

(re)Connect



SALVATION

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WELCOME

Dr. Yolanda Williams-José is the Founder of (re)Connect Women Ministry. She has a Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Studies and a M. Div. in Biblical Studies from Liberty University. She also has a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a B.A. in Religious Studies, both from Georgia State University.

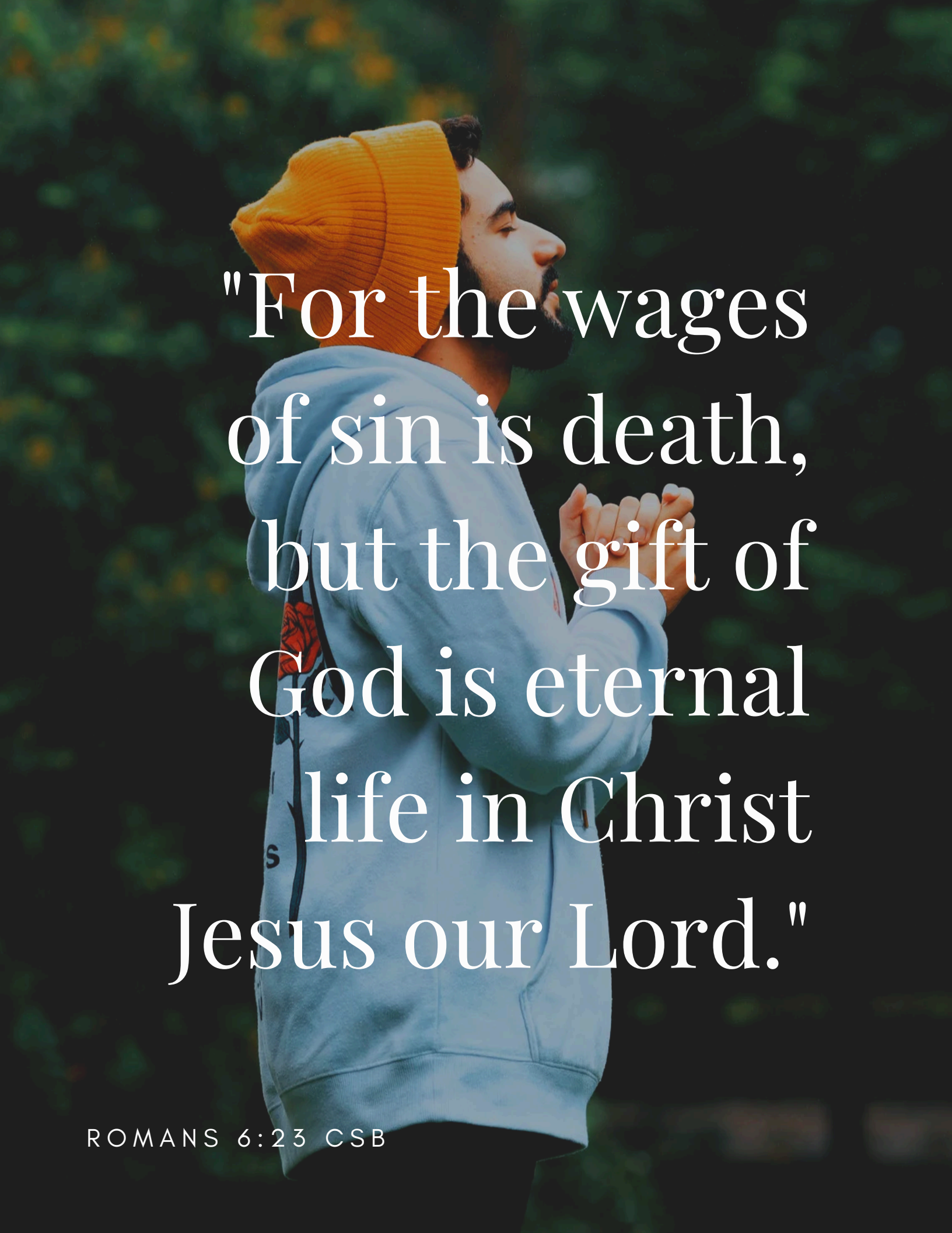
She started this website as a blog to reach many women and teach about the love of Jesus Christ.

