

# **KEPT BY THE SAVIOUR**

**By**

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## Introduction

**W**e live in a day of shallowness and ignorance of the Scriptures. The following is written in a provocative style to stir God's people to a careful and thorough study of the Bible to find God's precious teaching on this subject.

True, there are many who abuse this doctrine as a cover for sinfulness. Their justifications are usually based on unbiblical phrases and illustrations, while they forget that we must *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"* (Heb. 12:14), and *"He that commiteth sin is of the devil;"* (1 John 3:8a).

On the other hand, there are many who doubt the fullness of God's salvation, or else tie it to their own works. They thus live in doubt, fear, or at least worry over the thought that God might take their salvation from them.

While many honest people have fallen into one of these two camps, let it be known there is a third position that brings great glory to our God. He saves, He keeps, and He satisfies! *"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin"* (1 John 3:9). Anything less than a change of heart, mind, motive, lifestyle, and goal will never produce a change of destiny. No holiness, – no heaven.

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## **CHAPTER ONE: Questions in Need of Answers ...**

1. Is your salvation of man or of God? Who does the saving?

**Jonah 2:9**

**Matt. 1:21**

**Rom. 5:9, 10**

**9:15, 16**

**I Cor. 1:26-31**

**Isa. 33:22**

**43:11**

**44:22**

**45:21-23**

**47:4**

**Gal. 1:15, 16**

**3:13**

**Col. 1:12-14**

2. Who are those fortunate ones who won't have to fear drawing back?

**Heb. 10:38, 39**

**6:7-9**

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## **CHAPTER ONE: Questions in Need of Answers ...**

3. Do we receive temporary or everlasting life?  
Conditional or Eternal Life? How long is everlasting?

**John 3:15**  
**3:16**  
**3:36**  
**4:14**  
**5:24**  
**5:39, 40**  
**6:27**  
**6:40**  
**6:47**  
**6:54**  
**6:68**  
**10:28**  
**12:50**  
**17:2, 3**

4. How many times did Jesus die? How many salvations  
did He provide for each individual?

**Heb. 7:27**  
**9:12**  
**9:23-28**  
**10:10-14**  
**12:2**  
**6:3-6**

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## CHAPTER ONE: Questions in Need of Answers ...

5. At the time of Jesus' death, approximately 33 A.D., were your sins in the past, present, or future? For how many of your sins did Jesus die?

**I John 2:1, 2**

**1:7**

**I Pet 2:24**

**Rev. 1:5**

**Col. 2:13-15**

6. Did Jesus save some on the Cross only to lose them later?

**Heb. 10:8-17**

**9:12-15**

7. Does Jesus lose some He promised to keep?

**John 6:39**

8. Is God unable to finish what He has begun?

**Phil. 1:6**

9. Why did God promise that nothing could separate us from His love or the love of Christ?

**Rom. 8:35-39**

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## **CHAPTER ONE: Questions in Need of Answers ...**

10. How can works lose our salvation when they never obtain it?

**Eph. 2:8, 9**

**Titus 3:5**

**Rom: 3:20, 28**

**4:5-8**

11. How can we will ourselves lost when we could never will ourselves saved?

**John 1:12, 13**

**Rom. 9:11-26**

**Phil. 2:12, 13**

12. Are the Scriptures wrong when they promise that God works in us both to will and to do?

**Phil. 2:12, 13**

13. Whose faith brings us into salvation?

**Heb. 12:2**

**Gal: 2:16**

**2:20**

**3:22**

**Hab. 2:4**

**Eph. 2:8, 9**

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## **CHAPTER ONE: Questions in Need of Answers ...**

14. Is Jesus able to keep His promise of not casting out any who come to Him?

**John 6:37**

15. Was Jesus right or wrong when He said the gates of Hell could not prevail against His Church?

**Matt. 16:18**

16. How can Jesus dismantle the Church which He promised only to build?

**Matt. 16:18**

17. Was Jesus telling the truth or misleading us when He taught that those saved would not come into condemnation?

**John 5:24**

18. Did Jesus encourage us to believe that the truly saved would be faithful when He taught that His sheep would follow Him ... and made no exceptions?

