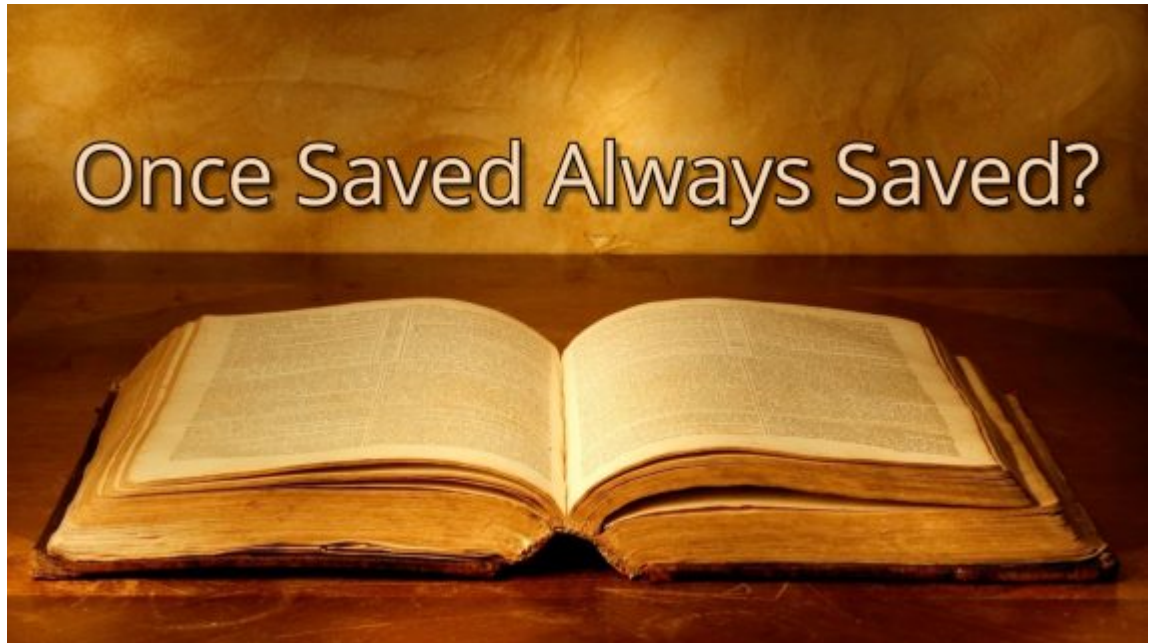


Is “Once saved, always saved,” a Biblical teaching?

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13 NASB; LSB).



Is the doctrine of eternal security supported by the Bible?”

THE ASSERTIONS

It is asserted by the proponents of the “Once Saved, Always Saved” doctrine that 1 John 5:13, among other scriptures, proves this belief to be Scriptural. One of the main fallacies of reasoning is “over-simplification.” While every scripture in the “inspired” word of God, from Genesis through Revelation, is true (2 Timothy 3:16; John 17:17), the scriptures must be **“accurately”** handled (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB: LSB). As is very typical of all false doctrines, 1 John 5:13 is taken out of context, and used in a way that John never intended, to prove the “Once Saved, Always Saved” doctrine.

THE CONTEXT OF 1 JOHN

John’s referencing statement, “These things I have written to you” refers to John’s entire letter. Up to this point in his letter, John has written 96 out of 105 verses, and verse 13 begins John’s conclusion and summary of the letter. John, in this letter, makes at least eighteen statements of conditions that must be met so that a Christian “may know that [he/she] has eternal life”. John’s statement at [1 John 5:13](#) assumes the Christian has met all of God’s standards to be in the right relationship with the Father through his Son, Jesus Christ, and will continue to meet God’s standards. Therefore, the Christian can be content in his assurance of God’s love and ultimate reward for him/her.

CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

1. **“If we are living in the light, as God is in the light”—1:7 NLT**
2. **“If we confess our sins to him”—1:9 NLT**
3. **“If we obey his commandments”—2:3 NLT; 3:24; 5:3**
4. **“Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did”—2:6 NLT**
5. **“Do not love the world”—2:15**
6. **“See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father”—2:24 NIV**
7. **“Remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full and not shrink back from him in shame”—[1 John 2:28](#) NLT**
8. **“Will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure”—3:3 NLT**
9. **“Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness”—3:4 ESV**
10. **“No one who abides in him keeps on sinning”—3:6 ESV**
11. **“Whoever practices righteousness is righteous”—3:7 ESV**
12. **“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil” (3:8 ESV). “No one who is born of God makes a practice of sinning” ([1 John 3:9](#) ESV).**
13. **“Love one another”—3:11**
14. **“Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer”—3:15 NIV**
15. **“Whoever knows God listens to us” [the Apostles]—4:6 NLT**

16. **“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God”—4:15 NLT**
17. **“Must also love their fellow believers”—4:21 NLT**
18. **“Win this battle with the world . . . believe that Jesus is the Son of God”—5:5 NLT**

ANALYSIS

Notice that we must **“remain in fellowship with Christ” (1 John 2:28 NLT)**. **“Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3)**. This means that, **“If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth” (1 John 1:6 NIV)**.

One thing we would always keep in mind is that our salvation is ultimately up to **“the Judge of all the earth” (Genesis 18:25 NIV)**. This is why everyone is urged to, **“Seek Yahweh, all you humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek uprightness, seek humility; perhaps you may find shelter on the Day of Yahweh’s anger” (Zephaniah 2:3 NJB)**. The point is that that we can never presume on Almighty God’s decision to save us for eternal life!

CONCLUSION

So, “Once Saved, Always Saved,” is not taught in 1 John. As a matter of fact, it is not taught or supported anywhere else in the Bible, either. See other articles on this site under this Category.