

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE

BUT ARE AFRAID TO ASK

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Can a Christian Lose Their Salvation?

John 10:1–30

We all have questions. Whether you consider yourself a Christian or not, you have questions about faith, science, culture, and ultimately your own life. We are discussing these questions at home, at work, with friends, and online. Why shouldn't we discuss these questions with our church family? The Scriptures, because of the Holy Spirit, are living and active, able to speak to questions asked 2,000 years later. So, can a Christian lose their salvation?

We have an eternal assurance of our salvation because God ordains and orchestrates our salvation from beginning to end.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

John 10:1–30

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. **2** But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. **5** A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” **6** This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8** All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. **11** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13** He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. **14** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. **17** For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. **18** No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

19 There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. **20** Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” **21** Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

22 At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, **23** and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. **24** So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” **25** Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, **26** but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. **30** I and the Father are one.”

- What has been your understanding of a person's salvation? Are they secure or can they lose their salvation? Why do you hold to that understanding?
- Look back over the parable Jesus shares in John 10. Who are the main characters in this parable?
- What is the point of the parable Jesus shares?
- In John 10 there are two "I Am" statements. Jesus says "I am the Door" and "I am the Good Shepherd." What do these two statements tell us about Jesus?
- Read Ephesians 2:8–9. How does Paul describe salvation?
- What is the connection between salvation being something you cannot earn and salvation being something you cannot lose?
- How does it make you feel to know you can't earn salvation? How does it make you feel to know you can't lose your salvation?
- How do you think we should understand people who were "Christians" but then walked away from Jesus?
- How does the reality that we can't earn nor lose our salvation give us assurance of our salvation?
- How should our assurance of salvation compel us to live?