**John 10:27**

19. Can God be counted on to always be with those He has saved?

**Deut. 31:6**

**Heb. 13:5**

**Matt. 28:18-20**

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## **CHAPTER ONE: Questions in Need of Answers ...**

20. Is God unable to save to the uttermost as He promised?

**Heb. 7:25**

21. Is Jesus unable to keep what we committed unto Him?

**II Tim. 1:12**

22. How can you re-write a will after the death of the testator?

**Heb. 9:13-17**

**7:22**

**II Cor. 3:6**

23. How can we dispose of the permanency of the Holy Spirit's indwelling?

**John 14:16**

24. How can we break a life-long, permanent, God-made seal?

**Eph. 1:13, 14**

**4:30**

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25. How can we pluck ourselves out of Jesus' and the Father's hands when no man can? Who is greater than members of the Godhead that they could remove from the Father and Son's hands those who are saved.

**John 10:28, 29**

26. Is our will stronger than God?

**Psm. 110:3**

27. Is our flesh stronger than God?

**Rom. 7:24-8:4**

**8:8-10**

28. Is the devil stronger than God?

**I John 4:1-4**

**Ezek. 28:12-19**

29. Can our sin be stronger than God's Grace?

**Rom. 5:12-6:14**

30. Does God find that chastening doesn't really work?

**Heb. 12:1-11**

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## **CHAPTER ONE: Questions in Need of Answers ...**

31. Was God only bluffing when He told us of a sin unto death for His children? Why would He not rather just disclaim them instead of taking them home in disgrace?

**I John 5:16, 17**

**Rom. 6:16**

**8:6, 13**

**Lev. 10:1, 2**

**Num. 11:1**

**14:31-33**

**16:2, 3; 28-34, 41, 49**

**20:12, 23-29**

**I Chron.10:13**

**Jer. 20:6**

**28:15-17**

**29:21**

**Acts 5:1-11**

**I Cor. 11:30**

32. Is the Father an Indian-giver? Does He take away from His Son Jesus some souls He has already given Him?

**John 6:37**

33. Is God going to deny Jesus by disinheriting Him as our joint-heir?

**Rom. 8:16, 17**

**Gal. 4:7**

**Heb. 6:15-20**

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## **CHAPTER ONE: Questions in Need of Answers ...**

34. How can one be unborn? Can they reverse the birth process?

**John 3:3-8**  
**1:12, 13**  
**I Pet. 1:23**  
**I John 2:29**  
**3:9**  
**4:7**  
**5:1, 4**

35. Adoption is considered irreversible even in the world. How can one be unadopted?

**Rom. 8:15**  
**Gal. 4:4, 5**  
**Eph. 1:5**

36. How can you become unmarried when Biblically divorce only separates? God is not going to die and our death only unites us closer to Him!

**Mark 2:19, 20**  
**John 3:29, 30**  
**II Cor. 11:2**  
**Eph. 5:22-32**  
**Rev. 19:7-9**  
**22:17**  
**Jer. 3:8, 14**  
**31:31-33**

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37. How does one reverse creation and become uncreated when God has created us in Jesus?

**II Cor. 5:17**

**Eph. 2:10**

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### **CHAPTER ONE: Questions in Need of Answers (conclusion)**

**H**as not God gone to great lengths to assure us, protect us, and keep us as His own prized possession?

If one could lose their salvation ...

What kind of Bible do we have that would promise us one thing so often, so clearly, and in so many ways, only to mislead us? Could we trust such a Bible? What value would this book be if it were full of errors?

What kind of Saviour is it who can only do a partial job and not finish what He starts?

What kind of God is it who would do or permit these terrible acts ... Who would so mislead us? ... Who would be so weak and unable to keep His own Word? ... Who would be so dominated and defeated by His own creation? ... Who would be so helpless as to be unable to do anything for sure and for eternity? Could man worship such a God? Would such a God bear any resemblance to the God of the Bible? Is not the doctrine of losing one's salvation an attack on the very nature and actions of the God of the Bible?

