

In the Name of Jesus

**Sure
You Are
Saved!

Too
Sure?**

To God alone be Glory

He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,
but for him who died and was raised for them.

2 Cor. 5:15

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“Not all those folks who think they are going to heaven are going to be there” is an old saying.

Sure in their own opinion they are confident - they are saved! It is just, they are not the Judge. God is!

Do you have your ticket stamped for the railroad to heaven? Those fine religious leaders who condemned Jesus were sure. The great villains in the history of the church were all sure.

Satan twists the phrase “once saved always saved”. The words mean God will not give up on one He has called. Satan cannot force you away from God. It is only your free choice, your responsibility to cast God aside. You can throw your salvation away. God is faithful. We are not. As St. Paul writes, “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” Philippians 2:12 .

Romans 7:18 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. . . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

There is an old phrase: “We are both sinner and saint.” It is the same idea as “once an addict always an addict”. After faithfully attending AA/NA for 10 years, at the beginning the man says “I’m Jack. I use.” In most churches the members say something like: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto Thee”.

If we spend enough time in church, around Christians, knowing ministers, each of us will know some that are not what they claim to be. There is a slogan from the early church, before 400 A.D.: “the floor of hell is paved with the skulls of clergy.”

Matthew 7:1 “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” That does not mean that what God calls sin, we can not call sin. It means we can not condemn that sinner to hell. We can say, by God’s authority, if we have talked with the sinner and he knows what he is doing is sinful and he is not sorry for being a sinner and he does not intend to repent and seek God’s forgiveness and power to struggle against the sin, then he is on the road to hell. It is a mark of the genuineness of the repentance if he wants and tries to make amends to those he has harmed.

But be careful! You will be judged by the same strictness. God is merciful to you and He calls you to be merciful.

Is the drunk in the AA meeting to be condemned? Or encouraged to keep coming back? What about the one who has not gotten up the courage, isn’t desperate enough, to walk in? The “rich man” was surprised to be in hell. He had not been merciful to Lazarus at his doorstep, and continued to think Lazarus should still serve him.

Be sure of your salvation! Forget about yourself! Pay attention to those who need you to touch them with God’s love. Encourage those who struggle. Speak forgiveness, understanding to those who have fallen. Especially join with your fellow believers, encouraging them, joining with them in praising God, studying His word. Let God be Judge. You be His servant, forever.