**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 31**

**Questions: *Can one lose his salvation? Why does the Bible state that at the end times, many will fall away?***

1. ***Can one lose his salvation?***
   1. Yes, one can have salvation and then lose it later.
      1. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another (Matt. 24:10)
      2. “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith…” (1 Tim 4:1a)
      3. “You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.” (Galatians 5:4)
      4. “Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor 10:12.)
      5. “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Phil. 2:12)
      6. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. (Psalm 51:11)
   2. There are stern warnings for those who had then lost their salvation
      1. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. (2 Peter 2:21)
      2. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. (Hebrews 10:26-27).
      3. [43](http://biblehub.com/matthew/12-43.htm)“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. [44](http://biblehub.com/matthew/12-44.htm)Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. [45](http://biblehub.com/matthew/12-45.htm)Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation.” (Matthew 12:43-45; also see Luke 11:26)
   3. But those who had salvation and lost it were never in sincere fellowship with the church, that is, the whole body of apostolic doctrine. In other words, those who have salvation but lose it are those who had believed in Jesus, but didn’t hold to the whole counsel of God, and so in times of testing, fell away. Speaking of false teachers who left the apostles’ church, John writes…
      1. “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.” (1 John 2:19)
      2. The point is that holding to sound doctrine is essential, because those who don’t, but only believe in Jesus, are liable to fall away. Those who believe in Jesus, but deny some other biblical doctrines, are not a part of the true visible church, one holy catholic and apostolic church on earth. They may be saved, but they place themselves in great danger of losing the faith that has their lips confess that Jesus is Lord.
      3. Theologically, the “Elect” are those chosen by God before the foundation of the world and, by definition, will never fall away. (See Ephesians 1), however…You can never know with certainty whether you are one of the elect, you can only know, with certainty (1) whether you have salvation now, and (2) that God will never leave you or forsake you. Therefore, if you do fall away, it will not be because of God’s callousness or negligence, but yours. That is why we must “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”; remain humble; do not boast in yourself; and resist and renounce the devil, the world, all sin and everything that is contrary to the word of God, and repent daily.
      4. Biblically, “Elect” (Greek : eklectos) as a biblical term is also translated as “chosen”. So Jesus says, “to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.” and he says, “Many are called, few are chosen (elected)” (Matt. 22:14). One can debate whether *eklectos*, when used in the Scirptures, *always* must refers to those who cannot fall away.
2. **Why does the Bible state that at the end times, many will fall away?**
   * 1. Because (1) lawlessness will be increased (2) false Christs and false prophets will appear deceiving people, and (3) great tribulation will occur.
        1. [**9**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-9.htm)“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. [**10**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-10.htm)And then many will fall away[***a***](https://biblehub.com/esv/matthew/24.htm#footnotes) and betray one another and hate one another. [**11**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-11.htm)And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-12.htm)And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. [**13**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-13.htm)But the one who endures to the end will be saved. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-14.htm)And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matt 24:9-14)
        2. [**21**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-21.htm)For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. [**22**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-22.htm)And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. [**23**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-23.htm)Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. [**24**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-24.htm)For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. [**25**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-25.htm)See, I have told you beforehand. (Matt. 24:21-25)
        3. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-3.htm)Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion [apostasy, falling away from the faith] comes first, and the man of lawlessness[***b***](https://biblehub.com/esv/2_thessalonians/2.htm#footnotes) is revealed, the son of destruction,[***c***](https://biblehub.com/esv/2_thessalonians/2.htm#footnotes) [**4**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-4.htm)who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thes 2:3-4).
        4. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-8.htm)And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. [**9**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-9.htm)The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, [**10**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-10.htm)and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. [**11**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-11.htm)Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, [**12**](http://biblehub.com/2_thessalonians/2-12.htm)in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thes. 2:8-12)
        5. [**1**](http://biblehub.com/1_timothy/4-1.htm)Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, [**2**](http://biblehub.com/1_timothy/4-2.htm)through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, [**3**](http://biblehub.com/1_timothy/4-3.htm)who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. (1 Tim 4:1-3)