Once Saved-and Still Believing for Salvation

(Trusting That We Be Not Deceived)-(Matt.24:4)

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Jesus warned (Matt.24:4) *"Take heed that no man deceive you",* because He knew there would be many false teachers (whom Satan uses to *try* to side-track professed Believers away from a true faith on God for Salvation). Bible Scriptures predict that in the closing days, there would be many delusions, false teachers forming wrong opinions and wrong interpretations of God's Word (and resulting in Satan causing many false doctrines to be published to deceive people, which is why Jesus warned everyone who will listen and take heed). Therefore, in these closing days of the Gospel Age, we must be more alert than ever before to deceptions of the devil.

With multitudes of religions in the world, there are very few giving the full Truth of God's Word in the messages, (instead, wanting to appease the listeners with Jesus' words of 'assurance' for believers, but not caring to repeat Jesus' words of admonition *"Take heed that no man deceive you."* Jesus declared that true believers (those truly trusting on Him in faith) would be a very small minority, as compared to the huge majority of those who do *speak* of faith in Him (but do not *trust* on Him in believing faith) (and they are not being taught from the Scriptures to trust on Him). (Matt.7:15, Jesus warned His followers) *"Beware of the 'false teachers'— men who come to you in sheep's fleeces, but* beneath that *disguise they* are *ravenous wolves."*

Jesus gave us many such warnings (Mark 12:38,40) *"Be on your guard against the Scribes who— mask their wickedness by making long prayers."* (Luke 21:8) *"See to it that you are not misled; for many will come* assuming my name *and professing, 'I am He,' or saying, 'The time is close at hand.' Do not go and follow them."* (All of these warnings from our Savior and Lord, are to alert us to the ever-present possibility and danger of being spiritually harmed through false and wrong teaching), (to keep us from our receiving Salvation through faith in Christ).

We need to be informed of that ever-present and possible deception, because as a believer in Christ we will be called to "defend the faith delivered once for all to God's people." (Jude 1:3), and we are called to live God's Truth. So, we are plainly and clearly warned of the danger (in verse 4) "For certain persons have crept in unnoticed—men spoken of in ancient writings as pre-destined to this condemnation—ungodly men, who pervert the grace of our God into an excuse for immorality, and (they) disown Jesus Christ, our only Sovereign and Lord." (Apostle Paul refers to such people as being "Enemies of the cross of Christ".

Distorted grace messages are everywhere. *Once Saved Always Saved doctrine* is appearing and being found everywhere, being a widespread, extensive, prevalent, and a common delusion. It has many other names as well, such as '*perseverance of the saints'; 'doctrine of election'; 'eternal security'.* But it is 'the same lie' with different names.

The apostle Paul warned us that *false teaching* would be a *strong delusion* which would mislead many people (2 Thess.2:12) *"That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*

We are to be (and must be) believing on and trusting in faith on the power of the Atonement Blood of Christ for everything in and part of our life: including for divine healing without use of medicine and drugs; for God's protection over and around us without use of guns, nor depending on the use of security devices to protect homes, vehicles, and other things from theft; nor using surveillance cameras to record activity that takes place around us. Also, to be trusting on God alone for provision of material needs, and for our food without the use of food stamps (nor letting needs be known to anyone else but God); and then to depend on God for His promised justice, without depending on and using attorneys to fight for legal rights on our behalf. (Rom.12:19) *"Do not be revengeful, my dear friends, but give way before anger; for it is written, '"REVENGE BELONGS TO ME: I WILL PAY BACK,' says the Lord."*

The deceptions (the lies) of the devil, are the basis of all false doctrines such as (Once Saved, Always Saved), began with the serpent in the Garden of Eden, who asked Eve (Genesis 3:1) *"Yea, hath God said," a* deception that he used in order to cause doubt (of which continues to this day). Satan's desire is to deceive, mislead, and destroy one's faith on God, to anyone who is not aware. He has already deceived millions of people to accept many substitute plans on which they trust, rather than keeping their faith on the Atonement Blood of Christ, on which one *should* never stop trusting, in hopes of receiving fulfillment of the Promises given us in God's Word, (Rev.2:7) *"To him who overcomes I will give the privilege of eating the fruit of the Tree of Life, which is in the Paradise of God.'* (And then vs.10) *"Be faithful to the End, even if you have to die, and then I will give you the victor's Wreath of Life."*

Substitutes and counterfeit plans are inspired by Satan, to have us unprepared for eternity, (because we would be *no longer trusting* God in faith for things in *this* life). Believing those Counterfeits of Satan, will nullify the benefits of the atoning Blood of Christ in our life, and be hindrance to the divine power of God working for us, because we believe a lie of Satan and misplace our trust, instead of believing on God's Word.

(1 Tim.4:16) *"Be on your guard as to yourself and your teaching. Persevere in these things; for by doing this you will make certain your own salvation and that of your hearers."* No one can afford to let down their spiritual guard, because no one can make a mistake about eternal life. Each day is a spiritual conflict of much intensity. A spiritual war for our soul (Ephes.6:12 warns all of us).

Scripture verses warn us repeatedly to repent and to turn back to God. (Malachi 3:7) "Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept *them.* Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the LORD of hosts."

If we have sinned, strayed, or drifted from a position of trust on the Blood of Christ, we need to repent and make a new start. If we do not make corrections when we are shown mistakes, Satan could dissolve our faith, defile our conscience, and jeopardize our salvation through Christ.

