

Can a Christian Lose His Salvation?



**Exposing, Without a Doubt, One of the
Greatest Deceptions in the Church Today**

By Chris Simpson

OUTLINE

- * Salvation is Only by Grace
- * We Are Saved to Work, Not to Sit
- * Reprobation of the Believer
- * Eternal Life is Reaped
- * The Sin Unto Death
- * Heaven is For Overcomers
- * How Can the Righteous Prevent Spiritual Death?
- * The Bread of Life
- * Index of Scriptures on Reprobation

For additional copies:

New Wine Christian Fellowship

1033 Fairmont Parkway

Pasadena, TX 77504

(713) 910-3330

(New Wine's web page: www.newwineonline.com)

*H*ave you ever heard of the term, “sacred cow?” “Sacred cow” is an expression often used to refer to a doctrine or to a belief that someone holds to be sacrosanct, or beyond any doubt or question. The expression comes from India, where those of the Hindu faith consider cows to be holy. Because Hinduism is the dominant religion in India, it is against the law to bother the cows there in any way. While in India several years ago, I was actually involved in a traffic jam in the city of Chennai caused by a “sacred” cow standing in the middle of the road. We couldn’t move the cow, so we had to find some other way to get around it!

We have sacred cows in America, too; they’re just not the kind you find in the middle of a road in India. Our sacred cows tend to be the doctrines and beliefs that we’ve held for so long that they’re above question. These types of “sacred cows” are especially dangerous when it comes to what we believe the Bible really says.

I believe it’s essential that we approach the Word of God as little children, letting it speak to us in spite of what we may already believe. When the Bible is read with a belief system in place, there’s a tendency to attempt to fit the scripture into that belief system - sort of like trying to fit a round peg into a square hole. The Lord wants us to lay down our agendas and preconceived ideas and come to His Word with childlike simplicity. The Bible is not supposed to be complicated. I believe God has given us His

Word in such a way that we can understand it as long as we have a reasonable and open heart.

The particular doctrinal “sacred cow” that I want to address in this article is, I believe, the biggest deception in the evangelical Church today. In fact, it is one that I, myself, was deceived by for over 30 years. Thankfully, over the last few years the Lord has been opening my eyes concerning this matter and has had me to completely abandon a few old belief systems in order to embrace the truth. Let’s begin exposing this sacred cow by laying out a basic foundation that almost everyone will agree with.

Salvation is Only by Grace

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” (Romans 6:14)

I love this scripture! I believe it gives us the key to finding freedom from sin. God wants to deliver us from every vestige of legalism so that we can walk totally in grace. When you walk in grace, sin no longer has a hold on you! Paul said, *“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any”* (I Corinthians 6:12). He exhorted the Galatians to *“stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free”* (Galatians 5:1). Freedom here means “total, unrestrained freedom.” The freedom we have in Christ is unbelievable! The entire book of Galatians was written to expose the enemy’s attempts to rob the church of its freedom in Christ and to bring it into the captivity of legalism. But, Paul says we

are made right before God, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy..”* (Titus 3:5).

Grace enables us to overcome sin because, when you labor under legalism, you are under the jurisdiction of the devil. Satan works by laws, but God told Adam and Eve to stay away from the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.” He never intended man to live by “do’s and dont’s.” When we try to live by laws, we tend not to do what we should, and to do what we should not. This quandary is described in detail in Romans chapter seven.

“For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.” (Psalm 125:3)

When you live under the jurisdiction of the devil, it is very easy to slip into sin. This is why you’ll never overcome sin by trying harder. Freedom from sin is found by getting out from under the authority of the enemy and getting under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. It’s all about authority and to whom are you submitted. Jesus said to the Pharisees and Sadducees, “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.” They were under the jurisdiction of the devil and could not help but sin. But Jesus also said, “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). We are under the authority of Jesus and the grace found in Him. Only by embracing this gospel of Jesus Christ does a person receive eternal life.

