

# *Do You Have Eternal Life?*



*Steven Brown*

## Introduction

There have been many sermons, books, informal discussions and bible studies dedicated to this subject of eternal life. However, I have yet to see or hear of anyone discuss, list or quote all the scripture pertaining to New Testament Salvation and reconcile the opposing sides of this issue which has needlessly confused and perplexed the world for too long.

The biggest flaw in most theological arguments today, as I have observed, is this: as Christians, no matter what denomination (or lack of denominational ties) we will many times use the phrase; "I think...", "I feel..." or my all time favorite; "I was brought up to believe..." instead of saying "God says..." or "God's word says..." Therefore we should not be so interested in what other fallible humans think or feel. Instead we should be more concerned with what God thinks and has said according to His inerrant, inspired Word, given to us in the form of the Bible. Because it does not matter what we think, feel or believe until we search the depths of scripture to determine what is truth and what is not.

My goal in this booklet is to bring to light every possible piece of Biblical evidence regarding the doctrine of Eternal Life, otherwise known as Salvation, or being born-again. In studying the Word of God, we must remember two things which are of major importance to our faith, and these are:

1. The Bible, in its entirety, has NO errors or contradictions in it!

If we don't believe that, we might as well throw out the Bible and just "wing it". Which unfortunately, has happened all too often in the Church across America and around the world with disastrous results. (Such as Jim Jones, David Koresh, etc.)

2. If there seems to be a possible conflict of any kind regarding the tenets of Christianity, or doctrine, it is up to us as believers to reconcile the two points through an extensive, exhaustive research of the Word of God.

We must also be careful not to let our biases or prejudicial thoughts cloud our vision so as to obtain the truth, untainted by opinion. Because I have always found the following to be true: Fact can change opinion, but opinion will NEVER change fact!

So my intent and vision is to shed the light of truth, by God's Word on an otherwise clouded and sometimes confusing issue which has heretofore divided the Church.

Let's look at some basic, undeniable truths:

First, we must realize we are sinners, just as stated in:

**Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."**

Next, we come to the understanding that there are consequences to our sins, such as found in

**Romans 6:23 - "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

Third, we should know God has made a way to escape those consequences, as we read in

**Romans 5:8 - "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

**John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life."**

And fourth, we must accept this free gift as we read in

**Romans 10:9 - "...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."**

Then in **verse 13** we read: **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved."**

So, now what? Once we've done all that, and are assured we have been saved, what then? Well, let's look at what God's Word has to say about this thing we call Salvation, or Eternal Life.

## **1. SALVATION IS ETERNAL/EVER-LASTING.**

**Matthew 25:46 - "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."**

**John 3:15-16 - "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

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

**John 4:14 - "But whosoever drinketh of the water I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."**

**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."**

**John 6:40 - "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one that seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."**

**John 6:54 - "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day."**

**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."**

**John 12:25- "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."**

**John 17:3- "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."**

**Romans 6:23- "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

**I Timothy 1:16- "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me Jesus Christ might show forth all long-suffering, for a pattern to which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."**

**Hebrews 5:9- "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey him."**

**Hebrews 9:12- "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."**

**I Peter 5:10- "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."**

**I John 5:11-13- "And this is the record, that God hath given unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son, hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written into you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."**

Think about this: If something is considered to be eternal or everlasting, it can never end! Sounds simple enough, but when does this eternal life begin? Here on earth, or after we get to Heaven? Let's see what God's Word has to say about it.

## 2. SALVATION (ETERNAL/EVERLASTING LIFE) CAN BEGIN NOW!

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

**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."**

**John 6:54- "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day."**

**John 5:11-13- "And this is the record, that God hath given unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son, hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written into you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."**

If you will notice, in all the scriptures quoted above, God chose to have the writer use the present tense when referring to eternal life. Jesus' himself is quoted twice (John 5:24/6:54) as telling us if we "**hear his words**" and "**believe**" on the one who sent him, we "**hath**" (have) "**everlasting**" or "**eternal life**"! Note these scriptures do not say we will have, or might have eternal life. No, they tell us plainly and straight-forward, we have eternal life right now (present tense), when we believe on Jesus for our salvation and receive His free gift of everlasting life.

Therefore, if we have eternal, everlasting, never-ending life, we cannot lose it. Otherwise God would have to call it temporary/eternal life, a possibility of everlasting life, or a chance at eternal life, if we live a sinless or near-sinless life. But this is not the case.

