



THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD DOCTRINE IN THE BIBLE



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May 3, 2009

What, in your opinion, is the most misunderstood doctrine in the church today? There are many doctrines that are misunderstood, but what is the most misunderstood doctrine?

THERE ARE MANY CONTROVERSIAL DOCTRINES

Women Preachers

What about women pastors? The United Methodist church has 10,000 women pastors (23% of Methodists' ministers) and the church has launched a program to have more female pastors in the larger Methodist Churches with more than 1,000 members. ¹

Gifts of the Holy Spirit



Another area where there is much confusion and misunderstanding is in the area of Spiritual Gifts. What about those people who are "slain in the Spirit" when

Benny Hinn touches them or swings his coat toward the crowds?

Music in the Church

Another controversial issue is what kind of music should we have in church. Some people like old, slow hymns and an organ, while others like upbeat praise music with instruments and drums. Churches split over these things.

YOUR PASTOR'S PERSONAL OPINION

Would you like to know what I believe is the most misunderstood doctrine in the church today? It is "Once Saved - Always Saved!"

Can a person be saved and on the way to heaven one day and then be lost and on the way to hell the next day? If salvation can be lost, what does a person have to do to keep from losing it?

TWO DIFFERENT OPINIONS

Methodist and Pentecostals believe you can lose your salvation. They refer to this as "falling from Grace." Baptists and Presbyterians believe if a person is really saved they will never be lost again. Baptist call this doctrine "Eternal Security" and Presbyterians call it the "Perseverance of the Saints."

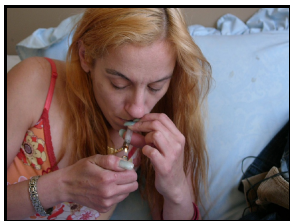
¹Breaking the Stained Glass Ceiling, Gainesville Sun, Saturday, January 23, 2009.

I believe there are thousands of people who believe this and are on their way to hell because of this misunderstanding.

SEVEN THINGS "ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED" REALLY MEANS

1. A saved person is a changed person (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."



A person who has gone back into a life of sin is not saved. If they are still smoking pot, using crack and sleeping around, they've never been born again.

2. A saved person thinks, acts, talks, and dresses differently from the way they did when they were lost.

3. Saved people are interested in the things of God like Sunday School, church, Bible study, & prayer meeting.

4. Saved people stop loving the things God hates.

5. Saved people begin to produce good works because that's what God saved you for (Ephesians 2:8-10).

8. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9. Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Verse 10

10. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them

6. Saved people become more like Jesus

every day.

This is what predestination is all about. Predestination is mentioned 5-6 times in the Bible but Romans 8:29 is the only place in the Bible where it is explained.

(Romans 8:29)

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

(NLT)

"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters."

7. Saved people never Turn Back!

(1 John 2:19)

"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

The purpose of this message is to try to clear up a misunderstanding of this doctrine and issue a clear warning to many of you who think you're saved.

WHAT "ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED" DOES NOT MEAN.

1. It does not mean that you are always saved because, at some time in your life you "prayed to receive Christ."

2. It does not mean you are always saved if you "went forward in a revival and took a stand for Jesus."

3. It does not mean that you will always be saved because you've been baptized.

4. It does not mean that you will always be saved because you grew up in the church.

5. It does not mean that you are saved because you can remember the day and time of your decision.

6. It does not mean that you are saved because you think you are saved.

THE COLD HARD FACTS OF LIFE

This may sound harsh to you but I have come to the this conclusion:

1. Most people in the world are lost and on their way to hell. Read Matthew 7.

2. Most people in the church are lost and on their way to hell.

3. Most people who go forward **in revivals** are still lost and on their way to hell. Billy Graham said that he would be happy if 5% of those who came forward in his crusades were actually saved.

4. Most inactive church **members** are lost.

5. All professing Christians **who have gone** back go their old ways are still lost.

6. People who attend church for a while and then drop out of church are probably lost.

7. People who are living in sin and have not been chastised by God are probably lost.

8. 80% of the young people in Southern Baptist Churches are probably lost. These are the same young people who attend Sunday School, Church, and youth groups.

Why do I say they are lost? I say they are lost because 80% leave church after they graduate from high school and never come back.

Saved people don't turn back!

LISTEN TO THESE SCRIPTURES AND BE WARNED

1. Many Lost People Think They Are Saved (Matt. 7:20-21)

“ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

2. Some church members won't discover they are lost until the end of the age.

The parable of the wheat and tares makes it clear that tares (lost people) will be mixed with wheat (saved people) until the end of this age. Only then will we know who was really saved and who was really lost.

Just because a person “looks” saved, or “acts” saved, doesn't mean they are really saved.

This pastor believes that people who walk with God a while and then fall back have never been saved. Jesus explained the parable in (Matt. 13:36-43).

“Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

3. Saved People Get Chastised When They Sin (Hebrews 12:5-11)

Sinners are punished for their sins after they die. Saved people, who are God's children, are chastised for their sins here and now!

When a person is saved, they are adopted into God's own family.² Once in His family, we are under His discipline. It is impossible for a saved person to live in sin and not be chastised.

We have prepared a two-page article on this subject and it is available on our church website by tonight (cbcgainesville.net).

(Heb. 12:5-13)

"5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of

righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."

4. Jesus said a person is known by their fruit (Matthew 7:16-20)



16 "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

5. People Who Turn Back Are Like Pigs



People who profess to know Christ and sit under sound doctrinal preaching and then go back to their sins are compared to dogs that eat vomit and pigs that return to the mud of the hog pen.

(2 Peter 2:20-22).

"20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to

²1 John 3:1

her wallowing in the mire.”

Why did the animals return to their old ways? They returned to their old ways because the dog was still a dog and the pig was still a pig. They had never been changed.

TAKE A PERSONAL INVENTORY

1. How has your life changed since you claimed to have become a Christian?
2. Do you think, act, talk, and dress differently or do you still act, talk, and dress like the lost world?
3. Are you are interested in church, Sunday School, and the things of God, or are you careless? Are you even enrolled in Sunday School?
4. Have you stopped loving the things God hates, or do you still listen to the same music, watch the same movies, and wear the same clothes?
5. Have you dropped out of church and have found yourself going back to your old sins?
6. Have you begun to produce good works since you claimed to have been saved? What works are you doing?
7. Have you fallen into sin and nothing has happened to you in the area of chastisement?
8. How much money did you give for God’s work through your local church last year? The Bible says that your heart is where you spend your money.

If I were you, I would seriously consider getting saved!

3-FOLD INVITATION

1. Let’s all go home this week, get on our knees, and find out where we really stand with God. Are we really saved or are we fooling ourselves?
2. Take the time this week and write out our personal testimonies. There are three parts to a personal testimony.
 - Our life before we were saved.
 - How we were saved.
 - Our life since we were saved.

The third part should be the longest. Don’t dwell on how bad you were before you were saved. Explain how different things are since you were saved.

3. Let’s begin some serious prayer meetings over the lost members of our church. These are our friends, sons, daughters, and relatives who are lost and going to hell.

Let’s get serious!

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