We are Saved to Work,
Not to Sit

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:8-10)

In this verse, Paul introduces a concept many today don't understand. We are not saved by works, but we are saved to work. James says, *“Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works’ . . . For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”* (James 2:17-18, 26). There are those who believe that James' statements here contradict Paul's doctrine that salvation is by grace alone. However, the truth is that the two beliefs flow together. We are saved so that we can then do the works of the Kingdom of God. James is saying that if your faith does not express itself in fruit, then it is likely your faith is not legitimate. Jesus said the same thing in Matthew 7:20, *“By their fruits you will know them.”* So, if you are genuinely born again, you will bear genuine fruit to attest to and validate this reality.

Understanding this truth is so important because it has to do with your very eternity! Proverbs tells us that, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge”* (Proverbs 1:7). Unfortunately, the evangelical culture today is quite

deceived. Many believe that salvation is simply a one time event and will suffice for all eternity in spite of how of a person lives. However, there will be many who will stand before Jesus thinking that they belong to Him, only to hear Him say, *“I never knew you”* (Matthew 7:22-23). Their “decision for Christ” was not borne out in the way they lived.

One reason why a person's lifestyle may not reflect their “decision for Christ” is that they're offered a “cheap Jesus.” They are told to “try Jesus,” and that He will improve their lives. The Jesus preached today tends to be more of a self-help guru to better your life than of a Savior from the devastation of sin. Today most are not told the sobering truth that they are going to Hell if they do not repent and turn from their sins. Did you know that the concept of “accepting Jesus as your personal Savior” is found nowhere in the Word? It's not that we are to accept Him, it's that we are damned to an eternal Hell without Him! We must come to Him in humility, repent of our sins, and submit to His authority in order to escape His eternal judgment.

Most sermons in today's evangelical church tend to be, “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.” Did you know that nowhere in the entire book of Acts is God's love preached? What is preached is God's wrath, mercy, and forgiveness. God shows His love in that He gave us His only begotten Son, who came and rescued us from an eternal Hell. His gracious kindness and mercy is shown to us by bringing us into reconciliation with His Father. While it is His goodness that leads us to repentance, it is repentance that His goodness is intended to lead us to.

By and large, the Church today does not teach the fundamentals of repentance. To repent means to utterly turn from your sin. “Repent” was the first thing Peter told the Jews when they asked him how they could be saved; (Acts 2:37-38) the first word out of John the Baptist’s mouth; (Matthew 3:1-2) and the first message of Jesus Himself (Matthew 3:17). Over and over the churches in the Book of Revelation are told that serious consequences would follow if they did not repent. How sad that a doctrine so important in scripture is so neglected by the Church!

In today’s culture, most ministers do not want to be perceived as a hellfire and brimstone preacher, but that is exactly what Jesus was. He spoke far more of Hell than He did of Heaven. The result of the soft gospel preached today is that people now see salvation as though it were a flu shot! You take it and are thereafter immune from any penalty for your sin. The subtle lie that is believed is that as a born-again believer you are now free to live any way you please. But, this is not what Jesus taught!

Jesus’ Plan of Salvation

“Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.” (Luke 9:23-26)

This scripture lays out Jesus’ plan of salvation. Jesus never taught that going to Heaven was solely the result of a decision that you made at one point in your life. Instead, He calls you to lay down your life and your rights every single day. He asks you to pick up the cross every day and follow Him. He expects you to live unashamedly for Him, making a stand for Him and His righteousness in this corrupt world. You see, once you are born again, Jesus lives inside of you and equips you with the power of the Holy Spirit so that you can spend the rest of your life living for Him.

I have met many people over the years who had an initial salvation experience, but then went on to live the rest of their lives like the devil. They are compromised, full of the world and demonized. I do not believe these people are going to end up in Heaven. What began to open my heart to this truth is when, several years ago, my church started doing door-to-door evangelism. We met person after person who claimed to know Jesus, and yet lived an obviously ungodly life.