(Matt.5:30), Laid up wealth is a most serious idol of which Jesus clearly warned (Matt.6:19) "Do not lay up stores of wealth for yourselves on earth;" because (vs.21) *"where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

Jesus also warned us that if anything *causes* us to sin, we should get rid of it (Matt.5:30), because we could find ourselves in the burning flames where the suffering never ends and the fire is never quenched (Mark 9:48) due to our not being faithful to, nor following God's Word on trust.

The first T*ruth* was that Eve would die spiritually if she disobeyed God's Word; and Satan's first *lie* was that she would not die if she disobeyed God (Gene.3:4). That deception of Satan continues in this day, and it keeps getting worse, to keep people living in the sin of unbelief, and unprepared for eternity.

Satan has convinced multitudes that they can just *talk* about faith but *still* be saved. When an agent of Satan tries to tell us, and says that we can never be taken out of God's hand (John 10:28) no matter *what* sin we commit, or on *whom* we trust, we should quote Jesus (John 10:27) *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them (*Jesus said*), and they follow me",* meaning, 'follow His Word' on trusting faith in the power of God.

We praise God for the *promise* (John 10:28), and thank Him for the warning, that we *must* believe and continue to trust in faith on the Atonement Blood of Christ. (Rom.11:22) *"Consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off."*

Everyone is offered salvation through faith in Christ (Romans 11), but eternal life is only by a trusting, believing, and continuing faith in the Atonement Blood of Christ, (*not* if we put our faith and our trust on some new drug or medicine, or some stored up financial resources). It is a serious sin to *not believe,* and to *not trust* God.

(Rom.11:20-23) *"Well said. Because of unbelief they (the Jews) were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore, consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue*

in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. Remember—those branches, the Jews, were broken off because they didn't believe God, and you are there because you do believe. Don't think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. For if God did not spare the branches he put there in the first place, he won't spare you either."

["Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe to those who disobeyed, but kind to you as you continue to trust in His kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off. And if the Jews turn from their unbelief, God will graft them back into the tree again."]

The apostle warned (2 Cor.11:3) *"I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray [corrupted] from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ."* Satan's deception (as in Eden, Genesis 3) is the same deception heard from false teachers of today saying (and teaching) that '*you will not surely die* if you sin or disobey God, but God says you *will!* (John 5:28-29) *"Wonder not at this. For a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and will come forth—they who have done what is right to the resurrection of Life, and, they whose actions have been evil to the resurrection of judgment."* And then (John 6:29) "This," replied Jesus, "is above all the thing that God requires, that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent."

The 'prophet of God', 'Ezekiel' was warned *not* to say what the *false prophets* said, because he would be responsible if he did not give the truth. (Ezek.33:8) *"When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood."*

Many ministers are speaking many *empty words,* and they will be held accountable for the spiritual harm they do. Anyone who accepts false teaching (that a trusting faith on the Atonement sacrifice of Christ is not necessary for salvation),.. is being deceived, and they will find themselves in the flames if they do not sincerely repent and get back to 'a position of real trust' on God. Again, we are reminded that Jesus warned everybody (Matt.24:4) *"Take heed that no man deceive you",* because He knew there would be many false teachers (whom Satan uses to *try* to side-track professed Believers away from a true faith on God for Salvation).

The apostle Paul also warned (Colos.2:3-4) *"In [Christ] lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I am telling you this, so that no one will be able to deceive you with persuasive arguments."* Many people *profess* faith in Christ, but they are deceived because they do not *act* in faith on the Blood of Christ for atonement of their sins.

(Colos.2:6-8), *"As ye have therefore received Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain 'deceit', after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."*

To believe God, and to continue to trust on Atonement Blood of Christ is vital (Colos.2:9-10) *"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power",* ..if you choose to keep trusting Him in faith for all things, health, healing, protection, provisions, and everything else.

If a *once* righteous person does *not continue* to believe in Christ, they will die spiritually and eventually lose their salvation .. if there is no genuine repentance. (Ezek.18:24) *"If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live? None of the righteous things he has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness he is guilty of, and because of the sins he has committed, he will die."*

Believers are made righteous only by a trusting faith in the Blood of Christ. (2 Cor.5:21) *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* We are *in Christ* only by trusting on His atoning Blood, otherwise our faith withers, and we will eventually be thrown in the fire.

We cannot afford to scoff at the warnings given for us in God's Word, but must be on guard, and, to keep trusting God in faith to the end of our lives. (Gal.6:7-8) *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall*

of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Bible believers trusted God for things, for their spiritual life; for physical healing; for control of their family; for financial needs; for divine protection; for justice from God, and for everything else (and having no substitutes) in false places of trust. Anyone *could* trust on God, but only if they have truly *given* their life to Him, and *only* if they allow God to remove the rebellious sin nature of self from within them.

It is the Holy Spirit Who *enables* us to trust God. *We* must make the choice to believe God's Word; then *God* teaches us *how* to trust Him. He is the only One who can do that most necessary spiritual work for our "growth in Holiness, apart from which no one will see the Lord." God's Spirit *inspires* faith within our heart, and enables us to trust Him for healing, for peace in the home, for money needed each day, for protection from harm, for wisdom to make Scriptural decisions, and for everything else.

The test of a teaching or doctrine, to determine if it is false, or if it is a 'true message from God, is for us to ask of it "*on whom do they truly believe, and on whom do they really trust*? A true religious message teaches us to learn under God's direct teaching, *how* to trust in the Atonement Blood of His Son for everything in this life.

(Hebrews 3:12) *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."* The Word of God is the *plan* for receiving the answer to prayer; the Holy Spirit is the *power* to accomplish the results; and the Blood of Christ is the *value* paid for the victory. It is *Once Saved, .. and then a Continuing Trust* on the living God.

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