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## CHAPTER TWO: Answers to Questions Raised ...

1. What about those who left their "*first love*"?  
(Rev 2:4)
  - ~ **Rev. 2:1** - They are called "Church" by Jesus, hardly a name for the lost.
  - ~ **Rev. 2:2, 3, and 6** - They are highly praised for their works and faithfulness.
  - ~ **Rev. 2:7** - They are capable of hearing from the Holy Spirit.
  - ~ **Rev. 2:5** - The threat is not loss of personal salvation, but the Church's loss of testimony, etc.
2. What about those Jesus has spued out of His mouth?  
(Rev. 3:15, 16)
  - ~ **Rev. 3:17** - Issue was comfort, satisfaction, and ignorance of need.
  - ~ **Rev. 3:14** - These folks are called a "Church" by Jesus!
  - ~ **Rev. 3:20** - The need is not salvation, but an opening of the door for fellowship.

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- ~ **Rev. 3:21** - Overcoming this problem results in a ruling position.
  - ~ **Rev. 3:22** - These are capable of hearing from the Holy Spirit.
3. What happens to those who escaped the *"pollutions of the world"* only to return to their sins? (**II Pet. 2:20**)
- ~ **II Pet. 2:20, 21** - There are no terms given that clearly refer to being saved. "Knowledge" and "Know" have to do with the intellect and not necessarily the heart.
  - ~ **II Pet. 2:10-21** - There are descriptions given of empty professors, i.e. presumptuous, self-willed, understand not, shall utterly perish, deceiving, adultery, cannot cease from sin, cursed, darkness reserved forever, vanity, servants of corruption overcome, etc.
  - ~ **II Pet. 2:20, 21** - Strong warnings are given of ending up worse than beginning, and better to have never heard the way of righteousness. One can't be worse off if they only returned to the previous condition.

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~ **II Pet. 2:22** – A “true proverb” given in double form clearly teaches there never has been a change of heart, nature, all things, etc. These never became sheep (saved) but were dogs and sows (lost) all along with only an exterior change. They finally show their true nature again.

#### 4. What about those who resist the truth? (II Tim. 3:7, 8)

~ **II Tim. 3:1-9** - These are never called “*saved*”. The best that can be said is that they have “*a form of godliness*”. There is a great difference between form and substance. They love pleasure more than God.

~ **II Tim. 3:1-9, 13** - There are many terms to show that there is no real change of heart or life. The peril of the last days is that men will have a form but no reality or power, and think that they are saved. From such as these we are warned to turn away.

#### 5. What happens to the backslider in heart?

~ **Prov. 14:14** - All that the Bible tells us of this case is that he “*shall be filled with his own ways*”. This not

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only describes their thoughts, goals, motives and actions, but also the results of such choices. We are not told whether they were ever saved nor if they lost anything.

6. What happened to Solomon for turning “**from the LORD God**”? (I Kings 11:9)

- ~ **I Kings 11:9-14** - God judged Solomon by removing future ruling rights over much of the Kingdom and stirring up enemies against him (vss. 14, 23-25, 26). There is no mention of a loss of salvation.

7. What about the accounts of backsliding in the Old Testament?

- ~ **Hosea 11:7; 4:16; Jer. 8:5; 3:6, 8, 12, 14, 22** - These are records of groups backsliding, entire tribes, or a nation. Surely, our salvation is not tied to the actions of those around us, but is a personal relationship. Even so, in **Jer. 3:14** we find that God still claimed the backslider as His own! They lost fellowship but not relationship.

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8. What does it mean in Rev. 22:19, "*God shall take away his part out of the book of life*"?

- ~ Rev. 22:19 - This is a penalty for taking "away from the words of the book of this prophecy".
  
- ~ Rev. 21:27 - There is no evidence in the Bible that the "*book of life*" and the "*Lamb's book of life*" are identical. It seems that the one lists those who live and the other those that have life from Jesus the Lamb.

There is no mention of having the name taken out of the book but rather "*his part*". This in no way teaches a loss of salvation.

