spirit' use the gifts of the Spirit, and become fruitful in God's work. This happened to Simon Peter when he denied Jesus and it has happened to each of us. Praise God for his grace and faithfulness Ephesians 2:8. Every Christian can have assurance of salvation – see 1 John 5:11-12.