

- The **Bible**, like the **Catholic Church**, gives three categories that people may fall into when they die. Only the first category includes people who will make it to heaven. The most important question, then, is what it means to be a member of category #1.
- Sadly, many Christians are often confused when answering this question since some Protestant denominations deny the existence of category #2. These churches teach that if someone is truly saved, he or she will persevere to the end. Thus, category #2 does not (and can not) exist. Other churches admit the category exists but preach incorrectly that anyone in it will still go to heaven. These churches teach that once we are saved, nothing we could ever do (including adultery, murder, fornication, unrepentance, etc.) could ever make us lose our salvation. Thus, anyone in category #2 will go to heaven. Oddly, both teachings often go by the same name: “eternal security.” In fact, some Protestant pastors occasionally contradict themselves by preaching in one breath that category #2 doesn’t exist and in another that anyone in category #2 is going to heaven. If category #2 exists, and if those in it will not make it to heaven (apart from repentance), then there may be many Christians whose eternity is not as secure as they believe. The Protestant denial and/or redefinition of category #2 is a rejection of the historic, Biblical, Christian teaching, passed down from the apostles themselves, that it is possible to lose one’s salvation.
- This tract’s purpose is to give non-Catholic Christians 1) a visual image to hold in mind and 2) the Biblical support for the existence of each category. After all, it would be tragic for one to think all along that they were a member of category #1 only to find after their dying breath that they were actually a member of category #2. It would be tragic to die in a state of sin only because one didn’t realize that, although they were once saved, it was possible to lose their salvation. The Biblical teaching on salvation is **a matter of life and death**, and it is imperative that you find a church that both teaches you correctly about the effects of sin and offers the means to be forgiven of serious sins. The Church that Jesus established 2,000 years ago is also the Church that takes sin most seriously and offers the sacramental means that Jesus established for the forgiveness of sins. That Church is the Roman Catholic Church.
- On the reverse side of this page are Bible verses that support the existence of all three categories. Before flipping this tract over, ask yourself: how many verses do you think can be found in the Bible that clearly indicate the existence and Catholic understanding of category #2? How many would (and *should*) it take to convince you? Also included are two extra sets of verses, the first of which compiles all the different answers to the question “what must I do to be saved” that are given in the Bible. The second list compiles all the verses in which salvation is viewed as contingent, as something that you get “if” you do something else. When you read these passages, simply ask yourself these two questions: “how often have I heard my pastor give these Biblical answers to the question?” and “how would I feel about these answers if my pastor spoke them as part of his sermon? Would I think he had embraced a false doctrine? Would he suddenly sound...Catholic?” Yet, is not each “answer” taken straight out of the Bible? I pray that the Holy Spirit convict your heart so that you will accept ALL the answers that the Bible gives to these important questions. If you once left the Catholic Church because someone taught you a false Gospel--that all you had to do to be saved was accept Christ as your savior and your eternal salvation would be secured--now is the time to read these Bible passages and return home to the Church that offers the *truly* Biblical path to heaven.
- Before turning this tract over, join me in praying the following prayer: *Dear Jesus, I love you and I have accepted you as my Lord and Savior. Because I love you, I want to worship you in the Church that teaches the truth about salvation. I want to embrace all of what the Bible says about salvation, not just one or two verses that some people have used to promote a false tradition of men. You prayed in John 17 that all Christians would be one like you and the Father are one, yet I have been part of a belief system that has split Christians into 40,000+ denominations. Grant me the grace to see your plan of salvation and your plan for the church, and grant me the humility to obediently come home to the Church you built on Peter 2,000 years ago. Help me to see that this Church faithfully teaches today the doctrines you entrusted to it through your ministry and through the power of the Holy Spirit. I am willing to suffer anything to follow you where the truth leads me, because I know you are the Truth. Open my heart now, Lord, to the truth of your Holy Scriptures.*

Jesus’s Seed Analogy: Planted and Bore Good Fruit
(Luke 8:4-15)

At death,
which category
do you hope
to be in?

#1
Saved
and
persevered

Planted but withered

#2
Saved
but did not
persevere

Fell on the path (not planted)

#3
Was not
saved
(and did not
persevere)

#1

SAVED and PERSEVERED

[Under
Construction]

Luke 8:15
Heb. 3:14
Matt. 10:22
Matt. 24:13
Matt. 10:22

#2 ?

Verses used by Protestants to deny the existence of Category #2:

1 John 5:13 "...so that you who believe...may know that you have eternal life."

Problems: (1) Takes verse out of context, which is a defense against the gnostics, who claimed you must have a secret, hidden knowledge to be saved.

(2) Ignores the strong element of contingency in the same letter (see far right).

John 10:25-30 "My sheep know my voice...I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."

Problems: (1) This does not necessarily mean that I can not pull myself out of God's hand. (2) The verb tense is "present linear," which implies a continuing action: "continue to know" and "continue to give" (and this is according to Baptist theologian Dale Moody in his systematic theology *The Word of Truth*, pg. 357).