9. What happens to those who are blotted out of God's book?

Psm. 69:28 and Ex. 32:32 - First, we need to realize that God keeps more than one book (Rev. 20:12; Psm. 56:8; 139:6; Mal. 3:16; Rev. 3:5; 5:1; 10:8-10; 13:8; 21:27). Such names as the "*book of life*", "*book of remembrance*", "*book with seven seals*", "*little book*", "*book of life of the Lamb*", "*Lamb's book of life*", and "*books*" would surely evidence a

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variety. Their purposes, uses, and treatment are different, as a study of the Scriptures indicates.

- ~ Second, where is the record of anyone being blotted out in the first two mentioned Scriptures? Men's prayers are not always answered, and our requests are surely not worthy of building doctrine upon.
- ~ Third, was Moses to be blotted out for others' sin? Would any suggest that they lost their salvation for the acts of others or to protect others?
- ~ Fourth, in **Psm. 69:28**, it obviously has to do with physical life not eternal life, as the further request has to do with a different book, – that for the righteous.

10. Explain Judas Iscariot, was he saved or lost?

- ~ **John 17:12** - says he was lost. The real question in many minds is "Was Judas ever saved? We know that Judas was one of the 12 chosen disciples. Two

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phrases of this verse give us some direction. He is called "**the son of perdition**", and what happened was necessary "**that the Scripture might be fulfilled**". Let's examine what other Scriptures teach:

- ~ **John 13:10, 11** - Jesus knew Judas was not cleansed like the other disciples.
  
- ~ **Acts 1:16-25** - Judas went to a place called "**his own place**" ... certainly not heaven. While he was numbered with the "**twelve**" and "**obtained part of this ministry**", there is no statement that he was of the same spiritual condition (**vs. 17**). A distinction is made between "**habitation**" (place of life) and "**bishopric**" (office of ministry) in **vs. 20**. Judas' fall was from office (**vs. 25; Psm. 69:25; 109:8**). He never had a salvation from which to fall.
  
- ~ **Matt. 26:22-25, 50** - Although Jesus called Judas "**Friend**", He also said it would be better if he had never been born. Judas uncovered his true spiritual condition when the 11 disciples called Jesus "**Lord**" and he could only call Jesus "**Master**". Consider this

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quote, "Never once in the Gospel record does Judas Iscariot call Jesus LORD". He was the first Arian among the professed followers of Jesus. "**No one in reality can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost (I Cor. 12:3)**, but it is possible to use the term as an empty formality without believing the Lordship of Christ (**Matt. 7:21; 25:11, 12**)."

C. I. Scofield.

11. Explain what happened to David after he committed adultery and murder?

- ~ **II Sam. 12:7-15; Psm. 51:1-19** - David was publicly exposed and suffered the chastening of God, – no mention of a loss of salvation. In **Psm. 51** while David confesses his sin, he nowhere asks to be saved again. Instead, he requests the restoration of the "**joy of thy salvation**". He asks for many things, but rests fully confident in the security of God's salvation.

12. What happened to King Saul?

- ~ **I Sam. 10:6, 9, 10** - Saul became another man with another heart and was under the influence and power of the Holy Spirit (**11:6** also).

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- ~ **I Sam. 15:23** - His sin resulted in a political loss, hardly the issue of salvation.
- ~ **I Sam. 16:13, 14** - The Holy Spirit moves in power from Saul to David. This is hardly salvation – one losing as another receives!
- ~ **I Sam. 15:35** - Samuel did not visit Saul again till the day of Saul's death.
- ~ **I Sam. 28:11-17** - Samuel visits Saul and informs him not only of his coming death, but also of his destiny "**with me**" (**vs. 19**). In that Samuel was saved we must conclude that Saul would be saved even unto death (**31:1-5** even a suicide in battle).

#### 13. What was the condition of Simon the sorcerer?

- ~ **Acts 8:9-11** - Simon's high status and self promotion are clearly detailed.
- ~ **Acts 8:12, 13** - The account is clear that "**when**" (**vs. 12**) he lost his following "**then**" (**vs. 13**) he believed also. His motives could well be suspect as were his responses when he "**wondered**" at what others understood.

