

CAN GOD KEEP YOU SAVED?

DATE: 11/6/2016 am

TEXT: II Timothy 1:12 – *“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”*

INTRODUCTION

We are continuing with our study of the Great Text of the Bible

Verses like **Job 42:1-17** and **Jeremiah 6:16** and **Psalm 139** and **John 3:16**

What I mean by the Great Texts are the Bible verses that have changed people’s lives over the years

This morning brings us to another one of those Great Text

Let me introduce this Great Text to you

In our verse, the Apostle Paul makes a bold statement concerning his salvation

He tells us that he is confident that his salvation is eternal in nature / But, is it really?

Is salvation something we can count on, or is it something we must simply hope will work out for us in the end?

Can someone truly have absolute assurance that he or she is saved? And on their way to heaven

And, can that someone be sure that he or she will never be lost again?

Is there anything you or I could do that would cause Jesus to take away our salvation?

Is it possible for us to decide that we didn't want to be a Christian anymore and lose it that way?

What I'm asking is **"Can God Really Keep You Saved?"**

Most people would say "No!"

Most denominations hold a view that man can, by the exercise of his own free will turn from God to sin at any time and be lost

This is the view held by the Methodists, Wesleyans, Free Will Baptists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, most holiness and charismatic groups, and the Anglican Church

In other words, the majority of Protestant denominations believe that it is possible for a person to be lost after they have come to Jesus Christ for salvation

This view is called the Arminian view of salvation

It teaches that man's free will allows him the right to choose between salvation and sin at his own choice

This view of salvation is based on a faulty understanding of the Bible and of salvation itself

Slipshod theology is the root of the Arminian point of view!

Can God Keep You Saved? – 2 Timothy 1:12

Baptists, (Bible Believers) on the other hand, believe that once salvation has been granted by God, salvation can never be taken away

We hold that once a person has been saved by grace, they are forever saved and nothing will ever be able to change that fact!

We believe that a man is saved by that person trusting Christ and Christ alone and His death on the cross,

They recognize they have sinned against a Holy God

And God would have all the right to judge us for that sin,

But instead He offers us His Son's death in place of ours

And that at the moment of salvation, the believer is instantly and eternally changed and adopted into the family of God

We believe that the believer is declared righteous through justification and that eternal life is a present possession

We hold that it is impossible for a born again person to ever be lost, or to ever go to hell

Why? Because that's what the Bible Teaches

Now, who's right?

Can salvation be lost as many churches teach?

Or, is salvation an eternal gift that can never be taken back?

I believe that Paul clears up this issue in our Text

Please allow me to take this one verse this morning, as well as some supporting texts, and answer the question,

“Can God Really Keep You Saved?”