The sobering truth is that Heaven is not guaranteed to any person. Jesus said in Matthew 7:14 *"Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."* Being born again means you get through the gate. Jesus is the gate and the only way in. But, after the gate there is the narrow way that must be walked. So many today sadly believe that once they are saved, they can live their life any way they want and still have a place in glory. However, the Apostle Paul did not believe this!

Paul Feared Reprobation

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

The word “disqualified” that Paul uses here is the word “reprobate.” It means “not standing the test” or “not approved; that which does not prove itself as it ought, unfit for, spurious, to be rejected.” Even though the Apostle Paul had an incredible revelation of grace, he still had a healthy fear of reprobation. He knew that he needed to discipline himself, take up the cross daily, and follow Jesus, or else he, too, could fall away. Let’s examine another very interesting statement Paul makes in his letter to the Church in Phillipi.

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to

the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:8-14)

Paul begins by affirming that his salvation was by grace alone, but what does he mean when he says, “if by any means I may attain to the resurrection?” If he is saved, isn’t it guaranteed that he is going to be resurrected? Paul evidently did not think so. What is especially interesting here is that Paul uses the Greek word, “exanastasis” for resurrection instead of the usual word used, “anastasis.” This means the “out resurrection,” and this is the only place the word is used in scripture. Daniel 12 and Revelation 20 tell us there will be a general resurrection of the dead but Paul is saying, “I want to be raised in the resurrection of the elect.” He makes it clear that even he is not going to rest on his laurels, but is going to press in to Jesus to make his call and election sure (see 2 Peter 1:10).

Can the Righteous Die Spiritually?

“Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

Before Adam ever sinned God told him that if he ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he would die. In other words, Adam was still righteous when God told him he would die if he sinned. What's interesting to note is that when Adam did disobey God, he did not die as God had seemed to promise, but went on to live 930 years.

Just what was God saying then in His warning to Adam? The margin rendering, reflecting the true Hebrew meaning, gives us insight here. God said the result of disobedience would be, "dying, you shall die." God warned Adam that if he sinned, something in him would die, and that when it did, it would ultimately bring death to his physical body. In other words, when Adam sinned, he died spiritually. It then took many years for that spiritual death to work its way through his entire being and result in the death of his body.

Now, consider the serpent's words to Eve when he sought to seduce her to sin. He told her, "*You will not surely die*" (Genesis 3:4). He sought to deceive her by directly contradicting God's warning with the lie, "You can sin and not die." How interesting it is that the first lie that man ever "bought into" was that he could sin and get away with it! And what's more, Eve would never have disobeyed God if she had not first believed the devil's lie. It was not until she believed that she would not die as a result of her disobedience that she was willing to go ahead and disobey.

Today's doctrine of eternal security, which is basically that the righteous will not die spiritually because of sin, is identical to the lie Satan used to deceive Eve. He

wants you to believe that once you are declared righteous through the re-birth, you are eternally secure, and that you can sin without any eternal consequence. In other words, if you are born again, it really no longer matters what you do because you have a guaranteed place in Heaven. But, scripture tells a very different story. Let's look at some very sobering verses from Ezekiel.

Reprobation of the Believer

"Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand." (Ezekiel 3:20)

For all the years that I embraced the notion of eternal security, I really had a difficult time with this scripture! It clearly states that a righteous man who sins shall die. You can see this same idea expressed in Ezekiel 18:24, 26 and 33:13, 18. The concept of the spiritual death of the righteous is found not only in the Old Testament, it is the same doctrine that the New Testament calls "reprobation."

