

Chapter 2

CAN YOU RENOUNCE YOUR SALVATION?

11 IF YOU FOUND A MAN RENOUNCING HIS HUMAN NATURE, YOU WOULD THINK HE WAS CRAZY. YET, IT WOULD BE FAR EASIER FOR YOU TO RENOUNCE YOUR HUMAN NATURE, THAN FOR YOU TO RENOUNCE YOUR DIVINE ONE. Luke 12:26

“If ye are not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?”

In the above Scripture, Jesus raises a question that challenges the intelligence of those who think they can renounce salvation and no longer be saved. Religionists are big on this one. When certain Christians approach you with this false doctrine, you need only ask them “Which is greater, human nature or the divine nature of Christ in you? They will reply, “Why, the divine nature, of course.” Then, follow-up with this line of questioning.

Can you renounce your human nature? Suppose you were walking down the street and spotted a man screaming, “I renounce my human nature! I no longer want to be human. Therefore, I renounce my humanity! I am going to stop being human. I’m just going to stop!”

Wouldn’t you think he was insane? Meanwhile, the Word of God asks: “Why beholdest thou the speck in thy brother’s eye, and yet see not the beam in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite!” You acknowledge human nature is weaker than the divine nature, and you found it quite preposterous for a man to attempt to renounce his human nature. So what makes you think you can renounce the divine nature of Christ in you? Since you cannot renounce your human nature and just stop being human, then how could you possibly renounce your divine nature which, according to you, is the greater of the two?

Jesus asked, “If ye are not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?” Since, we cannot do that “which is least” which in this case is renounce our human nature, and then it’s quite ludicrous for us to think we can renounce our divine one! If you felt we should send a man with a butterfly net after the guy attempting to renounce his human nature, just think what we should send after the born again who think they can renounce their divine one!

Note: You cannot, by your will, cast out the old Adam (human nature/the old man). Likewise, you cannot, by your will, cast out the last Adam, the divine nature of Christ in you (the new man). He abides in the redeemed forever. (John 14:16, Heb. 13:5)

12 THE BORN AGAIN ARE NOT THEIR OWN. THEREFORE THEY CANNOT RENOUNCE THEIR OWNER. 1 Cor. 6:19-20

“What ... know ye not that ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price.”

In the days of slavery in America, African men, women, and children were bought and sold as slaves to any purchaser. Imagine a slave approaching his master announcing, “I’m tired of these chains and inhumane conditions, so I’m leaving.” In no uncertain terms, his master would have said, “Oh, no you’re not. I bought you! I own you! Who do you think you are, a free man?” By being “bought with a price” a slave is in no position to exercise his will over his life, regardless of how strong his will may be. The only will that matters regarding that slave’s destiny, is his master’s will.

A believer’s human willpower cannot overcome the power of God that keeps them saved or else you, by your willpower, could “will” Christ out of existence in you! (1 Pet. 1:5) Christianity commonly overlooks the fact that, like slaves, the born again “are not their own” but have been “bought with a price;” the precious blood of Jesus. This transaction totally nullifies their will as the prevailing will over their soul’s destiny. After you believed the gospel of your salvation, the Master’s will vetoes the will of your flesh concerning your soul’s salvation. (John 13:13) The souls of believers have been bought with a price; the precious blood of Jesus, and our Master keeps His merchandise. (John 17:12) Like the Apostle Paul, every born again believer is a “prisoner of the Lord.”

Note: King David shattered any notion that a believer can be God’s runaway slave when he wrote, “Where shall I go from thy spirit? Or whether shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there.” (Ps. 139:7-9) The redeemed cannot escape the Master. As typified in Exodus 21:5-6, once a slave of sin allows his ears to be pierced with the gospel, he is made a bondservant of the Lord forever.

13 WHAT IF A BORN AGAIN BELIEVER RENOUNCES HIS SALVATION? ISN’T HE LOST AGAIN? THE ANSWER IS NO! Lam. 3:37

“Who is he that saith and it cometh to pass when the Lord commandeth it not?”

