

It is HARD to Lose Salvation (Really!)  
8-12-13

We make a great effort to warn believers that it is possible to lose Salvation. In fact, we can find this admonition in every book of the New Testament. Does this constant warning mean that it is so easy to lose our salvation that it is the case that God does not want us to succeed? That we might, while trying our hardest, lose our salvation while making every effort to keep it? Perhaps we need to step back and consider some statements about losing salvation.

In Romans 8:31-39 Paul makes the case that God will do ANYTHING<sup>1</sup> to see you win. Consider that He was willing to even send His son to die so that you would have eternal life. Does it make sense to think that He is in any way working against you? Paul makes the case here that Christ DIED to be on your side, to be your advocate. If a company invested in your business its most prized asset, would it make sense that they would then make success impossible? Of course not.

Consider what Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-31. He said that His burden is EASY. We might believe sometimes that it is a hard thing to be a Christian; this is false. It is much, much harder to be a child of the world, because the world's burden is HEAVY. Too often we think our burden is hard because we are really trying to carry both the load of Christ AND the load of the world. Jesus' burden is easy.

Paul and Peter also tell us in 1 Corinthians 10:13 and 2 Peter 2:9 that any of the difficulties we face as a Christian (meaning not because we have refused to release the world's burdens, etc) are under God's knowledge. God watches us in our trials, and He ensures that ANY trial we face is something that can be overcome. Paul adds to that in 10:13 by reminding us that the things we suffer are not unique to us; non-believers get sick or die; they are persecuted by the same people we are; they have the same problems as us. The difference? God is active in our defense, and Jesus advocates for us in our weakness.

But it gets even better. In II Timothy 3:16-17 we are told that God has, with His infinite knowledge and wisdom, equipped us for anything we face. This equipping is by the Word of God. Imagine a workman's toolbox or work vehicle provided by an employer. Imagine now that it contains every tool imaginable for the job at hand. The finest tools, ladders, cables, etc. that make the job possible. In Ephesians 6:10-17 Paul describes our equipping as being accouterments of war. Imagine now a soldier sent into Afghanistan or Iraq with armor they are told will stop every single bullet or explosive around. If it is properly fit, nothing could hurt them. So is described the whole armor of God. NOTHING has been overlooked

So the question that now comes to us: WHY Are Many Lost? Let us consider that from a worldly perspective. We live in a country wealthier than any in history. We have a freedom to engage in trade at an unparalleled level. Why is it that the business failure rate is still so high? Statistics reveal that most business fail because simple steps are overlooked either in planning or acting in business. For one thing, there is a distinct lack of foresight into the future of a business. For another, while engaged in business there is poor management.

In Mark 4 Jesus taught the parable of the sower and the soils. There He warned about failures in success as a Christian; specifically of three people who obey the Gospel, two will fail. Yet if we read carefully, it is NOT because it is hard to be a Christian, it is because we failed to do the things that we needed to in

---

<sup>1</sup> Except what He cannot do: enter into your sins. You must leave sin (repentance) and be justified in Christ (Baptism) by your own exertion. He has made the path, you must choose to travel it.

order to succeed. Many people may fail at being a Christian, but it is not because it is so hard to be a Christian, but because they failed to do the things they needed to do. If we do not put on the full armor of God, we cannot expect to be safe. If we do not use the toolbox that the Word of God represents, we cannot be equipped for every task. If we refuse to let go of the burden of the world, then the burden of Christ is not bearable. Finally, if we are not faithful to Christ, we can easily fall away.

Let us summarize. You CANNOT Lose Your Salvation IF:

You never undervalue it – you realize that this armor, this toolbox is the only way to be prepared

You love the truth – you have to love it to put the world away

You are ready to do ANYTHING to keep it