

SELF JUSTIFIERS and CASTAWAYS

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under *MY BODY*, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a *CASTAWAY*. -- 1 Cor. 9:26, 27

To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction *OF THE FLESH*, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. -- 1 Cor. 5:5

The “Lose your salvationists,” Baptist Purgatory advocates, or “works for salvation or to keep salvation” heretics’ problems and/or objections in this passage is to imagine that to be a “castaway” is to be eternally or temporarily lost, forcing that interpretation into this passage and upon others. The truth is that Paul never feared being lost, either permanently or temporarily but rather feared being put on the shelf, never to be used by God. Such a castaway may even be delivered to Satan for the destruction of *HIS FLESH* but his Spirit to be saved. You may note that Paul had a “*BODY*” problem, and he had to keep it in subjection.

Justifiers by the Law

Christ is become of *NO EFFECT* unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are *FALLEN FROM GRACE* [not from salvation]. -- Gal. 5:4

The same crews condemn themselves with such a proof-text, for it is the Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Catholics, who justify themselves by the law or by works —not born again Christians. Others justify themselves by works to get salvation, keep salvation, or escape the JSOC lake of fire. By so doing, they brand themselves as being fallen from grace with Christ being *NO EFFECT* unto them in the first place. Born again Christians are justified by the blood of Christ. They embrace God’s grace, and Christ and His blood is efficacious to them. They do not justify themselves by the law or works for salvation. So, they need not apply here, for they are not *SELF* justifiers.

Falling Away

For it is *IMPOSSIBLE* for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, *IF* they shall *FALL AWAY*, to *RENEW* them *AGAIN* unto *REPENTANCE*; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame . . . *BUT* beloved, we are *PERSUADED BETTER THINGS OF YOU*, and things that *ACCOMPANY SALVATION, THOUGH WE THUS SPEAK*. --Heb. 6:4-6, 8

If this verse says anything, it says that “*IF*” they shall (in the sense of could) fall away (an impossible fall from salvation), it would then be *IMPOSSIBLE TO RENEW* them again unto repentance. No prodigal sons in this passage. Still, the context (V. 18, 19) indicates it is impossible for them to fall, because it is impossible for God to lie and to renege on His promise. That is why born again believers can have such strong consolation in this matter, even an anchor of soul. Real believers do fall nor crucify Christ afresh. Cultists and Workers for salvation do. The hypothetical salvation that could be lost here cannot be renewed, as also its required repentance. Where does that leave the Baptist Purgatory folks, who think that confession can get these folks back? To this hypothetical situation and conclusion, Paul says, *THOUGH WE THUS SPEAK*, while he gives them the benefit of the doubt of being saved.

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath *TRODDEN UNDER FOOT* the Son of God, and hath *COUNTED THE BLOOD* of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an *UNHOLY* thing, and hath *DONE DESPITE* unto the Spirit of grace? . . . if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him, *BUT* we are *NOT OF THEM* who *DRAW BACK* unto *PERDITION*; *BUT OF THEM* that believe to the *SAVING OF THE SOUL*. -- Heb. 10:29, 38, 39

Treading underfoot the Son of God and the price that He paid for salvation is not the ordinary practice of true born again Baptist believers. It is the practice of Seventh-- Day Adventists, Jehovah Witnesses, and other cultists, who have a “works-for-salvation” and/or a “lose-your-salvation” program. If the user of such a proof text would study the context of his proof text, he would note that it is “sinning *WILLFULLY*” after receiving only a *KNOWLEDGE* of the truth (V. 26). He might also note that the punishment, *DEATH*, (which is compared to people dying, who despised Moses law) is involved here—not losing one’s salvation (V. 29). It may also be noted that the writer of Hebrews did not consider himself or those with him, to be included with them, who draw back into perdition (V. 38, 39). He rather counted his group as believing to the “saving” of the soul. So, do we.

Overcomer Names NOT Blotted Out of the Book of Life

He that *OVERCOMETH*, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will *NOT BLOT* out his name out of the *BOOK OF LIFE*, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. -- Rev. 3:5

And they *OVERCAME* him [the devil] *BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB*, and by the *WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY* . . . --Rev. 12:11

. . . For *WHATSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMETH* the word: and this is the victory that *OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH*. Who is he that *OVERCOMETH* the world, but he that *BELIEVETH* that Jesus is the Son of God? --1 John 5:4, 5

Overcoming is by "*BLOOD*" not by works. The only way to insure that your name will not be blotted out of the Book of Life is to overcome by the blood of the Lamb. Nowhere, in God's word, is any born again believers' names blotted out. The verse is a promise not a threat, and is not grounds for establishing one's *OWN* righteousness. Overcoming by works is never for salvation. Overcoming is a done deal. We have already overcome the wicked one (John 2:13, 14), by the blood—of course (Rev. 12:11). The new birth as well makes a believer an *OVERCOMER* (1 John 5:4, 5). No cult of works for overcoming for us! While they sing, "We shall overcome," we are singing, "We have overcome!" Thank you Jesus! Amen! Hallelujah! Does I have a witness?"

-- by **Herb Evans**