# The Christian and sin in the context of salvation by grace MOUKOUOP NGUENA Ibrahim

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#### **Some Key References**

Revelation 22:15; Acts 8:20-22; Hebrews 10:26-27; Matthew 7:22-23; 1 Corinthians 11:27-30; Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Peter 2:20-22; Romans 8:13-14;

#### One Must Persevere Until the End to Be Saved!

Matthew 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Although having believed, people are not saved if they do not withstand persecutions and tribulations.

Mark 13:20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

**Revelation 22:15** For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

This text at the end of the Bible is also applicable to those who have believed.

Acts 8:20-22 20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. <sup>21</sup> Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. <sup>22</sup> Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Note that Peter is speaking to a convert.

Hebrews 10:26-27 <sup>26</sup> For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

**Matthew 7:22-23** <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? <sup>23</sup> And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

1 Corinthians 11:27-30 <sup>27</sup> Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. <sup>29</sup> For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. <sup>30</sup> For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

Here it speaks of Christians who have been punished!

**Galatians 5:19-21** <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup> Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Note: Even if they have believed, they will not inherit!

**2 Peter 2:20-22** <sup>20</sup> For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. <sup>21</sup> For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. <sup>22</sup> But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

**Romans 8:13-14** <sup>13</sup> For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. <sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

It is addressed to Christians, as stated in Romans 6 (we who have been baptized).

**1 Corinthians 15:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; <sup>2</sup> By which also **ye are saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye **have believed in vain**.

#### Revelation 2:4-6

- <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
- <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from whence **thou art fallen**, and repent, and **do the first works**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, **except thou repent**.
- <sup>6</sup> But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

#### **Revelation 2:15**

So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

#### **Revelation 2:16**

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Here Jesus Christ is speaking. I assume you will explain that He lacked discernment to realise that these people had no first love, and that He was mistaken in saying they had fallen...

#### Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Thus, we have further confirmation that faith alone does not save us because it does not exempt us from judgment according to our works.

#### Revelation 3:1-6

- <sup>1</sup> And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.
- <sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and **strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die**: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.
- <sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.
- <sup>4</sup> Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.
- <sup>5</sup> He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.
- <sup>6</sup> He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

## I. THE DEFINITION OF A CHRISTIAN AND THE CRITERIA FOR RECOGNISJING THEM

The foundation of Christianity is the Bible, and the Bible defines Christians as the disciples of Christ. This is the Bible's definition, not mine.

Acts 11:26 And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Now, Christ Himself defines His disciple:

Luke 8:21 But he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Matthew 7:18-23

- <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
- <sup>19</sup> Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
- <sup>20</sup> Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.
- <sup>21</sup> Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but**

#### he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

<sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

### II. WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SIN AFTER REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM

Priority References: Revelation 22:15; Acts 8:20–22; Hebrews 10:26–27; Matthew 7:22–23; 1 Corinthians 11:27–30; Galatians 5:19–21; 2 Peter 2:20–22; Romans 8:13–14; Matthew 24:13; Matthew 24:22

Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

<sup>27</sup> But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

#### 2 Peter 2:1

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction." (Note that they had been redeemed and are now lost.)

#### 2 Peter 2:15

"Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet."

#### 2 Peter 2:20

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, **the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.**"

#### 2 Peter 2:21

"For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."

#### 2 Peter 2:22

"But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

Judas was one of Christ's disciples but betrayed Jesus Christ to his own ruin, even though he had believed in Jesus Christ and, like the other disciples, had surely been baptised.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

#### John 17:12

"While I was with them, I kept them in thy name: those whom thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled."

Let us also consider this story from Acts, showing that it is not enough to be baptized or to profess Christ with one's lips to truly be a Christian in the sense of Christ or to have eternal life.

#### Acts 8:9-24

"But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: ... Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. ... When Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me."

#### **Matthew 24:13**

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

#### **Matthew 24:22**

"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

**Note:** If it were enough to accept Jesus to be saved regardless of how one lives, the warnings in Matthew 24:13 and 24:22 would not have been spoken by Jesus Christ!

#### III. THE EXPECTED LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN AND THE DESTINY OF SINNERS

**Romans 6** (You can read the whole chapter here: Romans 6 LSG - Que dirons-nous donc? Demeurerions-nous - Bible Gateway)

Here are some excerpts:

#### **Romans 6:1-2**

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

#### Romans 6:11-13

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of

unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

#### Romans 6:16

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

#### Romans 6:18

"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

#### Romans 6:22

"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

**Note:** You have fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life, according to this holiness, for the wages of sin is death.

