<u>Eternal Judgment (Part 2)</u>

Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Falling Away - Eternal Security vs. Eternal Judgment

We know for sure that eternal judgment is in the bible because we've been studying Hebrews 6:1-3. However, many believe in the doctrine of eternal security even though those two words are not found in the scriptures as is "eternal judgment". Eternal security is also know as "once saved, always saved".

Let us peruse through some scriptures to verify the validity of this very popular statement.

Heb 6:4-8 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, (5) and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, (6) **if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance,** since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Clearly these scriptures describe those who have partaken of what we have been studying in the principles of the doctrine of Christ. The author of Hebrews states that it is impossible for those who have been enlightened in these salvation principles, having tasted of the heavenly gift (the Holy Spirit), and of the good word and of the power of God to come to be renewed again unto repentance, <u>IF they fall away</u>.

(7) For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; (8) but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

This doctrine apparently contradicts the "once saved, always saved" doctrine. If you decide to depart from Him, after you have been born again, you cannot be renewed again, as you were renewed the first time when you were first born again. You are not born-again multiple times. You are only born again once. Just as Christ died once and for all men, once and for all time, so you are born-again once. And if you decide to forsake the Lord, you cannot be renewed again.

The author of Hebrews comes back to the subject again later on with greater emphasis and clarity.

Heb 10:26-31 For **if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth,** there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. (28) Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

The operative word here that helps us to understand what is meant by "falling away" is "if we sin willfully". Truly falling away is willfully sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth (enlightened)... after tasting of the heavenly gift, the Holy Spirit... after tasting of the good word and the powers to come... because if you decide willfully to sin after all this, it's as if you crucify

the Lord again and again and put him to open shame before all the world. <u>You willfully sin, taking</u> for granted the blood which He shed for your sin.

(29) Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

How much sorer punishment can be expected after you were sanctified by the blood covenant of our Lord Jesus, to trample under your feet the Son of God... again and again... and count His sacrifice an unholy thing, while disrespecting and rejecting the Spirit of grace who came to empower your life to not sin?

(30) For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." (31) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Unforgivable Sin

Mat 12:31-32 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, <u>but</u> <u>the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.</u> (32) Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but <u>whoever speaks against the</u> <u>Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.</u>

In Jesus' own words, this is called "blasphemy against the Holy Ghost".

The sin described in these accounts of Hebrews is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. This is the unforgiveable sin because it is a rejection of the Holy Spirit of God, who is the Holy Spirit of Christ... who is Jesus (Rom 8: 9,10). The rejection of Jesus and His Spirit will never be forgiven. **The unforgiveable sin is the sin you will NOT repent of.**

Peter, another apostle, spoke of this same subject matter as well.

2Pe 2:20-22 For *if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome,* the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. (21) For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to *turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.*

Escaping the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is akin to "receiving the knowledge of the truth". Becoming entangled in the pollutions of the world again and overcome by them is the "falling away" from your escape. Your latter state is now worse than your prior state. It would have been better for you to have never known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and turn from the holiness that was given to you.

(22) But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A DOG RETURNS TO HIS OWN VOMIT," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

Like a dog eating his own vomit... like a pig, after being cleaned, returning to the mud and dung from which he came... so is the man who falls away from the salvation of the Lord.

"Eternal Security", as espoused by the doctrine of "once saved, always saved", is a myth and damnable heresy. The only "eternal security" found in the scriptures is applied only to those who have taken part in the first resurrection (resurrection of the just) because the second death (being cast into the lake of fire) has no power over them (Rev. 20: 4,14). Then, and only then, do we have "eternal security" in Him. Until then, we must endure and overcome to the end.

Great White Throne Judgment

2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Everyone must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Jesus describes in a parable how this eternal judgment will take place.

Mat 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. (32) All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. (33) And <u>He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the</u> <u>left.</u>

(34) Then the King will say to those on <u>His right hand</u>, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: (35) for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; (36) I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' (37) "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? (38) When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? (39) Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' (40) And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Remember Ezek 34: 2-4?

Eze 34:2-4 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "<u>Woe to the shepherds of Israel who</u> <u>feed themselves!</u> Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? (3) <u>You eat the fat and clothe</u> <u>yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the</u> <u>flock. (4) The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were</u> <u>sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what</u> <u>was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them.</u>

Every man will indeed be judged according to their works - works of righteousness in obedience or works or unrighteousness in disobedience.

(41) "Then He will also say to those <u>on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into</u> the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: (42) for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; (43) I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' (44) "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' (45) Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, <u>inasmuch as you</u> <u>did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' (46)</u> And these will go <u>away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."</u>

The resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment are like two sides of the same coin. The sheep of His hand, will be blessed on His right forevermore with life eternal. In contrast, the goats (tares) will be placed on His left and their judgment is surely everlasting and eternal.

Rev 20:11-15 <u>Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it</u>, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. (12) And <u>I</u> saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. <u>And the dead were judged</u> according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. (13) The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. (14) Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (15) And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

The eternal judgment takes place at the end of the thousand year reign with Christ, after the 2nd resurrection has taken place (resurrection of the unjust) and is applied to the devil, death & hell, and all those not found written in the book of life. This is the second and last death.

Those who shall not inherit the kingdom of God are listed as follows:

the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: <u>adultery, fornication,</u> <u>uncleanness, lewdness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies,</u> <u>outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, (21) envy, murders,</u> <u>drunkenness, revelries, and the like;</u> of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that <u>those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of</u> <u>God.</u> 1Co 6:9-11 Do you not know that <u>the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?</u> Do not be deceived. <u>Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor</u> <u>homosexuals, nor sodomites, (10) nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor</u> <u>revilers, nor extortioners</u> will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of

Notice Paul said, "And such were some of you", reminding them of what they were saved from and warning them to not go back. **Don't fall away** from so great a salvation.

Who will enter the Kingdom of God?

- Only those that DO the will of our Father, will enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 7:21).
- Only those that are born of the water and of the Spirit can see and enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:1-8)
- Only those that are converted (born-again) and become like children will enter into the kingdom of God (Matt. 18:3).
- Only those who receive the kingdom of God as a child will enter into the kingdom of God (Luke 18:17).
- Only the children of the first resurrection will enter into the kingdom of God (Luke 20:36; Rev. 20:6).
- Only the children of promise (Gal. 4:28) are the children of God who will enter the kingdom of God (Rom 9:8).
- Only the children of obedience will escape the wrath of God (Col. 3:6).
- Only the children of light, the children of the day, will enter the kingdom of God (1 Thes. 5:5).
- Only those who love God and are born of God will overcome the world (1 John 5: 2-4).

Let us endure unto the end (Matt. 24:13)...

...being overcomers (1 John 5: 4,5; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; Rev. 3: 5, 12, 21; Rev. 21:7) ...

...holding fast to the faith once delivered to us by the apostles and prophets of our Lord Jesus Christ (Jud 1:3)...

...taking inventory of ourselves and our walk with Him and to these principles of the doctrine of Christ, endeavoring to continue in them...

...and by doing so, we shall save ourselves and those that hear us (1 Tim. 4:16).

Amen.