

Does the Bible teach the Calvinistic doctrine of "Once saved always saved" (Perseverance of the Saints?)

▼Salvation is conditioned on endurance

Endurance required. This is not a guarantee of perseverance

Jesus teaches conditions for salvation: “Count the cost”(Luke 14:28), “If you deny Me, I will deny you”(Matt. 10:33). “He who endures to the end will be saved” (Matt. 10:22). Eze 18:12-27 warns to not die in iniquity.

▼Endurance does not earn ones' salvation

Maintaining faith is a condition for salvation

Salvation is a free gift (Eph. 2:8-9), like a college grant requiring a choice to attend but not earned by attendance. Choosing to remain faithful (Col. 1:23) is a condition, not a work that earns salvation

▼Apostacy results in loss of salvation

The Bible is full of warnings against apostacy

Col 1:21-23: Believers are holy “if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast,” implying loss of status if they don’t. Rom 11:22: God’s goodness remains “if you continue in His goodness; otherwise you will be cut off,” showing believers can be severed like apostate Jews, and grafted back in again. Cut off means they were saved - cut off because of unbelief. grafted because of belief.

▼God's book of life allows removal

Unfaithfulness can blot you out

Ex 32:33: God blots sinners out of His book, implying they were once included. Ps 69:28: Apostates are “blotted out of the book of life,” suggesting a prior righteous state. Rev 3:5: God promises not to blot out the victorious, implying others can be removed. Deut 29:20. Other book of life verses : Dan 12:1,Phil 4:3,Rev 20:12, 15,Col 1:23

▼Obedience required for salvation

A lifestyle of faith, not a single moment, determines salvation

Matt 7:21-23: Those who call Jesus “Lord” but practice lawlessness are rejected, despite prior miraculous works, showing salvation depends on a lifestyle of obedience. John 8:51: “If anyone keeps My word, he shall never see death,” emphasizes continual obedience, not a one-time confession. John 11:26: “Whoever lives and believes in Me” uses present-tense “believes,” requiring ongoing faith. Matt 10:22 must endure to the end; death was a possibility - had to endure faithfully.

▼Apostacy possible

Election allows for apostacy

Eph 1:4-5: God chose those “in Christ” to be holy, but remaining “in Christ” is conditional (Col. 1:23; Rom. 11:22). Rom 11:5: The “election of grace” refers to a remnant, but individuals can be “cut off” (v22) or “grafted in again”(v23), showing fluidity. Foreknowledge (e.g., 1 Sam. 23:11-12, David at Keilah) does not necessitate predestination; God knows possible futures without forcing outcomes.

▼Why exhort us to not fall away if we can't?

Did God and His apostles waste their breath?

If salvation cannot be lost, warnings to “take heed lest you fall” (1 Cor. 10:12) or “continue in the faith”(Col. 1:23) are meaningless, as no risk exists. Jesus’ call to “endure to the end”(Matt. 10:22) and parables like the soils(Matt. 13:20-21) assume the possibility of falling away. If no one can lose salvation, those who “depart from the faith”(1 Tim 4:1) “I never knew you’(Matt. 7:23), were never saved, implying genuine believers cannot perform miracles or prophesy, which contradicts the text. Are we to believe “true believers” as only those who persevere, a circular argument that nullifies warnings against apostasy?

▼Conditional perseverance aligns with scripture

Did God and His apostles waste their breath?

Salvation is secure as long as one remains in Christ through faith and obedience(John 15:4-6; Col. 1:23). God’s grace empowers perseverance(Phil. 2:13), but human choice can reject it(Heb. 6:4-6; Rom. 11:22).

Popular proof texts which fail to prove Calvinism

Rom 8:38-39 - Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ
True, no other created thing can separate us, but we can. Who separated Adam and Eve from God? Themselves. Humans continue to do that today.

John 11:26 - whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.
True, but 'believes' is a constant, ongoing thing. 'believes', not 'believed'.

John 8:51 - if anyone keeps my word
True, Keeps is a lifestyle, not a confession for one moment, but never lived out. That person will have his place with the hypocrites with weeping and gnashing of teeth

John 6:37-39 - All that the Father has given me
Jesus is faithful to save those who come to Him, but that does not mean people lose the ability to choose after that. Whoever these people are, we have no way to know, so even if this is a once-saved, , we could never know who these people are. (“No one can pluck them out”) clarify that external forces cannot separate believers, but human will can reject Christ (e.g., Matt. 10:33: “If you deny Me, I will deny you”). God's will is not the only will. People reject God's will all the time.

Rom 8:29-30 - Whom He foreknew, He also predestined
Describes God’s plan for those who remain in Christ, not a guarantee for individuals regardless of their choices. Eph 1:4-5 emphasize that election is corporate (“in Christ”). Those are always saved. Rom 11:22 warns believers can be “cut off” if they don’t continue in God’s goodness.

Jude 1:24-25 - He Who is able to keep you from stumbling
God is faithful to keep us, but He does not force us to stay. John 8:51 (“if anyone keeps My word”) and John 11:26 (“whoever lives and believes”) emphasize ongoing obedience, not forced preservation. God is not to be likened to a man who romantically pursues a woman who only wants to know him as a friend.

1 Pet 1:3-5 - Who are kept by the power of God
“kept by the power of God through faith” indicates faith is the means of preservation, which Col 1:23 agrees with. The “inheritance” is secure, but access depends on enduring faith. Rom 11:22 warns believers can be “cut off” if they don’t continue in God’s goodness, showing the inheritance is conditional.

He is able to save to the uttermost - inercedes (Heb 7:25)
Salvation is for “those who come to God through Him,” implying active, ongoing faith. Jesus’ intercession is effective for those who remain in Him.

God is faithful. People are not always faithful - can apostacize
John 10:28-29: “No one can pluck them out of My hand” protects against external forces, not voluntary Philippians 1:6: “He who began a good work will perfect it” reflects Paul’s confidence in the Philippians’ Romans 8:38-39: Nothing external separates us from God’s love, but human choice to reject Christ (Matt. 7:21-23) is not addressed.

▼What Calvinism overlooks?

The underlying assumption that God desires to override the will of man. He could, but the Bible nowhere gives us the ideaHe wants to do that. So why would we put words in God's mouth?

Demand we assure people of their salvation

But tells us exactly how to be saved. Only those who have the Son have eternal life. Why go beyond the scriptures?

▲The Bible does not