

## GOD'S PEOPLE CANNOT BE FINALLY LOST

Many children of God labor under the false idea that it is possible for them to lose their eternal life. But *lost eternal life* is an oxymoron. It is a glaring contradiction of terms. Christ says of His people, "I give unto them eternal life, and they shall *never* perish" (John 10:28, 17:2). This statement alone settles the matter and should be enough for any sober-thinking person, but He nails it down even further when He goes on to show that no man is able to pluck them out of *His* hand or His *Father's* hand (ver. 29).

In John 6:38-39 He declares that He came down from heaven to do the will of His Father and He tells us what that will was: "This is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." Any scripture presented in an effort to contradict these plain statements are obviously misunderstood, misapplied, and misinterpreted. The Bible does not contradict itself.

I suppose anyone would agree that the truth is better than error. Hence, the Bible doctrine of the security of the saints is far better than the doctrine which asserts that God's people can be eternally lost. There can be no question but that the Bible doctrine is best. Anyone who will be honest with themselves will admit that it is better to be a *secure* saint than to be an *insecure* saint; a saint that is "kept by the power of God" (I Peter 1:5) rather than a saint who is left to keep himself or herself in the grace of Christ. They will admit that it is better to have an inheritance that is incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away (I Peter 1:4) than it is to have an inheritance that can be taken away. They will admit that an "everlasting salvation" (Isaiah 45:17) is better than an *uncertain* salvation. They will admit that an "eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:9) is better than a "here today, gone tomorrow" salvation. However most people who profess any religion have chosen to embrace the latter view and, contrary to the Scriptures, take the position that many who presently have eternal life may finally be consigned to everlasting damnation.

God's people may so live as to lose, at least for a time, the joys and pleasures that come with obedience to His precepts, and this is dealt with in a number of places in the Scriptures. And, these references are often mistakenly taken to refer to the loss of eternal life, but as we have already shown, to take this position is to contradict those many scriptures which clearly show that a child of God cannot be eternally lost. "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). This is either true, or else it is a lie. Who dare say that any of God's word is a lie? God's people are loved with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3) and nothing can separate them from that love (Rom. 8:28-39). Nothing could be plainer to the unclouded eye.  
---Elder Ralph Harris