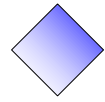


The Voice of Truth



December 8, 2013

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 elevated 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!

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!

Also, remember this about Judas: he was sent forth to

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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 pre-determined 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. *

"That Which Saves Man"

By Jarrod Jacobs

There is much religious confusion today. One way in which men have been fooled is in the teaching which says that one thing (specifically, faith) alone saves a man. Many in this world wish to tell men that once they have faith, then they are saved from their sins. Is this what the Bible teaches? Consider the verses below. The Bible teaches that:

1) People saw salvation when John preached (**Lk. 1:77, 3:6**).

2) Salvation came through Christ (**Matt. 1:21; Lk. 2:30, 19:9-10; Jn. 3:17, 10:9, 12:47; Acts 4:12; I Tim. 1:15; Heb. 7:25; Jas. 4:12; Rom. 4:25**).

3) Paul and Barnabas showed people "the way of salvation" (**Acts 16:17**).

4) The Gospel is God's power to salvation (**Rom. 1:16; Eph. 1:13; Jas. 1:21; I Cor. 15:1-2; Gal. 2:16**).

5) Man must believe and confess Christ in order to be saved (**Rom. 10:9-10**).

6) "Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation" (**II Cor. 7:10**). Repentance of sins saves man (**Acts 2:38**).

7) God's grace saves us (**Tit. 2:11, 3:7; Acts 15:11; Eph. 2:5, 8; II Tim. 1:9; Rom. 3:24**).

8) Obedience to Christ saves us (**Heb. 5:8-9; Rom. 2:13; Matt. 7:21; Jas. 2:24**).

9) Faith saves us (**Mk. 16:16; I Pet. 1:9-10; I Cor. 1:21; Heb. 10:39; Lk. 8:12; Acts 10:43, 13:39, 16:11; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 3:25, 28, 30, 5:1; Gal. 3:8**).

10) Salvation is seen in God's longsuffering (**II Pet. 3:15; Rom. 3:25**).

11) People were commanded to "save themselves." Therefore, they were expected to do something (**Acts 2:40; I Tim. 4:16**).

12) The preaching of the Gospel saves (**I Cor. 1:21**).

13) Baptism saves us (**I Pet. 3:21; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16; Tit. 3:5; I Cor. 6:11; Jn. 3:3-5; Eph. 5:26**).

14) The one who endures to the end will be saved (**Matt. 24:13; Mk. 13:13**).

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15) The word of God/Christ saves (**Jn. 5:34; II Tim. 3:15; Acts 11:14**).

16) "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (**Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:13**).

17) The blood of Christ saves us (**Rom. 3:25, 5:9; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:22; Rev. 1:5**).

18) We are saved by the life of Christ (**Rom. 5:10**).

19) We are saved by hope (**Rom. 8:24**).

20) We must love the truth to be saved (**II Thess. 2:10**).

21) God's mercy saves us (**Tit. 3:5**).

22) God saves us (**Rom. 3:25, 30, 8:33; Gal. 3:8**).

23) Our own words can save or condemn us (**Matt. 12:36-37**).

24) Those whom God saves have been called by the gospel (**Rom. 8:30; II Thess. 2:14**).

25) Finally, the Bible says that God wants all men to be saved (**I Tim. 2:4**).

After reading these 25 things that the Bible says saves us, how could anyone dare say that one thing "alone" saves us? Where is the passage that says anything "alone" does anything?

Some may balk and say that we are "mixing categories." That is to say, there are things that God does to

bring about salvation, and then things man must do. I do not deny this. I believe and teach that there are things God does in order to bring about man's salvation. For man to try to "do it on his own," would result in nothing but dying in his sins. Dear friend, just go back through the things we have listed, take a sheet of paper, draw a line dividing the sheet in two, and on one side of the line write at the top of the page, "What God does." Then, on the other side of the line write, "What man does." Go back through your Bible and write down what God has done to bring about salvation for man and then what man must do in response. I can assure you that you will not have a "lopsided" list; nor will there be many things which God does, and only one thing that man does for salvation!

In fact, if we can look into the Bible and find anything besides faith that man must do in order to be saved (ex. repent, confess Christ, etc.), then man isn't saved by faith "alone" is he? Please understand, I do not deny the importance of faith in Christ in any way. It is absolutely necessary. Without faith, we will die in our sins (**Jn. 8:24; Heb. 11:6**). However, we must not get caught up in the false teaching that says that faith "alone" will save us, and we have nothing to do after that!

The salvation of man's eternal soul is the most important thing in this world (**Matt. 16:26**). Jesus came to die and save us from sin (**I Tim. 1:15**). God has given us His word (**II Tim. 3:16-17**). Now, it is up to us to read, study, and obey this precious word (**Eph. 3:4; II Tim. 2:15; Jas. 1:22-25; Matt. 7:21-23**). When we do all He said to do, we are unprofitable servants (**Lk. 17:10**). Yet, for all of this, God loves us and has provided a plan we can follow and upon doing such, can be saved. Are you saved from your sins? *Credit: The Old Paths - 11/17/13* ♦

GOD HAS A RIGHT

Author unknown

God has a right to a definite part of your time

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to a definite part of your money

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to be glorified through your tongue

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to be honored through your influence

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to your life

— He has the power to take all of it. ♦

**Truth is truth even if no one believes it.
Error is error if everyone believes it. ♦**

The church of Christ

Has:

- One Builder – Jesus Christ (**Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:9-11**)
- One Purchaser – Jesus Christ (**Acts 20:28**)
- One Head – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**)
- One Savior – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 5:23**)
- One destiny – eternal salvation (**Eph. 5:23**)

IS:

- The spiritual body of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23**)
- The kingdom of Christ (**Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28**)
- The depository of those saved (**Acts 2:47**)
- One body, not many bodies (**Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23**)
- One way to be added to the church:
- One must believe that Christ is the Son of God (**Jno. 8:24**)
- One must repent of sins (**Lk. 13:3**)
- One must confess that Christ is the Son of God (**Rom. 10:9-10**)
- One must be baptized into Christ (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**) •

The Nature Of The Kingdom Of God

IS NOT

1. Of This World (**John 18:36**).
2. Eating and Drinking (**Rom. 14:17**).
3. In Word (**1 Cor. 4:20**).
4. With Observation (**Luke 17:20**).

IS

1. In Power (**1 Cor. 4:20**).
2. Righteousness (**Rom. 14:17**).
3. Peace (**Rom. 14:17**).
4. Joy (**Rom. 14:17**).
5. Within You (**Luke 17:21**).
6. Unshakable (**Heb. 12:28**). •

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**

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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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com