By the way, my answer at the outset is *“God Can!”*

Hopefully, we will all be of the same mind by the conclusion of the message

~~~Prayer~~~

First, let’s look at ...

## I. PAUL’S “CONVERSION”

Paul begins this verse by saying - ***“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed:”***

He is saying that his preaching of the Gospel (*“cause”*) has brought about persecution (*“suffering”*)

**II Timothy 3:12 - *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”***

But even so, he is not ashamed

**Romans 1:16 - *“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”***

First let’s look at how Paul’s Conversion ...

## A. Involved a ‘Person’

Paul says he knows in **“Whom”** he has believed

The Pronoun **“Whom”** is used to introduce a relative clause giving information about a person or people

What that means is that Paul is referring to Jesus

When Paul was saved on the way to Damascus, his conversion was the direct result of meeting that Person

**Acts 9:5 – “And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks”**

Paul was a highly educated man

**Acts 22:3 – “I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day”**

He was a Religious man when his life was compared with the requirements of the Law

**Philippians 3:6 – “Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless”**

Not, his / nor our, salvation could never be earned with such things

**Titus 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”**

It took a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus to bring about Paul's salvation

This is the way conversion happens for every person who ever gets saved

No one ever earns their salvation by good works

**Ephesians 2:8, 9 ...**

Neither can it be brought about by learning a bunch of Bible verses or church teachings or a prayer

Salvation is the result of God, awakening in your heart, your need for Him

And then beginning a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ

**Acts 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”**

**I John 5:12 – “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”**

No amount of goodness or education will ever produce salvation

No matter how hard you try

It is always and only the result of meeting Jesus Christ in a personal way

## **Paul's Conversion involved a Person / Jesus**

Next, let's look at how Paul's Conversion ...

### **B. Involved a 'Plan'**

Notice that Paul says that his Conversion was the result of belief - ***"Whom I have believed"***

Salvation cannot be worked up or prayed down

It can only be accomplished through simple Faith

Notice what the Bible says about the Means and Manner of salvation

**John 3:36 - "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him"**

Salvation can only be yours through Faith in Jesus Christ

That's God's Plan

What is Faith?

The word Faith is defined as *a complete confidence, trust or reliance*

Our Faith is to be in the Character of Who God is

Faith, in regard to God, means having total trust in Jesus Christ for the salvation of one's soul

It means trusting Jesus, Him alone, and Him completely for salvation

Faith is absolutely essential for salvation

Faith also implies letting go of someone's self-effort

People are always trying to do something to earn eternal Life / can't do it

Being saved means that we are to trust Jesus Christ and Him alone for the salvation of our souls

It is always based on the Final Authority of God's Word

**Paul's Conversion Involved a 'Person' and a 'Plan'**

Then, let's look at how Paul's Conversion ...

### **C. Involved a 'Permanence'**

Notice the use of the words "***I have believed***"

The verb "***have***" is in the Perfect Tense

All's that means is that an action that has been completed in the past, has been done once and for all, not needing to be repeated ever

Paul is saying that when he placed his Faith in Jesus Christ, it was a one time for all time, action

He says that, what was accomplished then, was also finished then

Paul is saying that he knows that his salvation is a permanent thing

It never needs to be redone and that it will last forever

The same is true of the salvation you and I enjoy through Jesus Christ

When you come to Jesus, the work He does in you is a Permanent work

It will never have to be repeated

In fact, it can't be repeated

Jesus death on the cross is a once in eternity event

It will never happen again

Some may wonder why I have given the plan of salvation in a message about eternal security

The reason is simple!

You must be saved before you can be Confident of God's salvation

## **PAUL'S CONVERSION**

After telling us about his salvation Conversion

Paul now shares with us why he has the Confidence in Christ he does

So let's look at ...

## **II. PAUL'S "CONFIDENCE"**

Paul was Confident because of his Conversion

One definition for Confidence is the belief in one's own abilities

But that is not at all what the Apostle is talking about here

But rather, he is Confident in the ability of somebody else to act in a proper, trustworthy, or reliable manner

Paul's Confidence is based on what he knows about who God is

First, it is ...

### **A. Based on the 'Person' of God**

Who God is

Paul says this - "I know in Whom I have believed"

The word "**know**" means *to know by personal experience*

Paul is telling us that he has the Confidence he does in the Lord because he knows the Lord

How does he know the Lord?

He has experienced God's ability first hand and he knows what God can do

People who have assurance of salvation, have a strong personal faith in God

Why? Because God has demonstrated His presence to them in their lives

How? In response to their Faith in His Promises

Most folks never see what God can do, because most people do Not live by Faith

Those who doubt whether or not God can save them and keep them saved often have an imperfect view of who God is

So; Who is God to you?

He is either, an all-powerful, able Being who does what He says perfectly

Or He is weak, imperfect and unable to do what He has said He will do? / You can choose

I've personally experienced things that can only be attributed to God

### **Based on the 'Person' of God**

Then we see that Paul's Confidence was ...

### **B. Based on the 'Power' of God**

*“and am persuaded that He is able”*

Next Paul reminds us that God is **“able”**

This word simply means *that God has the power to do something*

Paul tells us that his salvation, and ours as well, is based on the Power of God

Peter tells us that we are **“kept by the power of God”**

