

Can a Christian be Lost?

By Tony Melton

Many sincere people believe that once a person becomes a child of God, he or she can never be lost. And because of this theory, many men and women have become relaxed and unconcerned in religious matters. They believe their destiny is sealed and they cannot be lost. What does the Bible say?

Paul told the Christians in Galatians 5:4, "You have become estranged [severed or separated] from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace." This verse clearly teaches that these Christians had fallen from God's grace. Since we know that we are saved by grace, to fall from grace, means we are no longer saved. That is the reason the Bible warns the Christian to be diligent "lest anyone fall short of the grace of God" (Hebrews 12:15).

Christians have their names recorded in heaven (Hebrews 12:23). Those who do not have their names written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire according to Revelation 20:15. Now, look what Jesus told the Christians at Sardis who had their name written in heaven. He said, "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life" (Revelation 3:5). We see three important points (1) Children of God have their names written in heaven. (2) They can have their names blotted out. (3) Therefore, they can lose their salvation and be cast into the lake of fire.

Notice other passages that teach a child of God can be lost:

1. Christians who do not abide in Christ will be burned—John 15:6
2. A Christian can fall away— Hebrews 6:4-6 and 1 Corinthians 10:12
3. A Christian can wander from the truth, turn back to sin and die spiritually—James 5:19, 20.
6. A Christian can be again entangled and overcome by sin and be lost—2 Peter 2:20-22.
7. A child of God can be devoured by the devil—1 Peter 5:8.
8. A child of God can enter once again into a state of unbelief and fall away from God— Hebrews 3:12.
9. A Christian can have his faith overthrown—2 Timothy 2:16-18.
10. A Christian can be destroyed spiritually and perish—Romans 14:13-15; 1 Corinthians 8:9-11).