

OSAS or being saved

"beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." 1 john 3:2

i want to touch on a controversial topic today, and i do so with much trepidation and the fear of God as my guide. the topic being, "once saved, always saved." osas contends that we are sealed when we first believe and cannot lose that salvation. seals were meant to authenticate something. they were meant to be broken.

some even say, depending on how one stands on this topic can actually determine whether they are actually saved or not. scripture says, "for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." eph 2:8 some teach "sovereign grace" while others teach "free grace," but all admit to grace.

the question i want to ask each is, "when are we truly saved?" there is a teacher i love from years ago named david pawson and i would like to reference him here. he says he is not once saved, therefore he is not always saved, YET! he said, "my salvation is not yet complete. when my wife's husband is perfect, then i'm going to shout, 'once saved, always saved.'"

he goes on to say it will be when he is free of all sin and sins; when he's actually like Jesus, through and through... that when you're standing side by side, no one can't tell the difference." yes, we shall be like

Him indeed! it's God's will to have sons in His image.

scripture also tells us in acts 2:47, "and the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." it also tells us, "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 cor 1:18

just as in the jewish wedding tradition, a couple are bound together when the document is signed, even though it is not consummated until later. we are now bound to Jesus but have not yet been made complete in Him. we are "being saved;" being transformed by the renewing of our mind. it's a process of being saved and until it is complete, one can still back out. and our Lord said, "he who endures to the end shall be saved." mark 13:13 finally and completely!

so does that mean one is to worry constantly whether they are saved or sinner? absolutely not. sinlessness (being impossible) and works will not save me. yet i stand 100% confident today that i will someday shout, "i am once saved and always saved." salvation will have been completed and i shall be like Him. but for now, "it is no longer i who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which i now live in the flesh i live by faith in the Son of God." gal 2:20

"the just shall live by faith." heb 10:38 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home. this is not a work because i chose to believe, for God even gives the faith to believe. "as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." rom 12:3 our only part is the "free will" to choose, which He has

also given. all is from God and of God. He is all in all.

God is, "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 pet 3:9 but just as He will not force anyone to believe, He will not force anyone to stay where they choose not to. we are not predestined to be saved or not. one can choose to leave the faith and many have. "by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which i preached to you - unless you believed in vain." 1 cor 15:2

i would not dare take grace for granted and live licentiously, feeling confident that i was always saved. it's just too easy to say one was never saved if they leave the faith when they may have come as sincerely as you or i did in the beginning.

how then could anyone ever be really sure of salvation when sin continues in our lives? faith, my friend. God's word is full of scriptures proclaiming, "if you will, then I will." cling to Jesus, keep pushing down on sin and pulling up by grace, and God's got us covered; the blood is sufficient. and as long as He still chastens and convicts me, i know i am still His child. "not that i have already attained, or am already perfected; but i press on, that i may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me." phil 3:12 the upward call of Christ is ever my goal.

"for which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it." luke 14:28 repentance and

turning is only the start of the race. hold the confession, "i have fought the good fight, i have finished the race, i have kept the faith. finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." 2 tim 4:7-8

be sure we finish the race. our Lord described all in luke with the parable about the sower. "but the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away." luke 8:13 these are believers falling away. take root and let fruit be evident, in it's season, in your life. let us be cautious but confident of the gift given.

these are my beliefs as i search the scriptures. certainly i could be wrong in my beliefs, but at least i have taken time and effort to search out scriptures i can use to justify what i believe. how much time have you taken to confirm your beliefs, or are you just satisfied in relying on what someone else has told you? if you take your eternal salvation that lightly, perhaps you should be checking whether you are one who has believed in vain.

i pray that it not be a matter of dissension among the brethren. let each be confident in their own mind. "but if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong." rom 14:4 nlt search for yourselves, and "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." phil 2:12 everything is not a salvation issue, but don't be wrong in your rightness

or your carelessness. let the Holy Spirit be your guide.

"and the Spirit and the bride say, "come!" and let him who hears say, "come!" and let him who thirsts come. whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." rev 22:17

for those of you who would like to listen to david pawson's teaching on this, you may do so here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hG-zaJXv5D0&list=WL&index=75>