Can a slave fire his master or a sheep its shepherd? Can a tenant evict his landlord? These things sound preposterous to us. However, when it comes to our salvation, many Christians assume they have the power to send the Lord packing at will — their human will. These Christians have forgotten the Lord is not their property to dispose of as they please. He was not the one bought with a price, we were! (1 Cor. 6:20) Believers are to obey the Lord. He does not obey us! Be reminded that the Lord is not your genie in that if you told Him to “get thee hence,” He would say, “Yes master, *your will* is My command” and meekly leave. As a believer, you cannot renounce your salvation, for “the Lord is thy salvation,” and He is of the eternal opinion that He “will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Ps. 27:1, Heb. 13:5)

The human mind is so arrogant that it presumes it has the authority to banish the Lord from his own property. Imagine a sheep chasing its shepherd from the pasture. If a sheep attempted to renounce its shepherd, it must face the chastening crook known as “the rod of

correction.” Furthermore, if a sheep renounced its shepherd, would a good shepherd, in turn, renounce that wayward sheep? If he did, he wouldn’t have any. A good shepherd “will in no wise cast out” his sheep, and the born again have a very good shepherd. (Heb. 13:20)

When considering whether or not the born again can lose their salvation, we must come to grips with the fact that certain one-time decisions have everlasting consequences. For example, God disclosed that had Adam eaten fruit from the tree of life he would have lived forever. (Gen. 3:22) Let’s pretend Adam did eat from the tree of life and lived a billion years, having seen it all and done it all. Now bored with life and hoping to die, he decides to eat from the forbidden tree. Nothing would have happened. Five billion years later, he would still be living. Even if Adam tried to renounce his everlasting life, he would still have lived forever. What could Adam have done to stop living forever? Absolutely nothing — and neither can you, the redeemed! (Col. 3:4, John 10:28)

Legalists conveniently forget that if we could renounce our salvation, then God must renounce His Word, “For he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee,” and He is “thy salvation.” (Heb. 13:5, Ps. 27:1) Jesus Christ cannot save you today and then allow you to go to hell tomorrow, or else His claim of not forsaking you is false. (Heb. 5:9) He cannot have it both ways. Either He is the author of “eternal salvation,” or our Bibles lie.

A man who drinks a pint of poison can renounce death until he is blue in the face, but he will still die. In like manner, the born again, drinkers from the cup of eternal salvation can renounce their salvation “from the rising of the sun till the going down of the same,” yet they will remain saved. For “Who is he that saith and it cometh to pass when the Lord commanded it not?” (Lam. 3:37) Shall the power of your words usurp the Word of God? No! Once “the Lord has become thy salvation,” He is “thy salvation” forever, and who can disannul it? Nobody! (Isa. 51:6, Mal. 3:6)

14 AFTER SINNERS DRINK FROM THE WELLS OF SALVATION, THEY CANNOT RENOUNCE THEIR SALVATION! 2 Cor. 4:12

“So then death worketh in us, but life in you.”

When you meet Christians who have deceived themselves into thinking they can lose their salvation by renouncing it, share this with them.

Let’s say you met a man so distraught with life that he decides to take his own. His marriage is on the rocks, and all of his family and friends have forsaken him. He’s about to lose his job, and his doctor confirms that he has a dreaded disease, so he decides to end it all. He grabs a cup of poison, and begins to drink from this fountain of death. Then, low and behold, after his third healthy gulp, he decides he can make it after all. So, he rises from his chair, throws down his glass, and in a loud voice renounces what he’s done. He begins to shout, “I will not die! I shall not die! I renounce my death! I will not die! I shall not die! Although, I once accepted death as a way of escape, I now renounce it. I will not die!!! I shall not die!! I will not die!”

When this man finishes all this renouncing, will he still die? Yes. Why? Because “death worketh” in him, whereas Paul writes to the believer “but life in you,” Christ in you, your hope of glory. (2 Cor. 4:12) This same one who announced, “I am the life” has “begun a good work in you and shall perform it.” (Phil. 1:6) When you, as a sinner, drank from “the wells of salvation” called the gospel, Jesus promised you would live forever. (Isa. 12:3) That one drink from His cup of eternal salvation, called the gospel, gave you eternal life. After this drink, you will have as much success renouncing your eternal life as that poisoned fellow had in renouncing death after his.

