

## **Eternal Life: Why We Can't Lose It Once We Get It**

(appropriate for Mid-Schoolers and older)

Michael R. Daily December 2014

Other youth bible studies by Michael Daily available at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

Reference: J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things Which Become Sound Doctrine*, Kregel Publishing, 1965

(Source: Rev. John S. Mahon, Grace Community International, Houston, TX)

Eternal security is the doctrine that once we have been given eternal life we can never lose it. For this to be true two things must also be true:

- 1) Nothing that we do or fail to do can cause our salvation to be lost
- 2) God will not do nor fail to do anything that can cause our salvation to be lost

God can do anything but He doesn't. He only does what is good and right as He has revealed in His written word – the Bible. We don't have to speculate about what God might or might not do. He has already told us in His written word. So that is where we will go to understand the truth about our eternal salvation.

First, we need to understand the spiritual state we were in before we became Christians

### **Romans 3:10-12**

**as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; 11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; 12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one."**

### **Romans 1:18-21**

**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,<sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.<sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

There is no one who is righteous, no one who understands, and there is no one who seeks God. The religions of the world are often described as people doing their best to seek God but falling short. This is not true. They are not seeking God – they are going their own way.

We are not born as innocent babies, morally neutral until stained by the world. We are born with a sin nature imputed to us from Adam.

### **Romans 5:18-19**

**So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.**

As a result we sin because that is our nature.

### **Job 15:16**

**How much less one who is detestable and corrupt, Man, who drinks iniquity like water!**

Sin comes as naturally to us as drinking a cup of water. Do we have to plan ahead in order to covet? Lust? Envy? Get Angry? No. It comes naturally. But we have to plan to do good because doing good does not come naturally to us.

## **Sin Kills, Resulting In Death**

### **Romans 6:23**

**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

### **Ezekiel 18:4**

**Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.**

And dead men can't respond to God. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead what part did Lazarus play in that? Nothing. His only role was to die. In the same way our part of salvation to eternal life is to be dead because of our sin. That's it.

We didn't seek God. Instead God sent out "fishers of men" (**Matthew 4:19**) to go get us because dead men don't seek Him. Do fish seek out fishermen? No. Fishermen seek fish.

## **Death Leads To Judgment And The Standard Is Perfection**

### **Hebrews 9:27**

**And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,**

Younger people often picture the Judgment like a set of scales. On one side are our good works and on the other side our sins. As long as our good works outweigh the bad we should be OK. Right?

But that is not God's standard. God's standard is not comparing our good to our bad. His standard is total perfection, no exceptions.

### **Matthew 5:48**

**Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

In fact, it only takes one sin to kill you and put you in Hell for eternity.

### **James 2:10**

**For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.**

So, there will be only two kinds of people coming out of the judgment. Those condemned to the Lake of Fire for eternity because they committed one or more sins during their life, and those who are declared completely without sin. There is no middle ground.

Because the standard is so high it is impossible to meet it ourselves. By the time we know what the rules of the game are, it's too late. We've sinned many times before we are old enough to even understand judgment and the standard.

Good works doesn't help this problem. No amount of good works can change the past or make a past sin "not have happened". Therefore, it is impossible for anyone, except Christ, to live a life without a single sin.

This means that unless God does something we are all condemned as children of wrath and slaves of satan.

### **Ephesians 2:1-3**

**And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup>Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.**

### **II Timothy 2:24-26**

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, <sup>25</sup> with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

We have no hope and are without God. All of us. Unless God does something.

### **Ephesians 2:12**

remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Salvation from this condemnation is a result of the mercy and grace of God

### **Titus 3:5**

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

### **Justification**

So, the only way we can be made perfect enough to go to heaven is to have each and every sin extracted from our past in some way.

Our past sins were removed from us.

### **I Corinthians 6:9-11**

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

And those sins were transferred to Christ.

### **Isaiah 53:6**

All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

God cancelled out the decrees against us by nailing them to the cross.

### **Colossians 2:13-14**

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, <sup>14</sup> having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

The result being that we will stand in the presence of God blameless.

### **Jude 1:24-25**

**Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

We are either blameless or beyond any hope – there is no middle ground.

### **God Won't Take Away Our Salvation And We Can't Lose It**

The Bible repeatedly states that God is the one who gives us eternal life as a free gift. We, as dead men, did nothing to gain it.