#### John 10:26-28

"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

Following Christ means doing what He has asked, and He clearly states that only those who do the will of His Father are His brothers.

#### Revelation 21:7

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

#### **Revelation 21:8**

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Note that this passage speaks of victory, implying having won a battle.

#### **Hebrews 12:14**

"Follow peace with all men, and HOLINESS, without which no man shall see the Lord."

#### **Luke 1:75**

"In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life."

#### 2 Corinthians 6:17

"Wherefore come **out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord**, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

#### 2 Corinthians 7:1

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:7

"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

#### 1 Peter 1:15-16

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, **Be ye holy**; for I am holy."

#### 3 John 1:11

"Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."

#### **Ephesians 5:5**

"For this ye know, that **no whoremonger**, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, **hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God**."

#### **Galatians 5:19-22**

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance:"

#### Philippians 3:12-21

(Read the passage here: <u>Philippians 3:12-21 KJV - Not as though I had already attained, - Bible Gateway</u>)

#### IV. Understanding Salvation by Grace

Consider the following verses:

#### Ephesians 2:8-10

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

#### **Romans 3:28**

"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

#### Romans 3:20, 27-28

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ... Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

#### 2 Timothy 1:9

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

These verses all indicate that we are saved by faith and not by works. But how do these align with the verses we read earlier, particularly:

#### **Hebrews 10:26**

"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

#### **Romans 6:1-2**

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

#### Romans 6:11-13

"Likewise **reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin**, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

#### Romans 6:22

"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

We have all sinned. We were sinners, slaves to sin, and our wages were death. We were like a prisoner who committed a crime that condemned him to death. Before the execution of his death sentence, he receives a presidential pardon (here, the grace of God). It is by this grace that he is saved, not by works, as he did not perform any works to receive this grace. To receive this grace, he must first repent. This repentance is not only asking for forgiveness; it includes confession, regret for the sin, a commitment to abandon it, and sometimes, if possible, restitution. Once repented, having accepted Christ and been baptized, he receives the grace.

However, as with a presidential pardon, when you receive grace, it is not for you to commit the same sin for which you were pardoned. Rather, you would incur anger. Hence it is said:

#### **Hebrews 10:26**

"For if we **sin wilfully** after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth **no more sacrifice for sins**, <sup>27</sup>But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

The passages from Romans 6 remind us that grace is not a justification to live in sin, as the flesh of sin has been crucified.

The Christian who still considers himself a sinner and not free from sin, in effect denies the sacrifice, promises, and instructions of Christ. Christ has given us the criteria to know if we are His, to know if we will be saved, and this criteria is to do the will of His Father. He said we recognise the tree by its fruit. One who does not meet this criteria should not doubt Christ's word but rather examine oneself, repent, and enter into the path of sanctification. This is the truth. It is not said that such a person will never fall, but that they will fall mainly through ignorance, and for every sin they know, they will abandon it. They will also reduce their ignorance through a better knowledge of the Word of God.

If a particular sin takes on a recurring, repetitive nature, then one is still under the bondage of sin and not in the freedom and liberation of Christ. One must then reconsider. Never forget that asking for forgiveness without repentance is not what God expects from us. It is repentance that He expects from us. One who repents regrets and commits to abandoning the sin. The idea of remaining in the same sins and coming to ask for forgiveness all the time is incorrect and does not lead to justification, as no fear of God is manifested and the bondage of sin is still evident.

Consider this excerpt from Romans 7, which people often cite to explain that the Christian is always a sinner and that salvation is by grace:

#### Romans 7:14-25

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

The interpretation that suggests Christians remain sinners is incorrect. In Romans 7:24, the apostle Paul asks who will deliver him from this body of death and answers in verse 25 that it is Jesus Christ. This is clearly elaborated in Romans 8:

#### Romans 8:2

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

This passage addresses the concerns of Romans 7 and shows that there are two periods for a human: before Christ and after Christ. Romans 7 describes the period before Christ, which is a time of slavery to sin. We have all experienced this period, which is why it is said, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Christ comes to liberate us (Romans 8:2) and marks the beginning of a new period. This new period is one where we must regard ourselves as dead to sin (Romans 6:1-2, Romans 6:6-7, Romans 6:18-19, Romans 6:22). Paul himself, having known Jesus Christ, declares in:

#### 1 Corinthians 9:27

"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

Here, Paul shows that he has dominion over his body.