15 A SHEEP CANNOT RENOUNCE ITS SHEPHERD. Psalms 100:3

“we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”

Can a sheep renounce its shepherd? If so, the man was not much of a shepherd. Let’s say a sheep baa-aahs real mean-like announcing to its shepherd, in no uncertain terms, that it wants out of the fold. Would a good shepherd be accommodating and consent to the will of that sheep? No. This is because shepherds are not ruled by the will of their sheep. Sheep are ruled by the will of the shepherd. (1 Cor. 6:19) What could a sheep do that would cause its shepherd to dismiss it from the fold? Nothing! Sheep are in no position to renounce their shepherd and the same goes for you, the sheep of God’s pasture. (Ps. 100:3)

Though it seems unfair to many, no one can become God's sheep by merely imitating one. You are not made God’s sheep by exhibiting impeccable behavior, irreproachable morality, or keeping the commandments. Furthermore, sheep do not remain sheep by working at it, and neither do the redeemed. In order to become a sheep you must be born one. Sinners only become God’s sheep by possessing the nature of “the lamb slain before the foundation of the world.” The Passover “Lamb of God” who was born in Bethlehem’s stable must be born again in your heart as that meek and quiet spirit, the hidden man of the heart that is of great price in the sight of the Lord. When this happens you are counted a sheep of God's pasture and Jesus Christ is appointed Shepherd and Bishop of your soul. (1 Peter 2:25) The Lord not only became your shepherd, He also became your salvation. (Ps. 27:1) Your good Shepherd boasts He has never lost a sheep, and His blemish free record remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Heb. 13:8) Hence, you will not be the one to place a blot of Christ’s spotless record. Born again can cannot become lost again.

16 *A BODY'S MEMBER CAN NEVER RENOUNCE ITS MEMBERSHIP, BECAUSE
FREE WILL IS ONLY LOCATED IN THE HEAD, NOT IN THE BODY. 1 Cor. 12:15*

“If the foot shall say, ... I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?”

The previous Scripture asks: If part of your body renounced its membership, would it cease to be a part of your body? Of course not! As members of your body cannot leave at will, so it is with members of the body of Christ. Barring accident, the only time a member is cut from one's body, is if corruption is found in that member in particular. Members of the body of Christ need not worry about this, because according to Scripture, Christ's body shall never see corruption. (Acts 2:31, Ps. 16:10)

At your new birth, you were set in the body of Christ as it pleases Him. (1 Cor. 12:18) Notice you are set in the body, not in the head, for Christ alone is “the head of the body.” (Col. 1:18) This is an important fact because free will lies in the head and not in the body, where believers are placed. Many Christians have yet to grasp the elementary concept that free will is not located in the body. Have you ever been relaxing on the couch and had your legs detach themselves to stroll around the block, because they felt they needed exercise? Or, have you ever had your hand pop off to grab a pen to jot a few lines? Has your heart ever taken a three-day siesta; because it decided it deserved a rest? No. As Paul asked, “Does not nature itself teach you” that the will lies in the head and not in the body, and so it is with the body of Christ. For we, being many members, are one body in Christ. And Christ is the head of the body. (1 Cor. 12:12, Col. 1:18) The body's response to the head is always “not my will but thine be done.”

The body has two major factors that distinguish it from its head. The body is both blind and silent, having neither eyes nor mouth. When your body operates, it must operate in faith following the head's instructions, because the body never sees what it accomplishes. Sight is not located in the body, only in the head. Furthermore, since the body is mute, its members have no voice, making it somewhat difficult for a member of the body to renounce its membership. (1 Cor. 12:15) Even when you speak the word as an ambassador of Christ, the Bible establishes:

“it is not you that speaketh, but the Holy Ghost
(Christ's Spirit within you.)” (Mark 13:11)

Only the head provides the body with both voice and vision. Christ is the head of the body, and He has never said to His body's more *uncomely parts*, “I have no need of thee.” (1 Cor. 12:21-24) Beloved, “the Lord hath need of thee.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

17 PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY HAVE FREE WILL TO RENOUNCE THEIR SALVATION, BELIEVE THAT THE WILL OF MAN USURPS THE POWER OF GOD.
1 Pet. 1:4-5

“you are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.”