**I Peter 1:5 – “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”**

In simple terms, our salvation is only as strong as God's Power to keep us saved

The bottom line is this, if our salvation depends on anything less than the Power of God, then we are all hopelessly lost

If those who teach that a clean, holy life is essential to maintaining one's state of salvation, then we are all going to Hell

If, however, salvation is maintained by the Power of God alone, then we have nothing to fear

After all, we serve a God Who is infinitely powerful

**Isaiah 26:4 – “Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:”**

Luke 1:37 – “*For with God nothing shall be impossible*”

Based on the ‘Person’ of God

Based on the ‘Power’ of God

Lastly we see that Paul’s Confidence was ...

### C. Based on the ‘Promises’ of God

*“and am persuaded”*

Paul tells us that he is “*persuaded*” about God’s ability to preserve the soul

To be **Persuaded** means to be *convinced of something*

Paul’s Confidence is not a blind leap into the dark,

But it is a Confidence based squarely upon the Precious Promises of God

For Paul those Promises were found in the Old Testament

For us, those Promises are found in the New Testament

Let’s look at a Few ...

1. Salvation is by Faith – **Ephesians 2:8, 9** ...

2. Everlasting / Eternal mean exactly that

There is no such thing as Temporary Eternal Life

**John 10:28a – “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish”**

3. Eternal Life is a Present Possession

**John 6:47 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life”**

4. Salvation is a Gift

**Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”**

5. We cannot be removed from His Hand

**John 10:28 – “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand”**

6. We are no longer under Condemnation

**John 5:24 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”**

7. Our Sin Debt has been removed

**Romans 4:5 – “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness”**

8. We can't be separated from the Love of God

**Romans 8:38, 39 – “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,” “Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”**

9. We won't be cast out

**John 6:37 – “All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out”**

10. If you are Born Again, you can't be unborn

**John 3:3 – “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”**

11. We are called the Children of God

**I John 3:2 – “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is”**

In the simplest of terms, Paul is telling us that he knows beyond a shadow of a doubt that God can save & keep a person's soul

My friend, do you share the same confidence held by Paul?

Are you settled in the knowledge that Jesus Christ saves sinners?

But not just because Paul or I'm telling you this

But because you have been ***“persuaded”*** by God and His Word

PAUL'S "CONVERSION"

PAUL'S "CONFIDENCE"

### III. PAUL'S "COMMITMENT"

Paul was Committed because he was Confident

***“that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”***

**Commitment** – *is a Loyalty, devotion or dedication, to a cause, person, or relationship*

In Paul's case it is to the Lord

First, we see that Paul was Committed in his ...

#### **A. 'Soul'**

Paul was trusting Jesus with his eternal soul

I believe that this is the ***“that”*** he was speaking of in this part of the verse

So are you and I!

We need to be as Confident in our salvation as Paul was in his,

And we can be, if we are willing to take the Lord at His Word and accept the fact that He saves and keeps those who come to Him by faith

Paul was Committed in his ...

**B. 'Service'**

Paul had given his life, after salvation, to doing what the Lord wanted him to do

Paul's total surrender was based in the knowledge that the Lord had saved him with a perfect salvation that would last for all eternity

Such a gift demands such a surrender!

This is the principle taught in ...

**I John 4:19 – “We love Him, because He first loved us”**

My friends, we are wasting our time serving the Lord if we are not kept by His power

It is true that His life is the best life, however, as Paul said in **I Corinthians 15:19** ...

***“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”***

On the contrary, we serve and love Him because of that which He has done on our behalf!

Paul was Committed in his ...

C. 'Salvation'

As this verse closes, Paul speaks of *“that day”*

He is writing about the day when he would leave the world and face the Lord

He knows that when that day comes, he had better be ready

**Hebrews 4:7b - *“To day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts”***

Paul knew that when *“that day”* came he would be found in Jesus,

Regardless of what happened down here in this life,

**Philippians 3:9 - *“And be(ing) found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”***

I am glad that I have come to the same Confidence this morning

My salvation does not, nor has it ever depended on me or what I can do

My salvation depends totally upon the Lord Jesus Christ and what He is able to do through His limitless power

CONCLUSION

## *Can God Keep You Saved? – 2 Timothy 1:12*

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There is no way I can present a complete discussion on a topic this deep in the allotted time we have

However, I want every person who comes to this church to know that there is a great big God in Heaven who keeps every saint He saves

He is able and He will get us home in one piece

***I Thessalonians 5:23 – “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”***

As we close this morning, I want to ask you a very simple question, “Have you ever been saved?”

If your answer is no, then I want to remind you that God loves you and has made a way for you to be saved

If you would like to get the matter of your salvation squared away this morning, then why don't you let us show you from the Word of God

If you are saved, I want you to know that God will take you safely home to Heaven when you leave this world

Regardless of what the devil, the world or the flesh does,

God is still able to save to the uttermost,

***Hebrews 7:25 – “Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them”***

## *Can God Keep You Saved? – 2 Timothy 1:12*

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As we close, let me remind you that what He has started, He will finish

**Philippians 1:6 – *“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”***

**PAUL’S “CONVERSION”**

**PAUL’S “CONFIDENCE”**

**PAUL’S “COMMITMENT”**

**Can God Keep Us Saved?**

**The Answer is a Resounding YES!**