#### **The Teachings of Jesus Christ**

If we claim to be Christians, we should first believe in Jesus Christ Himself. What does Jesus say about obedience and sin?

#### Matthew 7:21

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

#### Matthew 7:20

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

#### **Luke 8:21**

"And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it."

#### **Matthew 19:17**

"And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, *God:* but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

#### John 14:21

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

#### Luke 11:27-28

"And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, <sup>28</sup> and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

#### John 3:5

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

#### John 14:15

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

#### John 15:10,14

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

#### John 8:11

"She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

#### John 5:14

"Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: **sin no more**, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

#### **Luke 6:46**

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

#### Matthew 7:26

"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand."

#### John 13:17

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

#### **Matthew 10:22**

"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

#### Mark 13:20

"And except that the Lord had shortened those days, **no flesh should be saved**: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."

Despite believing, people are not saved if they do not withstand persecutions and tribulations.

Despite these teachings, some people develop philosophies to justify living in sin and claiming salvation by grace, while not seeing themselves as dead to sin but as perpetual sinners. Do not be deceived, Jesus Christ gave the criteria to recognise His own. Matthew 7:21 is unequivocal. If you are still in iniquity, even if you perform miracles in Jesus' name, He does not know you. Examine yourself. If this is your case, do not conclude that it is impossible to live without sin; rather, conclude that you have not been liberated from sin, that you are not born of water or of the Spirit. There is no grace for those who return to the bondage of sin. (Hebrew 10:26)

Do not tell me that we are saved by faith and not by works, because Jesus says we will be judged by our works. Paul lists the works of perdition, and James says that faith without works is dead. In other words, there is no faith without works. Salvation by faith is merely the fact that faith is the generator of good works and the destroyer of bad works, so the absence of good works or the presence of bad works signifies the absence of faith (Matthew 7:19-23). The Lord does not judge according to faith but according to works, and these works are not those of Jesus but those of the one being judged. The Parable of the Talents is an excellent illustration in this regard. Jesus Christ has given us talents, and it is up to us to make them profitable. Luke 12:48 (Jesus' Words) "But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

And the author of Hebrews says:

#### **Hebrews 6:4-8**

"<sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for those who were once **enlightened**, and have **tasted** of the heavenly gift, and were made **partakers of the Holy Ghost**, <sup>5</sup>And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, <sup>6</sup>If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto **repentance**; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. <sup>7</sup>For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: <sup>8</sup>But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; **whose end is to be burned**."

It is clearly written that they had part in the Holy Spirit and that they have fallen away. Are we to say that they were not saved, even though they had believed (because they had been enlightened and had tasted the heavenly gift)? This would imply that **having believed and before they fell, they were not saved**. This contradicts 1 John 5 and John 3:16, which support the theory of an immutable salvation. However, this text aligns with Revelation where Jesus **confirms that people can fall from a good position and fall away.** Those who preach eternal security have an exceptional understanding that even Jesus Christ did not have. As the Bible says, "Beware lest any man spoil you through **philosophy** and **vain** deceit..." (Colossians 2:8). It is certainly because of such reasoning that this verse was written.

#### Saved by Faith, Judged by Works

Saved by faith, judged by works: see Matthew 5:29; 16:27; 25:31-46; Luke 14:13-14; Romans 2:5-12; Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 1:17; Revelation 20:11-15; 22:12.

#### **Loss of Salvation:**

Matthew 25:46; 1 Corinthians 9:27; 10:12; Galatians 5:4; Philippians 3:11-14; 1 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 3:12-14; 6:4-6; 2 Peter 2:20-21.

#### V. The Salvation and the New Birth

#### John 3:4-5

"Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Do you understand the new birth? Do you know what it is? It is important to understand this as well.

May God enlighten you!

For more information on Christian questions, visit here: <a href="https://telegra.ph/Liens-vers-mes-publications-chretiennes-10-08">https://telegra.ph/Liens-vers-mes-publications-chretiennes-10-08</a>

Discover the true message of the Gospel and the SECRET of EFFECTIVE PRAYER here: <a href="https://telegra.ph/Le-v%C3%A9ritable-message-de-l%C3%A9vangile-11-14">https://telegra.ph/Le-v%C3%A9ritable-message-de-l%C3%A9vangile-11-14</a>

**Note:** It is recommended to read the entire text without looking for references first, then return to the points of doubt to look up the references as explained at the end of the text.