Right now, God is showing and guiding her on a new journey. God blessed her and keeps on blessing her all the time. He is using her to speak to His people and teach His Word. She is enjoying this journey and loving every bit of it. She is being obedient and patient in God's calling on her life.

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A man with a beard, wearing a yellow beanie and a light blue hoodie, is shown in profile from the waist up. He has his hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture, looking upwards. The background is a blurred green, suggesting foliage. Overlaid on the image is a large white quote in a serif font.

"For the wages
of sin is death,
but the gift of
God is eternal
life in Christ
Jesus our Lord."

ROMANS 6:23 CSB

What is Salvation?



Salvation is deliverance from danger or suffering. To save is deliver or protect. The word carries the idea of victory, health, or preservation. Sometimes, the Bible uses the words *saved* or *salvation* to refer to temporal, physical deliverance, such as Paul's deliverance from prison in **Philippians 1:19**.

More often, the word "salvation" concerns an eternal, spiritual deliverance. When Paul told the Philippian jailer what he must do to be saved, he was referring to the jailer's eternal destiny. **"Then he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household'" (Acts 16:30-31 ESV).** Jesus equated being saved with entering the Kingdom of God in **Matthew 19:24-25** (Read).

**Salvation is
deliverance from
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What are we saved from? In the Christian doctrine of salvation, we are saved from "wrath," that is, from God's judgment of sin (**Read Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9**). Our sin has separated us from God, and the consequences of sin is death. **Romans 6:23** says, "***For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord***" (ESV). Biblical salvation refers to our deliverance from the consequence of sin and therefore involves the removal of sin.

Who does the saving? Only God can remove sin and deliver us from sins penalty (**Read 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5**).

How does God save? In the Christian doctrine of salvation, God has rescued us through Christ. **John 3:17** says, "***For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him***" (ESV). Specifically, it was Jesus' death on the cross and subsequent resurrection that achieved our salvation (**Read Romans 5:10; Ephesians 1:7**). Scripture is clear that salvation is the gracious, undeserved gift of God (**Read Ephesians 2:5; 8**) and is available through **FAITH** in Jesus Christ.

How do we receive salvation? We are saved by **FAITH**. First, we must hear the gospel - the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. **Ephesians 1:13** says, "***In him you also, when you heard the word of***



truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit" (ESV).

Then, we must **BELIEVE** – fully trust the Lord Jesus (**Read Romans 1:16**). This involves repentance, a changing of mind about sin and Christ (**Read Acts 3:19**), and calling on the name of the Lord (**Read Romans 10:9-10, 13**).

A definition of the Christian doctrine of salvation would be "The deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishments for sin, which is granted to those who accepted by faith God's conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus." Salvation is available in Jesus alone. Jesus said, ***"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"*** (John 14:6 ESV).

What is the way of Salvation?



Question. Are you hungry? I am not talking about being physically hungry. I am talking about having an hunger for something more in life. Is there something deep inside of you that never seems to be satisfied? If so, Jesus is the way! Jesus said, **"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst"** (John 6:35 KJV).

Are you confused? Can you never seem to find a path or purpose in life? Does it seem like someone has turned off the lights and you cannot find the switch? If so, Jesus is the way of salvation! Jesus proclaimed, **"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"** (John 8:12 KJV).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"
(John 3:16 KJV).



Do you ever feel like you are locked out of life? Have you tried so many doors, only to find that what is behind them is empty and meaningless? Are you looking for an entrance into a fulfilling life? If so, Jesus is the way of salvation! Jesus declared, **"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture"** (John 10:9 KJV).

Do other people always let you down? Have your relationships been shallow and empty? Does it seem like everyone is trying to take advantage of you? If so, Jesus is the way! Jesus said, **"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep and am known of mine"** (John 10:11, 14 KJV).

Do you wonder what happens after this life. Are you tired of living your life for things that only rot or rust? Do you sometimes doubt whether life has any meaning? Do you want to live after you die? If so, Jesus is the way of salvation! Jesus declared, **"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he was dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this"** (John 11:25-26 KJV).