"For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Romans 8:13)

To establish that Paul is speaking to believers in this verse, let's look back and see to whom the letter to the Romans is addressed. Romans 1:7-8 says, "*To all who are*

in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.” Paul calls the recipients of the letter saints and speaks of their faith. He is clearly speaking to believers! In truth, every believer has at times “gotten in the flesh” and yet did not die. Therefore, we must understand that Paul is speaking of a spiritual death. Taken within the context of the entire New Testament, I don’t believe that Paul is saying you will spiritually die if you stumble and sin. What Paul is concerned about is the testimony of your life as a Christian. We all experience momentary failure; thank God for the blood of Jesus! But, if the overall fruit of your life is reflective of a life lived in the flesh, then you have real cause to be concerned.

Paul tells us what a life lived after the flesh looks like: *“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like . . . those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God”* (Galatians 5:19-21). To not inherit the kingdom of God is another way of saying that you are not going to Heaven. You cannot enter the gates of Heaven if these things are the fruit of your life, regardless of whether you, at some point, made a profession of faith.

“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived,

it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.” (James 1:14-16)

Here James shows the progressive path that leads to a believer’s spiritual death. First, the believer is tempted and enticed, and eventually he is lured away into sin and deception. This is so easily done. How many of us know believers who love Jesus but want to live with their partner or engage in homosexuality? It does not matter what the culture says, the scripture is always true. If you live in fornication you will spiritually die. Please note that James is speaking to those he calls his “brethren!”

Sin will kill you spiritually. It will damn you! *“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”* (Romans 6:16) This is why we should be so grateful for the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that He will, *“convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment”* (John 16:8). This is also why the Bible tells us how important it is to go to our brother and warn him when you see him in sin. To do so is to *“save a soul from death”* (James 5:20).

Eternal Life is Reaped!

“For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” (Galatians 6:8)

The Greek word for corruption used here is, “Phthora,” which means, “corruption, destruction, perishing.” Paul warns that if you sow to the flesh, you will destroy your life and your eternity! It amazes me that for 1600 years men read Romans 1:17, “*The just shall live by faith,*” and were not able to see the truth in that scripture. Finally, one monk, Martin Luther, stuck his head out of the dark ages, grasped its truth, and started the Reformation. I believe this scripture from Galatians has the same type of power to transform the Church. How many would live their Christian lives differently if they understood that eternal life is reaped, not guaranteed?

It is true that when you are born again you receive the “incorruptible seed” (see 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 3:9). In the gospels, Jesus also spoke of this seed (see Mark 4:26). But, Jesus also said that it was possible for someone, even after receiving that seed, to “*believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away*” (Luke 8:13). “Fall away” in this scripture is the same Greek word translated “reprobation” or “cast away.” Because Jesus totally finished the work of redemption, when you are born again you are given everything you need for salvation. However, you must walk out your new life with Jesus until the end. You must let the seed implanted in you bear fruit for all eternity. You are called to run the race, press to the mark, and endure to the end so that you can reap eternal life.

The Christian walk involves spiritual warfare. Satan will resist you every step of the way in an attempt to deceive you so that you fall away. This is a truth that at one time was well understood in the Church. In fact, the book

that made C. S. Lewis famous, *The Screwtape Letters*, is about this very thing. It is an expose of the tactics and schemes of the demons to seduce a Christian to come back back under the devil’s dominion. John Bunyon’s *Pilgrims Progress*, regarded as one of the most significant works of English literature ever, has the same premise. Quite simply, without a real understanding of the challenges of the Christian walk, a believer can be more easily overcome.

The Sin Unto Death

“If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.” (1 John 5:16-17)

To comprehend what John is saying in these rather arcane verses, you must understand that he was speaking to something in particular. You see, as a pastor, I’m called to speak to error, dysfunction and imbalance in order to rectify these things and bring in the truth. Or, I many need to speak to excess to try to bring balance. This is exactly what John is doing. He is speaking to an excess in the early Church in order to bring balance. A clue to what the nature of this excess was is found in the last verse of the epistle, “*Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*” (1 John 5:21)

The early Church experienced a time of intense persecution of Christians. In that oppressive culture, you ei-

ther “maxed it” for Jesus or else you worshipped idols. We don’t understand this black and white approach to Christianity in America today, but they do in other countries where Christianity is persecuted. To be a Christian in a country like China or Saudia Arabia means you are either living completely for Christ or you are compromising. In Sudan or Iraq, you either stand up for Christ, or you deny Him. This is what it was like during John’s day. They didn’t have the option of a comfortable “middle way” like we in American think we do.