The next time religionists approach you with the argument that they have the free will to lose their salvation, ask them to do the following: squat down, then jump up and touch the moon. They will quickly discover their free will has limitations. Since the will of our flesh cannot propel us to the moon, why would we think this same will can propel us beyond the moon “into heaven itself” to tamper with the eternal inheritance that is “reserved in heaven for you.” (1 Pet. 1:4) The truth of the matter is, free will as men understand it, does not exist in God or man, devil or demon. Free will has perimeters. It has limits. God himself, has self-imposed restrictive limits on His free will, in that He must adhere to His Word, which is His constitution that He with all of His authority and power cannot violate or override. (Mal. 3:6) God cannot do whatever he pleases if it does not coincide with His Word.

Legalists who say believers have free will to terminate their salvation at any given moment, or that free will gives the redeemed the right to lose their salvation, are “teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.” (1 Tim. 1:7) The born again who believe that free will is the be-all end-all of salvation, have believed a lie. Common sense teaches us that free will is not without limits. The following are classic examples of these limitations.

Limitations of Free Will

- Adam did not have the free will to eat of the tree of life in his fallen state.
- God does not have the free will to save those who die in unbelief.
- You do not have the free will to run 80 miles an hour.
- The living will die and their free will cannot prevent this.
- People in jail do not have the free will to leave when they please.
- In heaven or hell, the dead cannot stop being dead by their own free will.
- Sinners do not have the free will to go to heaven outside of accepting Jesus Christ’s resurrected life as payment for their sin debt. (Rom. 10:9-10)
- Satan does not have the free will to avoid his God appointed punishment.
- Man does not have the free will to approach God outside of Christ.
- The antichrist does not have the free will to halt his manifestation.
- The redeemed have no free will to will Christ out of existence in them.
- The world does not have the free will to abort Christ’s Second Coming.
- Lost souls in hell do not have the free will to go to heaven.

And the list goes on and on. Free will requires the power to execute it. Moreover, the Scriptures states that “the powers that be are ordained of God,” and God has not ordained any power that can abort the salvation of one soul who believes His gospel. (Eph. 1:13) The Scriptures even state that free will has boundaries “for *to will* is present, but *to perform* I find not.” (Rom. 7:18) The lack of power to perform the will is the chief limitation of free will.

Free will is composed of two components: the will and the power to execute that will. Jesus exposed the limitations of free will in his conversation with Pontius Pilate who was threatening him with execution. Jesus made very clear to Pilate that “Thou couldst have no power at all except it is given thee from above.” His statement tells you that if you could execute “Christ in you,” and thereby eliminate your salvation, that power would not originate from sin or you, but would have to be “given thee from above.” (John 19:11) Be advised the great God shall never again grant power to have His Son, who is “thy salvation,” executed, eliminated, or much less destroyed. Case closed! Now, imagine a man or woman trying to renounce his or her salvation while having no power at all. It’s absurd!

How dare our false hearts utter that the will of our flesh can usurp the power of God that keeps us saved? The Scriptures state, “We are kept by the power of God,” not by the power of free will. (1 Peter 1:5) Will power, especially human will power, is no match against the saving power of God that keeps us. Our will power can barely keep us on a diet, much less maintain our souls’ eternal salvation. It is the power of God that sustains our salvation and not our willpower.

18 WHAT IF YOU ARE BORN AGAIN, AND A MAN POINTS A GUN TO YOUR HEAD AND SAYS, “DENY JESUS OR I’LL KILL YOU,” AND YOU DENY HIM AND HE KILLS YOU ANYWAY. WOULDN’T YOU GO TO HELL? THE SCRIPTURES STATE:

“If we deny him, he also will deny us.” (2 Tim. 2:12)

When I was a little boy, I was always afraid this situation would happen to me and I would deny the Lord and lose my salvation. So, I was always mentally preparing myself for such a moment. As a young man in college, I asked other Christians what they would do if they were challenged to deny Christ or lose their life, and one of my colleagues answered:

“I figure my testimony is worth more to the Lord if I were living rather than dead, so I would deny Him, and then later ask forgiveness and continue witnessing for the Lord.”

