



The Voice of Truth



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Did Judas Fall?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

It is obvious that the Apostle Judas Iscariot went to the place of torment after betraying Jesus and committing suicide: *“For the Son of man goeth, even as it is written of him: but woe unto that man through whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had not been born”* (Mark 14:21). Because of this fact, the eternal security defenders are left with no option but to strictly insist that Judas was never really saved to begin with or surrender their belief in eternal security, something which few of them seem to be willing to do.

Judas is a prime example of a believer who fell into complete apostasy. *“And when it was day, he called his disciples; and he chose from them twelve, whom also he named apostles: Simon, whom he also named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip and Bartholomew, and Matthew and Thomas, and James (the son) of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas (the son) of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor”* (Luke 6:13-16).

Please note: The first time we hear of Judas Iscariot, we are informed that he already was a “disciple.” Furthermore, he was “called” and “chosen” by Christ Himself to be an “apostle” at the same time as the other twelve. *“Jesus answered them, Did not I choose you the twelve, and one of you is a devil? Now he spake of Judas (the son) of Simon Iscariot, for he it was that should betray him, (being) one of the twelve”* (John 6:70-71). Going back to verse 16, chapter 6 of Luke, please note that Judas “became” a traitor. The word “became” for Judas suggests a change for the worse that occurred sometime after he was chosen as a disciple by Christ to be His apostle. Or we might say he was once a “disciple” of the Lord’s ele-

vated to apostle, who later “became a traitor,” as God’s Word has so stated. Either way, the spiritual condition of this apostle backslides to the place where he betrayed Christ, committed suicide and then went to the place of torment!

Also, remember this about Judas: he was sent forth to preach, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those having leprosy and drive out demons. *“But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons: freely ye received, freely give. Get you no gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses; no wallet for (your) journey, neither two coats, nor shoes, nor staff: for the laborer is worthy of his food”* (Matthew 10:6-10). *“And he appointed twelve, that they might be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have authority to cast out demons”* (Mark 3:14-15). This states that the twelve, including who? Judas, were given spiritual authority by Jesus to Drive out demons (Matthew 12:26)! For a person to indirectly say Judas was never saved is to say that Jesus chose Judas, who was unholy, to be His holy representative (John 6:70-71)! The Bible tells us that, “Judas by transgression fell.” (Acts 1:25).

“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me” (Psalm 41:9). Jesus quotes from Psalm 41 and attributes it to Judas in John 13, verse eighteen, *“I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled: He that eateth my bread lifted up his heel against me.”* Please note that Judas was once Jesus’ close friend, whom Jesus trusted! Question: Since Jesus knew what

was in man, “for he himself knew what was in man” (**John 2:25**), how then could Jesus trust Judas in the early days of their friendship if Judas was never saved? “Jesus saith to him, He that is bathed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew him that should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean” (**John 13:10-11**). Judas was not “clean” in contrast to the other disciples. But does this say that Judas was never “clean”? It merely says, at that point in time, Judas wasn’t clean then! Remember, he was a disciple in the beginning, chosen to be an apostle, so he must have been clean at the beginning!

Notice what is said concerning Judas: “Jesus answered them, Did not I choose you the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” (**John 6:70**). “Now this he said, not because he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and having the bag took away what was put therein” (**John 12:6**). “And after the sop, then entered Satan into him. Jesus therefore saith unto him, What thou doest, do quickly” (**John 13:27**). Those who believe in eternal security, once saved always saved, say Judas was called a devil, a thief, and Satan entered into him, how then could he have been saved? Such overlook the truth that one’s spiritual condition can change from righteous to evil as exemplified with Demas, the prodigal son and Solomon.

Notice this passage: “But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who it was that should betray him” (**John 6:64**). Some have also confused the truth stated in **John 6:64** to mean Judas never believed even from the beginning. However, it doesn’t say that at all! The verse says, “But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they (Plural) were that believed not, and who (Singular) it was that should betray him.” Notice there is two groups referred to here. This is evident in the Greek. One is plural in tense that didn’t believe from the beginning and the other is singular in tense referring to Judas who would betray Him! Now, Judas, as

well as all men, was morally free to make right choices but chose to yield to sin instead. The Bible says, “Judas fell away” (**Acts 1:25 ASV**); Judas turned aside, clearly indicates that Judas had become an apostate of his own free choosing and went to an apostate’s reward: eternal punishment. He went to his own place, referring to damnation of hell. Attempts to teach that Judas was predetermined to fulfill the role of a traitor fail to realize this fact: That Judas “became a traitor” (**Luke 6:16**), and leaves the gospel story a doomed man because he chose it so! At some point along the way, Judas lost his commitment to the Lord and became unfaithful.

So “once saved always saved” is a dangerous, false doctrine. It is just the kind of doctrine which would be in the gospel according to Satan.*

"Show Me Your Faith..."

By Jonathan L. Perz

In exposing the folly of the idea of faith without works, James writes, “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works” (**James 2:17-18**). Could not the same challenge be directed toward many professing Christianity today?

Do our works match our professed faith in Christ Jesus?