John 6:37 "All that the father gives will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."

Problems: (1) Once again, the present participle is used in the Greek, showing a continuous "giving" and "coming."

Rom. 8:35-39 No "trouble or hardship, persecution, famine [etc.]...death nor life, angel nor demon [etc.]...can separate us from the love of Christ."

Problems: (1) Notice that this verse does not say "neither adultery nor murder nor fornication [etc.] can separate us from the love of Christ." (2) This verse states that no suffering or outside entity can separate us, but sin is the avoidance of suffering and an internal defiance of our free will. (3) The Bible can not contradict itself, and the column to the immediate right shows that it is possible to lose one's salvation through sin (see 1 John 5:16-17).

#2

SAVED but did not PERSEVERE

Luke 8:13 Seeds receive Word with joy, but no root.
Luke 12:42-46 Master assigns place w/ unbelievers
Luke 15:11-32 Prod. son was "dead but alive x2"
John 6:66-71 Disciples turned their backs on Jesus
John 15:2 no fruit=cut off from vine

John 15:6 cut from vine=thrown in fire
John 17:12 Judas was lost, doomed to destruction
Rom. 6:15-16 slave to sin=death

Rom. 11:20 unbelief=broken branches
Rom. 11:21 God will not spare you either.

Rom. 11:22 Continue in kindness or cut off
1 Cor. 6:9-10 Fornicators [etc.] will not inherit...

1 Cor. 9:23-27 St. Paul disqualified from prize?
1 Cor. 15:1-2 Otherwise, you have believed in vain

Gal. 5:1-4; 19-20 You have fallen away from grace
Col. 1:21-23 Reconciled...if you continue in faith

Heb. 3:6 In house IF we hold on to courage/hope
Heb. 3:8 If Today...harden not your hearts

Heb. 3:12 Unbelieving hearts turn away from God
Heb. 3:14 Share in Christ IF we hold firmly till end

Heb. 6:4-6 ...if they [the saved] fall away...
Heb. 6:8 ...in the end it will be burned.

Heb. 10:23-31 If we deliberately keep sinning...
2 Pet. 2:20-22 If those [saved]...are overcome...

Rev. 22:19 Take away words=take away share
Matt. 5:27-32 Pluck out lustful eye vs. body to hell

Matt. 6:12-15 Forgive us...as we have forgiven
Matt. 13:40-42 evil-doers thrown in fire like weeds

Matt. 18:21-35 Master/servant parable re. debts
Rom. 8:13 to live according to sinful nature=death

1 Cor. 10:12 Be careful that you do not fall!
Heb. 12:25 ...how will we escape if we turn away?

2 Cor. 11:2-4 Like Eve, your minds...led astray.
Gal. 6:7-9 We will reap...IF we do not give up

Col. 2:18-19 Don't let anyone disqualify you...
1 Tim. 1:5-6 ...some have wandered away...

1 Tim. 1:19 ...some have shipwrecked their faith
1 Tim. 1:20 ...these I have handed over to Satan.

1 Tim. 4:1 ...some will abandon the faith...
1 Tim. 5:8 denying faith=worse than unbeliever

1 Tim. 5:15 Some have turned to follow Satan.
1 Tim. 6:10 Some...have wandered from the faith

1 Tim. 6:18-19 do good...to take hold of life
Heb. 2:1 ...so that we do not drift away

Heb. 2:3 ...no escape if we ignore salvation
Heb. 10:35-39 ...those who shrink back=destroyed

James 5:19-20 wander from truth = sin = death
2 Pet. 1:5-11 If you do these things=never fall

2 Pet. 2:20-22 Saved+corrupted=worse than before
2 Pet. 3:16-17 the ignorant twist scripture=destr.

OTHERS: Jude 4; 1 John 2:28; Rev. 3:4; Rev. 3:5; Rev. 3:11; Eph. 5:5; 2 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 11:32; 1 Tim 3:6; Matt. 18:7-9; Heb.4: 1-4;

Rev. 2:4-7, 10, 19-26; Rev. 12:8

#3

NOT SAVED and did not PERSEVERE

[Under
Construction]

Luke 8:12
1 John 1:6-10
1 John 2:19
1 John 3:6
1 John 3:7-10

Why knowing you are "eternally secure" is impossible

1. Even if someone who is truly saved will *surely* persevere to the end in theory (which denies all the evidence in category #2), there is still no way to know *right now* if I will persevere. Thus, there is no way to know that one is truly saved even at this moment! How secure is that? To compensate, one ends up basing their faith on the quality of their own faith at the moment they made that "once saved, always saved" confession of faith five, ten, twenty years ago. But the fact that many people make that same act of faith but don't persevere (thus showing that they weren't saved to begin with) gives reason to question whether one's act of faith was any different.

