

The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

www.collinsville-troycoc.org

(618) 667-6708



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Oh That They Had Such a Heart

Renn Ferguson

We often hear, and talk about the popular doctrine of once saved always saved. This doctrine teaches that once someone is "saved" there is nothing they can do to forfeit their salvation. This doctrine has obvious issues, namely that it directly contradicts a multitude of scriptures (2 Peter 2:20-22, Revelation 2:10, John 8:31-32, Colossians 1:21-23, Hebrews 2:1-4 etc.)

However, there are those who, perhaps unintentionally, teach once lost always lost. What does that mean? Well, there are some who are so adamantly against sin they make it seem as if all hope is lost. Please do not misunderstand me. We should be preaching and teaching against sin as much as we can- if we do not, many souls will blissfully go to hell. But, we also do not need to make it seem as if there is no possibility of heaven.

One passage that has often produced these ideas and feelings is Hebrews 10:26. Here we see, "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins" (NKJV). I have often heard this passage used with an implication that if a Christian ever willfully sins after their conversion, they are doomed to hell- no second chances. My question would then be, who is going to heaven? Has not every Christian at some point sinned willfully? Does that mean that we have lost all hope of eternal life?

Well, notice the ESV translation of that verse, "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins". There is a distinction to be noticed between the two translations. The ESV includes the phrase "go on sinning" which means a continuance in it. Which, if we look at the context, is exactly what the Hebrews writer is dealing with. Verse 25 is that very familiar passage about meeting together. He mentions that some were already in the habit of forsaking the assembly. This was not a one-time situation. It was not a temporary lapse in judgment. It was a constant practice. That is the idea that needs to be brought into verse 26. If we willfully, unrepentantly, continue in sin then yes, there remains no sacrifice for them.

However, even if we sin willfully after our conversion if we repent of that sin, confess it to God, and ask for His forgiveness, He will forgive. This is the teaching laid out in 1 John 1:7-10. There are times that we all have willfully sinned. That does not mean we have forfeited all hope of heaven. As long as we follow the Lord's commands in 1 John 1 those sins will be forgiven. Just as the Bible does not teach once saved always saved, it does not teach once lost always lost.

2022 Theme:
More About Jesus

Connections

Life of Christ Study

This month we started a year-long, in depth, study of The Life of Christ (David L. Roper)

Sunday AM Auditorium Class:
Understanding the World of Jesus' Day

Wednesday PM Class:
(Fellowship Hall)
Devoting Yourself to Prayer