In one sense perhaps we could argue that they do. You see, despite the inspired teachings of Jesus, many have chosen to go their own way and subscribe to man’s doctrines instead of putting their faith in the word of God (**Rom. 10:17**). For instance, many who profess a faith in Christ Jesus ardently oppose the idea that baptism (immersion in water) is necessary for salvation. Jesus plainly said it is necessary (**Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:18-20**). His apostles plainly practiced it as necessary (**Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21**, et al). So, those who do not believe that baptism is necessary are showing their faith by

their works. Their faith is clearly in something other than the teachings of Jesus Christ and His inspired apostles.

On the other hand, many who say they have faith and who have been baptized also demonstrate their faith by their works, or lack thereof. Paul instructed Titus that *"our people also learn to maintain good works"* (Tit. 3:8, 14). He also stated we should always abound in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58), works which we were created for (Eph. 2:10). This is an unfortunate testimony on the status of faith in our day.

So, not only has the faith of many been rendered vain by the false teaching of men, the faith of others has been rendered dead by the absence of works to demonstrate their faith.

Don't just talk about your faith! Show your faith! Prove that your faith is indeed in Him and not in men! *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com* ♦

"The Extent Of God's Authority" By Jarrod Jacobs

When we consider God's authority, many will pay lip-service to it, but few seem to realize just how far God's authority extends. We live in a time when men wish to have some authority "for themselves." They want to be able to "call the shots" and run their own lives. This is just not possible. The sooner we recognize the extent of God's authority over us, the better off we will be. Consider the points below and let us humble ourselves before God Almighty. What is the extent of God's authority over man?

1) He Directs Us - Jeremiah 10:23: *"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."* If it is not in man to direct his steps, who will direct us? The Lord God!

2) He Has Told Us How To Worship Him - John 4:24: *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* Therefore, our worship is not a "do

as you please" kind of thing. Nor is our worship geared toward what makes people feel good, but what pleases God!

Our worship to God consists of singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16); prayers, teaching, partaking of the Lord's Supper, and giving of our means (Acts 2:42, 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2). Why? Because this is what God has told us to do!

3) He Has Told Us To Be Morally Pure - 1 Timothy 5:22: *"...keep thyself pure."* The NAS says, *"keep yourself free from sin."* Ephesians 4:25-5:4 list several things in which the Christian is not to engage: lying, sinning in anger, stealing, gossiping, acting like the world, telling "dirty" jokes, cursing, etc., ought not be a part of a Christian's life. Why? Because God rules. He has the authority over us and expects us to be better than that!

4) Whatever We Do And Say Must Have Sanction From God - Colossians 3:17: *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."*

Conclusion

In truth, when we consider these passages of Scripture, we find that there is NO part of our life over which God does not have authority. God rules completely, and it is high time we respected this. God "sees in secret" (Matt. 6:4, 6, 18). He knows our thoughts, words, and deeds. And, He will judge our thoughts, words, and deeds one day by His Son (Jn. 5:22, 27; II Cor. 5:10). Therefore, why fight against God? Let us surrender our lives and wills to the Almighty! Let us now determine that we will submit to God's rule. If not, there will be a day in which we will kneel, and confess, and acknowledge God's power over the universe, but then it will be too late (Rom. 14:11-12; Phil. 2:10-11; II Cor. 5:10). Don't wait until it is too late! Live a worthwhile and fulfilled life by submitting wholeheartedly to the authority of God which encompasses us and all aspects of our lives! *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com* ♦

"Do My Sins Affect My Soul?"

Jarrod Jacobs

Those who believe in the impossibility of apostasy argue that sins of the flesh, the outer man, do not affect the condition of the soul, the inner man. Hence, the inner, spiritual man, the soul, cannot be lost because of the deeds or sins performed by the flesh. A number of passages show this type of thinking is false (**Matt. 15:18-19; II Cor. 7:1; Col. 3:5-6; Eph. 5:3-6; Rom. 8:12-13; Gal. 5:19-21, 6:7-8**).

However, two are especially simple, useful and easy to be understood. *"Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul"* (**I Pet. 2:11**). Sins of the flesh do affect the soul. They *"war against the soul."* Further, in **II Corinthians 5:10**, the Spirit saith, *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* Could language be plainer? How, then, can Calvinists argue that sins of the flesh do not jeopardize the destiny of the soul?

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

At the End of the Day

Author unknown

1. Have I Accomplished Good?
Eph. 2:10; 2 Tim. 3:17; Rom. 2:7-8; 12:9
2. Have I Avoided Evil?
1 Tim. 5:22; 6:5,11; 2 Tim. 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:1
3. Have I Sinned Against Someone, or Has Someone Sinned Against Me?
Eph. 4:25-26; Rom. 12:18,21; Luke 17:1-4; Matt. 5:23-26
4. Have I Repented?
Matt. 9:13; Luke 15:10; 2 Pet. 3:9
5. Have I Left Something Undone?
2 Pet. 3:11; 1 Pet. 1:15,22
6. Have I Made Good Resolutions?
Phil. 3:8-15a
7. Have I Encouraged Somebody?
1 Thess. 5:14; Acts 4:36; 9:27-28; 11:19-24
8. Have I Overcome Worldliness?
1 John 2:15-17; Rom. 12:1,2
9. Have I Expressed Gratitude to God?
Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2
10. Have I Thought About God and His Word?
Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:13,15; 2 Tim. 2:15; Phil. 4:8; Psalms 77:12; Psalms 119:48

Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - **Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3**

Believe - **Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24**

Repent - **Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30**

Confess the Lord - **Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**

Be Baptized - **Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27**

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - **Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17**

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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**Schedule of Assembly**

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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