



# Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

## Heart to Heart...

You've probably heard it at one time or the other. **Once saved, always saved!** People teach, preach and believe that once you're saved, you will always be saved. They teach there is no falling from the grace of God. It's taught that if one falls away, they never had it to begin with!

**You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.** (Gal. 5:4) Did those brethren have Christ and salvation? Yes they did! Paul was warning them if they approach Christ by any other means than what was taught, they would fall from grace. Notice they wouldn't fall from works or law-keeping, but grace. **For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.** (Eph. 2:8) We are saved by the grace of God, not by works we do! We can fall from grace, despite what some say. Grace comes from the cross of Christ. One can let go of the cross and grace is no longer theirs.

**Once saved always saved!** is unscriptural. John Calvin came up with the teaching back in the 1500's. Adam and Eve lost the right to eternal life when they possessed it. Israel was lost as a nation after being God's own chosen people. Judas, an apostle of Christ, was lost. What about Demas, a disciple who worked with Paul? **For Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me, and gone to Thessalonica...** (II Tim. 4:10) The entire book of Hebrews is written to Jewish Christians who were being encouraged to go back under the law of Moses for their salvation. They were being warned that condemnation would result. One can come to Christ but one may also leave. Just read John 6.

The books of the New Testament are written to encourage the continued path and not turn away from what was preached and received. We were baptized into Christ and stand in God's grace. (Rom. 5:2) Not in the edge of grace but right in the middle. To reject the notion that **once saved, always saved!** is right but to embrace **once saved, barely saved!** is just as wrong. To believe that you will be saved no matter what is condemnation but to believe that you will make it by the skin of your teeth is just as condemning. Grace was intended to move us forward into the love of Christ.

**Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!** (I Pet. 5:12) One can fall from grace but one can also stand firm in it! It brings about confidence. The falling from grace is as real as the standing in grace. You can lose your soul and you can keep your soul saved. Grace saves us and will keep us saved, as long as we continue in it. Christ paid our ransom note, not because we were deserving but because of His love. We have a free gift, with great cost for our eternal destiny. It is offered in Christ and accepted by faith. Faith leads us to obedience to His will. To be baptized into Christ is the will of God and faith seizes that will, so one can stand in the grace of God. It's free, it's ours and we must continue our walk in it. You cannot embrace Jesus with all your heart and be lost. You can disregard the death of Jesus, follow your own selfish desires while claiming salvation, but that is only deceiving yourself. Think about it!!!

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