

# WORDS OF TRUTH

*A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ*

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<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

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## *Sunrise Acres*

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:  
8625 Robert Drive  
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

### OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

### Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

### Are "All True Believers" Eternally Secure?

*By: Brian A. Yeager*

A couple of months ago I had an email exchange with Van Minter from the "Lake Ridge Bible Church" in Mesquite, TX (a closet Baptist church). He affirmed the old "once saved, always saved" position in our email discussion. On the website of the "church" he works with, their official position is (notice that the Scriptures used do not state what they say they do): *"Salvation — Salvation from the eternal consequences of Adam's sin and our own sins comes by the unmerited grace of God and is received by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). Christ died in the place of all sinners and rose again (Matthew 20:28, 1 John 2:2, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8) to reconcile holy God and sinful mankind (2 Corinthians 5:19), and to redeem mankind from the eternal consequences of the fall (Colossians 1:14, 20-22). However, Christ's death is only effective for those who believe (John 3:16-18). All true believers are eternally secure in Christ (John 10:28-30, 1 John 5:11-13)"* (<http://www.lakeridgebiblechurch.org/beliefs.htm>).

Most common sense Bible students can easily see that we are not saved by faith alone (Mark 13:13, Mark 16:15-16, John 5:34, John 10:9, Acts 2:21, Acts 2:47, Acts 4:10-12, Romans 1:16, Romans 8:24, Romans 10:10, I Corinthians 1:18, I Corinthians 5:4-5, I Corinthians 15:1-2, II Corinthians 7:10, and I Peter 3:20-21). If salvation were by grace through faith alone, the Scriptures would be useless because they teach us how to live, not just how to believe (Psalms 119:105, Romans 12:1-2, Titus 2:11-14, and II Peter 1:1-4). Through Christ we learn obedience and we learn that we do have a role in our salvation (Acts 2:40 and Philippians 2:5-12). Anyone who has ever even skimmed through James 2:14-26 could not walk away believing as does the "Lake Ridge Bible Church" in Mesquite, TX.

Most can even easily see that Christ did not die in our place, for we never had a place on the cross. Christ is not our substitution like the ram was for Isaac (Genesis 22:10-13). Jesus is the SACRIFICE (Ephesians 5:2 and Hebrews 10:10-12), not the substitution. This is clear, but what about eternal security?

## Does John 10:28-30 and I John 5:11-13 Teach Eternal Security?

The passages state: *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one... And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”* (John 10:28-30 and I John 5:11-13).

First, let's deal with John 10:28-30. Who is it that is given eternal life, that shall never perish, and cannot be plucked from the hand of the Lord? The preceding verse says: *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me”* (John 10:27). Who is therefore given eternal life? Those that hear the voice of the Lord and follow Him. Two chapters before Jesus said: *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed**”* (John 8:31). The context teaches conditional salvation as does the rest of the record (I John 2:1-6). Secondly, the fact that someone cannot take our salvation is a whole different subject than one being able to give up their salvation (Hebrews 3:8-13), or lose it because of sin (Hebrews 10:26-31; 12:1). We shall discuss this more later.

Secondly, let's think about I John 5:11-13. Does anything in these passages say you cannot fall away or that you are saved by faith only? NO! In fact, this same book denies salvation by faith only and the eternal security error by way of conditions on our continued redemption. Notice: *“But **if** we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin... **If** we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness... Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. **If** that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father”* (I John 1:7; 9; 2:24). Furthermore, as we discuss other passages the idea that you cannot fall away becomes ridiculous.

### Clearly, You CAN Fall From Grace!

Notice a few of the many warnings: *“They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation **fall away**... Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace**... 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**... Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth **take heed lest he fall**... 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**... As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, **unto their own destruction**. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, **being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness**”* (Luke 8:13, Galatians 5:4, I Corinthians 9:27; 10:12, Hebrews 6:4-6, and II Peter 3:16-17).

### Conclusion

Space has certainly brought this article to a close. But the subject has much more that could be said. Please read the following Scriptures to close the arguments of “once saved, always saved” (Acts 8:12-24, I Corinthians 5:1-8, Colossians 1:23, I Timothy 1:19-20, I Timothy 4:1-3, I Timothy 5:15, II Timothy 2:14-18, II Timothy 4:10-17, James 5:19-20, II Peter 2:20-22, II John 8-9, and Revelation 2:1-7; 2:12-29; 3:1-6; 3:14-22).

**What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)?** Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).