The problem, or seemingly so, is the fact that we've all seen those people in church who allegedly receive a conversion experience, but a few months (or weeks) later are back in the same old lifestyle. Jesus warned us about this in the parable of the Sower and the Seed (**Mark 4:3-20**). Many people will go to church, try to live a "good" life and even profess to be a Christian, but have never sincerely encountered a true conversion experience with Jesus Christ. Sure they know all the rituals, phrases and even many scripture verses, but all too often these quasi-Christians have no depth, just as Jesus spoke of in the parable. The Word is "**sown on stony ground**" (their hearts) and the seed "springs up" (it's new and exciting), but it has "**no root**" (no depth of sincerity or repentance) so they "**wither away**". To put it simply, they have a head knowledge, but no heart knowledge.

This brings us to the third fact about salvation.

### **3. SALVATION CHANGES LIVES, HEARTS AND MINDS, PERMANENTLY.**

Just as Paul the Apostle said in:

**2nd Corinthians 5:17- "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new".**

You'll notice he didn't say we might be a new creature, or we can be a new creature. Nor did he say some things become new, or most things become new. No, he said "...**he is a new creature...**" and "...**all things become new**".

Just as the tadpole becomes a frog, and a caterpillar becomes a butterfly through the process of metamorphosis, so we lowly humans become children of God through the metamorphosis of salvation. The frog and the butterfly can never go back to being a tadpole or caterpillar because they are new creatures. Likewise, we as born-again, sanctified, spirit-filled, believers in Christ can no longer go back to being mere worldly humans, with no regard for Jesus because we are now "**new creatures**" or "**a new creation**" as some translations read.

#### **4. SALVATION IS BY GRACE, NOT WORKS.**

I don't know of any born-again, Bible-believing Christian, who would disagree with this point. However, it has always amazed me to see some of those same believers, who would defend to the death, this basic tenet that salvation is by grace and no amount of work, on our part can earn it, will proclaim in the same breath that we must work to keep it! Even though they know the free gift of "Eternal Life" cannot be obtained by works, somehow they believe it must be maintained by works. Let's see what the Word of God has to say about this.

***Ephesians 2:8-10 - "For by grace are you saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."***

***Galatians 2:16-21 - "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law, am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live. Yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."***

***Romans 3:20-28 "Therefore by the deeds of the law, there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ, unto all, and upon all them that believe, for there is no difference: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God: To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is the boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the law."***

Salvation is a free gift! If someone gives you a free gift, there are no "strings" attached. They cannot later say you must work for them in order to keep that gift. If so, this "free gift" is no longer free, but a reward, or wage for your work.

**Romans 5:15-21 "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one, many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence, death reigned by one; much more, they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men unto condemnation; even so, by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one, many shall be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."**

Furthermore, God never changes His mind when He gives us a gift.

**Romans 11:29 - "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."**

## **5. SALVATION IS A PROMISE**

**Acts 2:38-39**- *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call."*

**Hebrews 9:15** - *"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."*

**Galatians 3:21-29** - *"Is the law then against God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up into the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise."*

**Romans 10:9-13** - *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

Notice the previous scripture says "...**shall be saved**" not ...might be saved, or ...can be saved, but "...**shall be saved!!!**"

**Acts 2:21**- *"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved."*

**John 10:9**- *"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture."*

Even in **John 3:16**, we read: "...whosoever believeth on Him (Jesus) shall never perish, but have everlasting life."

God does not go back on His word, so we can believe Him to carry out His promises.

**2nd Peter 3:9 - "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."**

**Galatians 3:15-18 - "Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannuleth or addeth thereto. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed which is Christ. And this I say that the covenant, of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise."**

**1st John 1:9- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

Therefore, since Salvation is a promise, we can know we have eternal life.

**1st John 5:12-13 - "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that you believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."**

## **6. SALVATION IS KEPT BY GOD'S POWER, NOT OUR OWN.**

**John 10:27-30 - "My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father which gave them me is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one."**

You'll notice Jesus said "...**they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand**". Of course we know that when the Bible uses the word "**man**" in general terms such as this, it is referring to man-kind (including woman), or as the New International Version says: "**no one can snatch them out of my hand.**" Now, if "**no man**" (or "**no one**") can pluck or snatch us out of Jesus' hand, that all-inclusive "**no one**" refers to ourselves as well, who are His "**sheep**" and have been saved.

Therefore, He is saying there is nothing we or anyone else can do to take us out of the hand of Jesus, if we have been given eternal life. Furthermore, since Jesus is God, we are kept by the power of God.