For this reason, many people in those days walked away from their faith. They went back to idol worship because of the hardship and loss they experienced for standing up for the Lord. Once these people had made the choice to turn away from Christ, the Church knew there was no reason to even pray for them anymore (see Deuteronomy 3:26; Jeremiah 7:16, 14:11; Isaiah 57:16). Romans describes in several places how God deals with people who refuse to honor the truth by saying that He, “gave them up to uncleanness,” or “gave them over to a debased mind” (Romans 1:24, 28). God is a loving God who will leave the 99 and pursue the one who has wandered from the fold, but there is a point where even He is unwilling to cast His pearls before the swine.

I believe reprobation and apostasy were so common in the early Church that it caused the opposite imbalance that we have in the American Church today. They weren’t praying for their struggling brothers because they began to believe that every sin would lead to spiritual death. This is hard for us to fathom because these days we don’t believe

that any sin is unto death. John, however, had to remind the Church of his day that not all sin was unto death, and that there were many struggling believers that could still be reached and restored.

Go back and read those verses above from 1 John with this in mind; it’s the only way to comprehend what the Apostle was really saying. This understanding of reprobation in the early Church is totally lost today, largely because of the pervasive false doctrine of eternal security. In fact, the deception caused by this doctrine could be what causes “the great falling away” (see 2 Thessalonians 2:3). Once you believe that you can sin with impunity, with no fear of eternal consequence, why then remain pure? Why not focus on prosperity? Why not believe that Christ died on the cross so that you can live a life free from a bad self-image? Why embrace the cross? No wonder the Church has no power!

Heaven is For Overcomers!

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you have become reprobate.” (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Heaven has been cheapened by today’s gospel. The idea that you can live like the devil but still go to Heaven, merely on the basis of a decision you made for Christ some time in your past, is a slap in the face to those who have lived a consecrated life to be found worthy of that place. Heaven is for overcomers! It is a place for people who

were serious about Jesus and gave Him their all! *“For our God is a consuming fire”* (Hebrews 12:29). Exodus 20:20 says, *“For God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.”*

Jesus said, *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”* It’s the good and faithful, the one who began a good race and finished it to the very end, who will enter into the joy of the Lord (see Matthew 25:23). Peter says, *“Give diligence to make your calling and election sure”* (2 Peter 1:10), Paul puts it in even stronger language, *“For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world”* (1 Corinthians 11:31-32). Being condemned with the world means that we receive the same judgment as the unsaved world! Praise God that He loves us and will chasten us to save us from such judgment. This is why Hebrews tells us, *“Do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives”* (Hebrews 12:5-6). If you submit to God’s chastisement, it will lead you to repentance so that you will walk in the way. But, if you harden your heart against His chastening, then you risk being condemned with the world.

How Can the Righteous Prevent Spiritual Death?

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.” (John 8:51)

John was living in a time when many were being martyred for Christ. He knew very well that people who obeyed Christ still died physically, so obviously he is referring to a spiritual death in this passage. The key to avoiding spiritual death, according to John, simply comes down to obeying what Jesus says. This is exactly what Jesus said to His disciples the night before He died. *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”* (John 14:15). We are told in 1 John 5:3, *“His commandments are not burdensome,”* so if you will be obedient to what Jesus is saying to you to do, you will never die spiritually. Of course, the opposite is true as well. If you are born again but will not keep His sayings, you will see death.