***Eternal:** having infinite duration, continued without intermission, valid or existing at all times, timeless*

So, the eternal life that God gave us is valid and exists at all times, continues without intermission, and is infinite in duration.

### **Colossians 1:13-14**

**For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

The day you became a Christian your eternal life started, you were transferred from the domain of darkness into God's kingdom. You were legally declared "forgiven" for all of your sins – past, present, and future. From that moment forward the new life you were given is valid and exists at all times, continues without intermission, and is infinite in duration.

Notice that the Bible never says that He gives us the possibility of eternal life after we die or that we potentially have eternal life after we die if we meet certain other requirements. No. Eternal life starts the day you became a Christian and it is eternal, not potentially eternal.

If this life had short periods of time when it was not valid (say the time between a sin you commit and your confession of it) then it would not be eternal. If this life was temporarily suspended while you had a sin in progress, then it would not be eternal. If this life could come to an end because you decide you no longer want to be God's child, then it would not be eternal.

My daughter is my daughter even while she sins, even if she doesn't want to be my daughter, even if she changes her name – she is still my daughter. There is nothing she can ever do that will change that fact. In the same way once we are transferred to the kingdom of Christ we can never go back.

That's why God describes the process as being born again.

Once you are born you can't go back, period.

### **I Peter 1:3**

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

### **II Corinthians 5:17**

**Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.**

*Key Point: If you could lose your salvation, you would. If you could lose your salvation, you already did.*

## Time

Time and space are created things, just like matter and energy. God lives outside of time and is not subject to it. He was aware of every sin you would commit thousands of years before you were born.

If He had not been then how could he pay for your sins on the cross thousands of years ago?

This is why the timing of our sin doesn't affect our salvation.

## Romans 5:8

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

For more information about the doctrines supporting salvation please see the study, "My Personal Testimony .... And Yours Too!" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

## What About the Disobedient Christian?

Imagine a Christian who lives their life characterized by disobedience to God. What will happen to them?

First, God loves them just as much as He loves the obedient Christian. There is nothing we can do that will make God love us more than He already does and there is nothing we can do that will make God love us less.

Second, they have eternal life and they will go to heaven when they die.

Third, they are demonstrating that they do not love God.

## John 14:15,21, 23-24

**"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**

**21 He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."**

**23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.**

Fourth, they will experience the discipline of God in their lives where God inflicts enough pain in their lives that it gets their attention and they repent and get back on track.

## Hebrews 12:4-11

**You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; <sup>5</sup> and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; <sup>6</sup> FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." <sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. <sup>11</sup> All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.**

For a detailed study on the topic of God's discipline of disobedient Christians please see, "The Prime Directive" at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

Fifth, they will experience the loss of eternal rewards they otherwise could have had.

### **I Corinthians 3:10-15**

**According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.**

Even so their eternal life is not in jeopardy.

For a detailed study on this topic please see, "Eternal Rewards – Compilation"  
at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

### **Conclusion**

Eternal security is the doctrine that once we have been given eternal life we can never lose it. Otherwise it would not really be eternal. As a result there is nothing that we can do or fail to do that can cause our salvation to be lost and God will not do nor fail to do anything that can cause our salvation to be lost.

For a detailed study addressing verses that seem to conflict with the doctrine of Eternal Security please see the study:  
"How To Interpret Passages That Seem To Indicate Salvation Can Be Lost"  
at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

***JEREMIAH 15:16***

**THEME: *Eternal Life: Why We Can't Lose It Once We Get It***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 3:10-12***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 1:18-21***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 5:18-19, Job 15:16***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

**JEREMIAH 15:16**

**THEME: *Eternal Life: Why We Can't Lose It Once We Get It***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 6:23, Ezekiel 18:4, Matthew 4:19***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 9:27, Matthew 5:48, James 2:10***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 2:1-3, II Timothy 2:24-26, Ephesians 2:12***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**



**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

***JEREMIAH 15:16***

**THEME: *Eternal Life: Why We Can't Lose It Once We Get It***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 6:9-11***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Isaiah 53:6, Colossians 2:13-14***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

***JEREMIAH 15:16***

**THEME: *Eternal Life: Why We Can't Lose It Once We Get It***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jude 1:24-25, Colossians 1:13-14***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Peter 1:3, II Corinthians 5:17***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Roman 5:8***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

***JEREMIAH 15:16***

**THEME: *Eternal Life: Why We Can't Lose It Once We Get It***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 14:15,21,23-24***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 12:4-11***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 3:10-15***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**