What is the way? What is the truth? What is the life? Jesus answered, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"** (John 14:6 KJV).



The hunger that you feel is a spiritual hunger, and can only be filled by Jesus. Jesus is the only one who can lift the darkness. Jesus is the door to a satisfying life. Jesus is the friend and shepherd that you have been looking for. Jesus is the life - in this world and the next. Jesus is the way of salvation!

The reason you feel hungry, the reason you seem to be lost in darkness, the reason you cannot find meaning in life, is that you are separated from God. The Bible tells us that we have all sinned, and are therefore separated from God (Romans 3:23). The void you feel in your heart is God missing from your life. We were created to have a relationship with God. Because of our sin, we are separated from that relationship. Even worse, our sin will cause us to be separated from God for all of eternity, in this life and the next (Romans 6:23; John 3:36).

How can this problem be solved? Jesus is the way of salvation! Jesus took our sin upon Himself. Jesus died in our place, taking the punishment that we deserve. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, proving His victory over sin and death (Romans 6:4-5). Why did He do it? Jesus answered that question Himself: **"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"** (John 15:13 KJV). Jesus died so that we could live, if we place our faith in Jesus, trusting His death as the payment for our sins,



all of our sins are forgiven and washed away. We will then have our spiritual hunger satisfied. The lights will be turned on. We will have access to a fulfilling life. We will know our true best friends and good shepherd. We will know that we will have life after we die - a resurrected life in heaven for eternity with Jesus!

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV).

What are the steps to salvation?



Many people are looking for "steps to salvation." People like the idea of an instruction manual with five steps that will result in salvation. An example of this is Islam, if the Five Pillars are obeyed, salvation will be granted. Because the idea of a step-by-step process to salvation is appealing, many Christians community make the mistake of presenting salvation as a result of a step-by-by process. Roman Catholicism has seven sacraments. Various denominations add baptism, public confession, turning from sin, speaking in tongues, etc., as steps to salvation But the Bible only presents one step to salvation. When the Philippian jailer asked Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul responded, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (**Acts 16:30-31**).

**There is only one
step to salvation.**



Faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior is the only "step" to salvation. The message of the Bible is abundantly clear. We have all sinned against God (**Romans 3:23**). Because of our sin, we deserve to be eternally separated from God (**Romans 6:23**). Because of His love for us (**John 3:16**). God took on human form and died in our place, taking the punishment that we deserve (**Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21**). God promises forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven to all who receive, by grace through faith, Jesus Christ as Savior (**John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24; Acts 10:31**).

Salvation is not about certain steps we must follow to earn salvation. Yes, Christians should be baptized. Yes, Christians should publicly confess Christ as Savior. Yes, Christians should turn from sin. Yes, Christians should commit their lives to obeying God. However, these are not steps to salvation. They are results of salvation. Because of our sin, we cannot in any sense earn salvation. We could follow 1000 steps, and it would not be enough. That is why Jesus had to die in our place. We are absolutely incapable of paying sin debt to God or cleansing ourselves from sin. Only God could accomplish, and so He did. God Himself completed the "steps" and thereby offers salvation to anyone who will receive it from Him.

Salvation and forgiveness of sin is not about following steps. It is about receiving Christ as Savior and recognizing that He has done all of the work for us.



God requires one step of us - receiving Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin and fully trusting in Him alone as the way of salvation.



What is the plan of Salvation?



Salvation is deliverance. All the world religions teach that we need to be delivered, but each has a different understanding of what we need to be delivered from, why we need to be delivered, and how that deliverance can be received or achieved. The Bible makes it abundantly clear, that there is only one plan of salvation.

The most important thing to understand about the plan of salvation is that is God's plan, not humanity's plan. Humanity's plan of salvation would be observing religious rituals or obeying certain commands or achieving certain levels of spiritual enlightenment. But none of these things are part of God's plan of salvation.