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- ~ **Acts 8:18, 19** - His heart is uncovered as he tries to obtain special means to regain his pre-eminence.
- ~ **Acts 8:20, 21** - He is informed that despite his profession he is perishing and has neither "*part nor lot in this matter*".
- ~ **Acts 8:22-24** - He seems incapable or unwilling to repent and pray and asks only that someone else pray ... not for deliverance, but rather to escape the consequences.
- ~ **John 2:23-25** - Jesus made it clear that many of those who did believe in Him were not saved, as He knew their hearts and would not commit Himself to them.

#### 14. What happened to Demas?

- ~ **Col. 4:14** - While Demas sent greetings to the Church of Colosse, this surely is no evidence of salvation.
- ~ **Philem. 24** - Demas labored with Paul and others, but works do not produce or guarantee salvation (**Eph. 2:8-10**).

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- ~ **II Tim. 4:10** - Demas left Paul due to a love for this present world. Where does it say he was ever saved?
  
- ~ **I John 2:15-17** - Love of the world is evidence of an individual not having the love of God in them. True saints do not love the world; instead, they overcome it (**I John 5:2-5**). People tied to the world are of the world (**I John 4:5, 6**). Salvation separates us from the world (**John 15:18, 19; 17:11-16**). Demas exposed himself as never having been converted from a worldling to a saint.

### 15. What about Alexander the coppersmith?

- ~ **II Tim. 4:14-15** - The issue raised here is works, not faith. There is no hint of his ever being converted, nor evidence compelling of his being lost. God doesn't address the issue, so we don't know.

### 16. What about Hymenaeus, Alexander, and Philetus?

- ~ **II Tim. 2:16-18** - These erred concerning the truth, especially the believers' resurrection. They taught that it was an event already in the past. This overthrew the faith of some.

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- ~ **I Tim. 1:18-20** – They had put away the holding of the true faith as well as a good conscience. The result was spiritual shipwreck. Paul had delivered them to Satan that they might learn not to blaspheme. Such an action is disciplinary; to teach not remove salvation (**I Cor. 5:5**). The goal is recovery or restoration of one who is a saint (**II Cor. 2:1-11**), protection of other saints (**I Cor. 5:6, 7**), and exposure of counterfeits (**I Cor. 6:9, 10**). The action taken neither proves nor disproves salvation, and certainly doesn't remove salvation.

#### 17. What about Esau?

- ~ **Heb. 12:14-17** - Esau is never represented as saved or desiring to be saved. He sold his birthright (spiritual) and lost his blessing (material). It was the material that occupied his mind. **Rom. 9:13 (vss. 6-23)** makes it clear that Esau was never God's own, never loved like Jacob, but rather hated by God!

#### 18. What happened to Peter?

- ~ **John 13:10** - Jesus made it clear that Peter was saved, washed, and clean.

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- ~ **John 17:12** - Jesus told the Father that He had kept Peter. (Peter didn't have to keep himself).
- ~ **Matt. 16:13-18** - Peter had special revelation from the Father regarding the person and work of Jesus, a mark of the truly saved. (**Gal. 1:7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 16**).
- ~ **Matt. 26:21-25** - Peter owned Jesus as Lord. He thus differed from Judas who could only call Him Master. Peter would deny the Lord (**Matt. 26:74-27:10**) while Judas betrayed Him. Judas was "lost" but Peter was "*kept*". Judas repented, but in a self-centered way, while Peter repented and wept over what it had done to Jesus. The distinction between the two is clear.

19. What about the branches of the vine that are burned?

- ~ **John 15:1-8** - The issue of these verses is not salvation, but fruitbearing (**vss. 2, 4, 5, 8** – fruit, more fruit, much fruit). **Verse 6** is a verse of pictures, clearly stated by the word "as". "**Cast forth**", "**withered**", "**men gather**", "**cast into**", and "**burned**" are all picture terms to teach us of God's feelings and dealings with fruitless saints. This is not

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a doctrinal passage as we know God does not use men to throw other men into Hell.