Let’s look at another scripture where Jesus Himself spoke about eternal life:

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.’” (John 11:25)

Jesus is saying that those who believe in Him will be alive to Him spiritually forever! The word “believe” that Jesus uses here is totally misunderstood by those of us who live in today’s culture. To us, “believe” simply means to “mentally assent.” It has no more significance than to say, “I believe it will rain tomorrow.” The Greek word John uses is “Pisteuo” and actually means, “a continued commitment, trust and reliance.” What Jesus is saying is that as long as you continue to exhibit a trusting, committed, and obedient faith which results in good fruit and holiness, you will never die.

The Bread of Life!

"I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." (John 6:48-51)

There is a huge sector of Christendom that has taken what Jesus said in this passage very literally. The Catholic Church believes that Jesus is talking about the Lord's supper, and so they teach that the elements offered actually become Christ's body and blood. Therefore, they believe that if you will simply partake of communion, you will have eternal life. Yet Jesus said of His difficult words, *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life"* (John 6:63). He makes it clear that He is speaking spiritual language here, much like when He referred to His own body's death and resurrection when he said, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up"* (John 2:19).

Jesus makes the claim that He, Himself, is the Bread of Life! As long as you partake of Him, you will never die spiritually. But, if you cease to partake of Him, you will. He is saying, "I am life, come to Me!" Every other religion tells you that you must believe certain doctrines or embrace certain religious regimens in order to be right with God. Jesus says only, "Come to Me!" But, if you cease to come to Him, you will die.

Is a believer eternally secure? The answer is yes, if they continue in the Way and obey Jesus. Paul tells us that those who enter the Kingdom of God are those *"who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life"* (Romans 2:7).

Index of Scriptures on Reprobation

Whether a believer can experience spiritual death is addressed, either directly or indirectly, in many places in the scripture. The following is an index containing some of the scriptures that deal with this topic. Be a “Berean” and study these for yourself to see what the Bible has to say.

Exodus
32:32-33

I Chronicles
28:9

2 Chronicles
15:2; 24:20

Psalms
125:5

Proverbs
21:16

Isaiah
1:28; 65:11-12

Jeremiah
17:5-6, 13

Ezekiel
3:20; 18:24; 33:12-13,18

Zephaniah
1:4-6

Matthew
3:10; 6:14-15; 7:13-27;
10:22, 33, 37-39; 13:19-21, 41;
18:8-9, 21-35; 24:10-13, 44-51;
25:1-12

Mark
4:16-17; 8:36; 9:43-50; 11:26

Luke
6:46; 8:13-15; 9:23-26, 61-62
13:3, 6-9; 23-30; 14:26, 34
15:24, 32

John
5:28-29; 6:66; 15:1-6

Acts
14:22

Romans
1:28; 2:5-9, 13
6:16, 22; 8:13; 11:19-23

1 Corinthians
3:16-17; 5:4-5; 6:9-10; 9:24-27
11:31-32; 15:1-2

2 Corinthians
13:5

Galatians
1:6; 5:4, 19-24; 6:7-9

Ephesians
5:5-7

Phillippians
2:12; 3:8-14

Colossians
1:21-23

2 Thessalonians
2:3; 2:11-12

1 Timothy
1:18-19; 4:1; 5:5-6, 8, 11-12,
14-15; 6:20-21

2 Timothy
2:12; 17-18; 4:3-4

Titus
1:15-16; 3:9-11

Hebrews
2:1; 3:6, 13-14; 4:1; 6:4-12
10:26-29; 10:38-39
12:14-17; 12:25

James
1:12-16, 22; 2:14, 20, 26;
4:4; 5:19-20

2 Peter
1:10-11; 2:1, 15, 20-22; 3:17

1 John
2:3-4, 9, 17, 24-25;
2:24; 3:7-8, 15; 5:16

2 John
9-11

Revelation
2:7, 10-11, 17; 3:5, 15-16;
14:9-12; 21:7-8; 22:15,18