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God's Plan of Salvation - The Why

We first must understand why we need to be saved. We need to be saved because we have sinned. The Bible declares that everyone has sinned (**Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; John 1:8**). Sin is rebellion against God. We all choose to actively do things that are wrong. Sin harms others, damage us, and most importantly, dishonor God. The Bible teaches that, because God is holy and just, He cannot allow sin to go unpunished. The punishment of sin is death (**Romans 6:23**) and eternal separation from God (**Revelation 20:11-15**). Without God's plan of salvation, eternal death is the destiny of every human being.

God's Plan of Salvation - The What

God Himself is the only one who can provide for our salvation. We are utterly unable to save ourselves because of our sin and its consequences. God became a human being in the person of Jesus Christ (**John 1:1; 14**). Jesus lived a sinless life (**2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; John 3:5**) and offers Himself as a perfect sacrifice on our behalf (**1 Corinthians 15:3; Colossians 1:22; Hebrews 10:10**). Since Jesus is God, His death was of infinite and eternal value. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross freely paid for the sins of the entire world (**1John 2:2**). His resurrection from the dead demonstrated that His sacrifice was indeed sufficient and that salvation is now available.



God's Plan of Salvation - The How

In **Acts 16:31**, a man asked the apostle Paul how to be saved. Paul's response was, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." The way to follow God's plan of salvation is to believe. That is the only requirement (**John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9**). God has provided for our salvation through Jesus Christ. All we must do is receive it, by faith, fully trusting in Jesus alone as Savior (**John 14:6; Acts 4:12**). That is God's plan of salvation.

God's Plan of Salvation - Will you receive it?

If you are ready to follow God's plan of salvation, place your faith in Jesus as your Savior. Change your mind from embracing sin and rejecting God. Fully trust in the sacrifice of Jesus as the perfect and complete payment for your sins. If you do this, God's Word promises that you will be saved, your sins will be forgiven, and you will spend eternity in heaven. There is no more decision. Place your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior today!

Once Saved, Always Saved



Once a person is saved are they always saved? Yes, when people come to know Christ as their Savior, they are brought into a relationship with God that guarantees their salvation as eternally secure. Salvation is more than saying a prayer or "making a decision" for Christ; salvation is a sovereign act of God whereby an un-regenerated sinner is washed, renewed, and born again by the Holy Spirit (**John 3:3; Titus 3:5**). When salvation occurs, God gives the forgiven sinner a new heart and puts a new spirit with him (**Ezekiel 36:26**). The Spirit will cause the saved person to walk in obedience to God's Word (**Ezekiel 36:26-27; James 2:26**). Numerous passages of Scripture declare the fact that, as an act of God, salvation is secure:

Once a person is
saved they are
always saved.



- **Romans 8:30** declares, "And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified" (ESV). This verse tells us that from the moment God chooses us, it is as if we are glorified in His presence in heaven. Once a person is justified, his salvation is guaranteed - he is as secure as if he is already glorified in heaven.
- Paul asks two crucial questions in **Romans 8:33-34**, "Who will bring any charge against those who God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died, and who raised to life is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." Who will bring a charge against God's elect? No one will, because Christ is our advocate. Who will condemn us? No one will, because Christ, the One who died for us, is the one who condemns. We have both the advocate and judge as our Savior.
- Believers are born again (regenerated) when they believe (**John 3:3; Titus 3:5**). For a Christian to lose his salvation, he would have to be un-regenerated. The Bible gives no evidence that the new birth can be taken away.



- The Holy Spirit indwells all believers (**John 14:17; Romans 8:9**) and baptizes all believer into the Body Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:13**). For a believer to become unsaved, he would have to be "undwelt" and detached from the Body of Christ.
- **John 3:15** states that who ever believes in Jesus Christ will "have eternal life." If you believe in Christ today and have eternal life, but lose it tomorrow, then it was never "eternal" at all. Hence, if you lose your salvation, the promises of eternal life in the Bible would be an error.
- In a conclusive argument, Scripture says, "For I am convinced that neither death or life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers , neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (**Romans 8:38-39**). Remember the same God who saved you is the same God who will keep you. Once we are saved, we are always saved. Our salvation is most definitely eternally secure.

MY NOTES

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