2. As the Bible says, not everyone who cries "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 7:21). So what if I don't have to persevere, how do I know my act of faith was truly motivated by grace and was not done for mixed or selfish motives? How do you know your faith was truly a saving faith "from above"? You can't truly know until you die. Not a very secure knowledge comes from this, either.

3. As Catholics, we base our security on God's promises--the sacramental oaths that Christ swears on our behalf. We place our trust not on our faith but on Christ's work on us through Baptism, the Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, and Holy Orders--the seven grace-filled, life-giving sacraments that the Christian faithful have practiced for two millennia.

4. Our testimony is not our one time act of faith. Rather, the "Spirit, Water, and Blood" testify in our hearts (1 Jn 5:7-10) through Baptism and the Eucharist.

What must I do to be saved?

What does the Bible say we must do to have eternal life?

Believe Mark 16:16; Acts 16:31
Have faith Eph. 2:8; Rom. 3:28
Repent Acts 2:38
Be baptized Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16
Do good 3 John 1:11
Good works James 2:14-26
Forgive Matt. 6:12; Mark 11:25
Have love 1 John 4:8
Have hope Rom. 8:24
Eat Jesus's flesh and drink his blood John 6:53
Obey the commandments Matt. 5:19, 19:17
Do what is right 1 John 2:29
Give to the needy 1 John 3:17
Take up our cross Matt. 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23
Deny ourselves Matt. 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23
Stand firm to the end Matt. 10:22
Call...name of the Lord Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:13
Confess with your mouth Rom. 10:9
Hold firmly to the word 1 Cor. 15:2
Love the truth 2 Thess. 2:10
Believe the truth 2 Thess. 2:13
Share in Christ's sufferings Rom. 8:17

What does Protestant theology
say we must do to have eternal life?
Have faith alone ??????
(Martin Luther tried to fill in the "?????" by
adding the word "alone" to Rom. 3:28.)

What does the Bible say about
faith alone?
"You see that a person is justified by what he
does and *not by faith alone*." (James 2:24)
(Martin Luther called James an "epistle of
straw." Is that how one should treat the Bible?)

Protestant theology and the word "alone"

Martin Luther's addition of the word "alone" to the Bible and his introduction of the new doctrine of "sola fide" (faith alone) has made the word "alone" the foundation for much Protestant theology. By saying we are saved by faith alone, Protestant theology has rendered itself incapable of accounting for all the other things the Bible says we must do to be saved, both positively (like doing good works) and negatively (like avoiding sin). "Faith alone" destroys faith because the truth faith does not isolate faith from all the other things listed above. The word "alone" leads to an "either/or" mentality that forces many Protestants to pit the items on the list above against one another (like faith versus works or faith versus baptism). Catholic theology is founded on "both/and," which produces a Biblical hermeneutic open to all the evidence. Protestant theology depends on the word "alone;" remove it, and Protestant theology ceases to exist.

"Saved, IF..." Salvation as Contingent

John 15:10 2 Pet. 1:5-11 1 John 2:15
Romans 11:22 1 John 1:6 1 John 2:24
1 Cor. 15:2 1 John 1:7 1 John 3:6
Gal. 5:2-4 1 John 1:8 1 John 3:7-10
Col. 1:23 1 John 1:9 1 John 3:17
Heb. 3:6 1 John 1:10 1 John 3:24
Heb. 3:14 1 John 2:3 1 John 4:7-8
Rom. 8:13 1 John 2:4 1 John 4:16-18
Gal. 6:9 1 John 2:5 1 John 5:2-5
1 Tim. 5:8 1 John 2:9-11 2 Tim. 2:12
1 Tim. 2:15 Matt. 18:35
Matt. 6:14-15 Rom. 8:17

Why do Protestants believe in Eternal Security?

1. The root to Eternal Security is the doctrine of "sola fide." If "sola fide" is false, then Eternal Security is impossible.
2. For "sola fide" to be conceivable, M. Luther described justification in terms of a courtroom in which God legally declares us to be righteous. He doesn't make us righteous; he doesn't infuse us with his grace. He merely "imputes" Christ's righteousness on us.
3. Thus, when the just judge sees us on judgement day, he will only see Christ's righteousness, not our own filth. As M. Luther put it, we remain "dung hills covered with snow."
4. Therefore, after justification, God only sees Christ's righteousness. Nothing we do will be seen by God anyway. According to this theology, nothing we do can be good or be of any good. Mother Teresa is really no better off than a "saved" prostitute in God's eyes, because all God sees is Christ.

What has the Roman Catholic Church taught since Jesus founded her?

1. Christ infuses us with his grace, making us holy, and making us God's children. He changes us, making us partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4).
2. Rather than remain piles of dung, Christ washes us in baptism from all sin (Acts 22:16).
3. To enter heaven, we must be perfect, since nothing imperfect can enter heaven (Rev. 21:27).
4. In his mercy, God saves us, forgives us our sins, and provides us the grace to live righteously. In his mercy, he cleanses us with his Blood from any remaining attachments to sin after we die, purging away the dross from our souls (1 Cor. 3:13-15).