**2nd Timothy 1:12 - "...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."**

**1st Peter 1:3-5 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time."**

**2nd Corinthians 1:20-22- "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God. Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."**

**Ephesians 4:30 - "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."**

## **7. SALVATION IS THROUGH A GENUINE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS AS SAVIOR AND LORD.**

Listen to the words of Jesus in the following scripture:

**Matthew 7:21- "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven but he who doeth the will of my Father which art in Heaven"**

What is God's will for us? That we would repent, believe on Jesus and be born-again. Jesus goes on:

**Matthew 7:22- "Many will say to me in that day Lord Lord have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?"**

Here again these are people counting on their works for salvation. But listen carefully to the next verse:

**Matthew 7:23- "And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity."**

Notice He didn't merely say I do not know you, or I knew you once, but don't know you now. No, he said "***I never knew you***". So Jesus is explaining to us that there are those of us who profess to be Christians, and may even work in the ministry, possibly even preachers, who have seemingly done great things for God, but have never come to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.

This is possibly why we have all seen people who are supposedly Christians who totally turn away from God. Because Jesus never knew them as his sheep (born-again believers).

### **Let us review what we've discussed so far:**

**Salvation is eternal/everlasting.**

**Salvation is obtainable right now.**

**Salvation changes lives, hearts and minds permanently**

**Salvation is by Grace, not works.**

**Salvation is a promise.**

**Salvation is kept/sealed by God's power.**

**Salvation is through a genuine relationship with Jesus.**

So, now if we cannot lose our Salvation then we can still live in sin and get away with it right? WRONG! Just as **2nd Corinthians 5:17** says; we are "**new creatures**" when we accept Christ as Savior. Thus, we won't want to continue living a life of Sin.

**Romans 6:1-6** - *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, shall we be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."*

**Romans 6:14-18** - *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."*

We are no longer in bondage to sin, however since we now have both the old sin nature and the new righteous nature we constantly have to fight against the old nature. Just as Paul spoke of in...

**Romans 7:14-25** - *"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good I would do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."*

We are carnal in that we reside in these bodies born into sin, but when we accept Christ as Savior, we also receive a spiritual nature. Therefore our motivation, or as some have called it; our "Want-To" has changed. Although we sometimes let our guard down and

give in to temptation, we instantly or shortly thereafter are convicted in our hearts and minds by God through the Holy Spirit then are "chastened" (reproved), or "chastised" (corrected) by the Lord because we are his children. I can tell you from experience that the most miserable person on the face of the earth is a Christian who has sin his or her life. But ironically the very chastisement for sin we receive from God also serves to show us that we are still his children.

**Hebrews 12:6-8 - "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father hasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then ye are bastards and not sons."**

God not only wants us to have eternal life, but to have an abundant life here on earth.

**John 10:10- "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."**

And though our works are not a requirement to obtaining, or maintaining salvation, God's will for us is to do good works.

**Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."**

And those very works will determine our rewards.

**I Corinthians 3:13-15 - "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire: and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."**

Of course we must realize the difference between a gift and reward; a gift is given unconditionally, with no strings attached, and cannot be earned. A reward however, is payment for work accomplished or task completed.

The problem occurs when we confuse the two, when in fact our "Salvation" or "Eternal Life" is a free, unconditional gift which we need only to believe and receive in faith. But our rewards are given on the condition of our works, not only if we have works but what kind they are. (I Corinthians 3:13) If our works are not good or our motives impure, we will "suffer loss" (I Corinthians 3:15) but, we will still "BE SAVED!"

**Scripture used in this booklet:**

(All scripture quoted in this booklet is from the King James Version)

**Matthew 7:21-23**

**Romans 7: 14-25**

**Matthew 25:46**

**Romans 10:9-13**

**Mark 4:3-20**

**Romans 11:29**

**John 3:15-16**

**1st Corinthians 3:13-15**

**John 3:36**

**2nd Corinthians 1:20-22**

**John 4:14**

**2nd Corinthians 5:17**

**John 5:24**

**Galatians 2:16-21**

**John 6:40**

**Galatians 3:15-18**

**John 6:54**

**Galatians 3:21-29**

**John 10:10**

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

**John 10:27-30**

**Ephesians 4:30**

**Hebrews 5:9**

**1st Timothy 1:16**

**John 12:25**

**2nd Timothy 1:12**

**John 17:3**

**Hebrews 9:12**

**Acts 2:21**

**Hebrews 9:15**

**Acts 2:38-39**

**Hebrews 12:6-8**

**Romans 3:20-28**

**1st Peter 1:3-5**

**Romans 5:15-21**

**1st Peter 5:10**

**Romans 6:1-6**

**2nd Peter 3:9**

**Romans 6:14-18**

**1st John 1:9**

**Romans 6:23**

**1st John 5:11-13**

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