20. What about those whom God might cut off (**Rom. 11:22b**)?

- ~ **Rom. 11:11-25** - This passage has to do with the salvation of Gentiles (**vss. 11, 13, 16, 17, 21, 24, 25**). They are viewed as a group and different from the Jewish people. God doesn't have groups, but individuals in groups. While God has laid the Jewish people aside as a group, some individuals are being saved. While God is working with Gentiles, many individuals are staying lost. The passage states that God may revise His dealings and "**cut off**" the Gentiles from our day of opportunity and sight.

21. What about those who "**are fallen from grace**"?

- ~ **Gal. 5:4** - Such are those who have no help from Jesus and think that their salvation is instead produced by the law. These could never meet a Biblical definition of salvation. True salvation is in Jesus and not the law. They instead believe the very opposite of the Scriptures (**Gal. 5:4** contrasts

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with **Gal. 2:16**). They would make Jesus unnecessary, which is not the position of the Bible teaching of Grace.

- ~ **Gal. 5:4-9** – There is a contrast between the “**you**” and “**ye**” vs. the “**we**”; “**law**” vs. “**faith**”. The issue at hand is one of wrong doctrine, not of losing salvation. We are instructed to stay right and “**stand fast**” on this doctrine (**vs. 1**).

#### 22. What about the “if” of **I Cor. 15:2**?

- ~ A genuine salvation is evidenced by an ongoing faith, a keeping in memory of the true Gospel, and a life lived right. Otherwise the belief was empty (**vain 15:2**), and useless (**II John 9; Col. 1:21-23**). It is not faithfulness to be saved, but faithfulness because we're saved, the evidence of a changed life. The Bible tells us about those who believed in vain (**I Cor. 15:2**) in **John 2:23-25** and **James 2:19**.

#### 23. What about hypocrites?

- ~ **Job 8:13** - Their “**hope shall perish**”. They have no salvation as long as they are a hypocrite.
- ~ **Job 13:16** - Hypocrites cannot come to God in their present condition.

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- ~ **Job 15:34** - The hypocrite's "congregation" shall be desolate, – certainly not a term of salvation. Their joy is very short-lived (**20:5**). All his hopes and prayers shall come to nothing (**27:8-10**). All they have ahead of them is God's wrath (**36:13**).
  
- ~ **Isa. 33:14** - To their surprise they shall face the burning fire of Hell (**Matt. 24:51**).
  
- ~ **Matt. 23:1-33** - They do not enter the Kingdom of Heaven (**vs. 13**), but they do receive greater damnation (**vs. 14**). They are called "**the child of Hell**" (**vs. 15**), and are unable to "**escape the damnation of Hell**" (**vs. 33**).

We can safely say that ... **all hypocrites are lost.**

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### CHAPTER TWO: Answers to Questions Raised (conclusion)

There may be other questions raised on the subject that are not listed here. Those that are Bible questions will likely be similar to one of the above. Honest consideration of the context alone with thorough searching of the whole of Scriptures should bring you to a similar conclusion.

Questions based on people's lives must not be judged on what we saw or thought we saw, but on what God saw and said in the Bible (**I Sam. 16:7; Rom. 3:4**). We are not to interpret the Bible in light of individuals' lives, but rather, understand their lives in the light of the Bible (**Isa. 8:20**). The Bible must be our authority and final answer.

There are ungodly false teachers who turn "**the grace of God into lasciviousness**", – that is, they make salvation a license to sin. Such not only are not saved (**Jude 4; II Pet. 2:1-3**), but neither do they understand that salvation delivers us from a life of sin.

True salvation produces holy living as an evidence of the miraculous change of conversion (**II Cor. 5:17**). Such a deliverance from the enemy gives us assurance and peace with our God. We can know that we know that we are saved (Theme of **I John**). We rest in Jesus who will keep us

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saved (II Tim. 1:12; John 10:27-30; etc.) Our labors are centered on serving Jesus instead of "holding on". Of course we love Him and want to serve Him. We know that He has given us a permanent salvation ... it will last for eternity ... forever!

*"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before Him". (Eccl. 3:14).*