

CAN A CHRISTIAN SIN AFTER THEY ARE SAVED?

The subject of the Christian's relationship to sin after salvation can be a little confusing, since our sins of the past, present and future have been forgiven. Then you counter this fact, with the reality of one day giving an account at the feet of Christ. It would make us wonder, "We thought we got saved so we would not have to stand in judgment to God, but that Jesus took the judgment of sin upon Himself, that is why He is our Saviour."

The questions asked to me as a pastor from some new converts are as follows:

- What about a Christian's relationship to sin after salvation?
- What about the judgment of God against Christians that sin?
- If my sins have been forgiven as far as the East is from the West (Psalms 103:12) why must we continue to ask for forgiveness?
- Does Paul not say that if we say we have no sin the Truth is not in us? (1John 1:8)
- Does God want us to live in despair, guilty about our sin that we commit? Since we are already declared to sin even after salvation? Let me go ahead and answer this question NO!

Does the Christian just continue to live in sin with no consequences, just pleading salvation, justifying sin since we are already forgiven?

NO!

Romans 6:1-2 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

We cannot expect God to take a blind eye to our sin after salvation.

Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

We will give account in this world and the world to come for what we do after we are saved!

Let's look at some verses:

Romans 1:21 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

These were people who knew God, but chose not to serve Him, and be accountable to Him.

Romans 1:28-32 “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

You see, as Christians, we are called to be the salt and light in this world. (Matthew 5:13) To pronounce God’s judgment against sin, so that the non-Christian will see his need for salvation.

Now let’s continue on.

Romans 2:1-3 “Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?”

So we see a two-fold judgment,

- 1. This World (reaping and sowing, as well as broken fellowship)**
- 2. The World to Come (Judgment Seat of Christ)**

It is like this: God is not as affected by sin, as much we are. That is why Jesus had to come to die for our sins. The only way God is affected by sin, is that it grieves the heart of God, to see His children destroying their lives with sin.

3 John 1:4 *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

James 1:13 *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

Sin is from Satan, and again, that is the reason Jesus had to come and die on our behalf.

Romans 6:6 *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

The problem we have after we are saved is that God does not take us straight to Heaven, but we are left here, with a sinful nature that is now supposed to conform to God.

(This is called Sanctification)

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.”*

God expects us to live a life pleasing unto Him, with good works. **James 2:14** *“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?”*

2 Corinthians 6:17 *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”*

3. Concerning Future Judgment

One day we will stand before God ***“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”*** (II Cor. 5:10)

This Judgment is Both Good and Bad

There are two places in the Bible where we read the term "Judgment Seat of Christ." As you can see, neither passage speaks of hell or destruction for the lost. The later plainly states that the Judgment Seat of Christ is for receiving the things done in our BODY. That is, the Christian's body. If you have been born again through believing on Jesus Christ, then your body belongs to God (***I Corinthians 6:19-20***), ***“and God has commanded you to glorify Him in your body.”***

We are to YIELD our bodies to Him (***Romans 12:1-2***). We are to DENY OURSELVES and be HIS disciples (***Luke 9:23***). So the Judgment Seat of Christ will TRY us and determine whether or not we have done our duty.

A fine companion passage for this is ***I Corinthians 3:11-15***: ***“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it***

shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

A Christian's foundation is his salvation in Jesus Christ (**Matthew 7:24**). Then after being saved, the Christian is expected to yield himself to the leadership of the Holy Spirit so he can be useful to Christ (BUILDING ON THAT FOUNDATION). If he does this, he will bear the FRUIT of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**) and please his Saviour. This fruit or good work is likened unto GOLD, SILVER, and PRECIOUS STONES, things of great value.

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:19-20**, ***"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."***

Godly Christian service produces TREASURE in Heaven for the Christian. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, we (Christians) will receive our rewards. **II John 8** says, ***"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."*** Most people are only concerned with going to Heaven or Hell, if even that. But the Bible instructs us to be concerned about our REWARDS. My eternal RESIDENCE was settled when I trusted Jesus Christ as my Saviour, but my eternal REWARDS are only settled when I deny myself and serve God in the Spirit.

Notice that no one goes to Hell at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Some people lose rewards, but they are still SAVED (**I Corinthians 3:15**). This is like Lot, the righteous man who lost all he had, yet he himself was saved from the fiery destruction (**Genesis 20; II Peter 2:6-8**). Jesus said there would be two kinds of saints in the last days: those who are faithful like Noah and those who are slothful like Lot. (**Luke 17:26, 28**) One Christian will differ from another in Heaven in regards to earned rewards.

In **Revelation 3:11**, the Lord Jesus says, ***"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."*** (also see **I Corinthians. 9:25**, **I Thessalonians 2:19**, **II Timothy 4:8**, **James 1:12**, **I Peter 5:4**) **Revelation 4:10** even has the elders casting their crowns at the Saviour's feet. Most Christians will have no crown to cast at the Lord's feet in that day, for they forfeited their Heavenly rewards in order to live a more comfortable and conformable life in this present evil world.

Likewise, there will be judgment in this world. **Romans 8:5-8** ***"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the***

flesh cannot please God.” 1 Corinthians 5:9 “I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators;,” 2 Thessalonians 3:6 “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. “

Psalms 66:18 “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:”

The believer's judgment is threefold. At Calvary I was judged as a SINNER with Jesus taking my place and bearing my punishment, when I received Him as my Saviour.

Today, I am judged as a SON, being chastened by my Heavenly Father when I am disobedient (**Hebrews 12:4-8; I Corinthians 11:30-31**) and blessed when I am obedient. Just read all the parables.

In the future, if we have been watching and preparing for the Lord and His coming, we will be judged as the Bride of Christ. Look at John 3:29, as well as the parables of the ten virgins. Now one may ask, How does sin affect me? If you are saved, sin will not separate God from you, but sin will separate you from God. Sin puts you in the driver's seat of your life. This is why God chastises us when we sin, for our good. To keep us close to Himself.