This man better be glad that courage is not a requirement for salvation.

Jesus Christ respects martyrdom, and hopefully we would all endure such challenges as Daniel did in a lion’s den or as the three Hebrew boys who faced down a ruler who threatened them with death in a “burning fiery furnace.” In that showdown, God revealed his Son would be with us even in martyrdom. (Dan. 3:25, Matt. 16:16-17) In heaven, Christ Jesus stood up while the first Christian martyr, a young Jewish man named Stephen, died for his faith while testifying:

“Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God, and they cried out, and stopped their ears and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him. And Stephen calling upon God, saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit, and lay not this sin to their charge.” (Acts 7:60)

Jesus Christ testified to the Church of Pergamos that:

“thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.” (Rev. 2:13)

As Christians, “we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.” Now, if a sheep runs away from a butcher, do you blame it? The sheep still dies a sheep whether at the hand of the butcher or by natural causes. In addressing the present topic, let’s say a man placed a gun to your head and told you to deny you were human or he would kill you. Therefore, you denied you were human, and he killed you anyway. Did your denial overturn your humanity? No. Were you any less human when he pulled the trigger? No. Did you ever stop being human? No. Then what did this episode prove? It proved you were dealing with a mad man and you did not want him to take your life.

Likewise, what if a man threatens to take your life unless you deny the Lord, and in a moment of fear or cowardice, like St. Peter, you deny the Lord Jesus to save your own skin? Jesus Christ does take note of this; however, He cannot deny His existence in you, for the simple fact that “he cannot deny himself” — Christ in you, your only hope of Glory. (2 Tim 2:13, 1 Cor. 6:17) In this situation you would not lose your salvation, but you would lose the crown of the martyrs mentioned in Revelation 2:10. Jesus considers it an honor when we lay down our lives for His name’s sake, and He will greatly reward those who die for the gospel. (Rev. 2:10) **Always remember that, we are saved by believing that Jesus Christ died for us, and not by us dying for Jesus!**

During this present dispensation of grace, we may shrink from our duty to die as a martyr and yet still remain saved. However, once the rapture of the Church takes place, “the gospel of the kingdom” will resume being preached “to all the world as a witness” by 144,000 virgin Jewish men. (Matt. 24:14, Rev. 14:4) During that period of great tribulation, those who accept Jesus Christ as the coming King will pay for that decision with their lives by an edict from a global ruler, referred to as antichrist. (Rev. 13:4) In order to be saved, these people will be required to keep the faith unto death or until the Second Coming of the Lord, whichever comes first. (Matt. 10:17-22)

One of the most terrible accounts in Scripture was the confession of the Apostle Paul, who before his conversion, “breathed slaughter” against all believers in Christ who lived in his region. Paul’s written confession in Scripture states:

“I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled [forced] them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them unto foreign cities.” (Acts 26:11)

“Our beloved brother Paul” testifies that before his conversion, he successfully tortured Christians by painfully coercing them into blaspheming the worthy name of our Savior. No telling what methods of cruelty young Saul used to coerce blasphemies out of those born again believers in the chapels of God. Although, in their agony they denied the Lord, the Lord does not deny born again believers their “right to the tree of life,” when their flesh cries, “Uncle!” Nevertheless, in whatever dispensation we find ourselves, may we be able to echo Job’s words that “Though he slay me, yet shall I trust him.” (Job 13:15) Paul, formerly called Saul the Christian killer, died a martyr for the faith he once persecuted. (2 Tim 4:6, Gal. 1:23)

Note: Christians, many times our tongues become amazingly silent in our day to day lives, when we should be proclaiming the gospel, reproving the unfruitful works of darkness, and witnessing to the lost. Yet, many of us hardly notice this. At times our “gospel is hid, to them who are lost” because we fear losing face, life, or employment. Like St. Peter, we have all denied the Lord opportunities witness for him. As Paul, let us pray for boldness to, “Go, stand, and speak all the words of this life.” (Acts 5:20)

19 BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY RENOUNCE THEIR SALVATION, BECAUSE GOD WON'T HEAR OF IT! 1 John 5:14-15, 2 Pet. 3:9

“And this is the confidence we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, we know that we have the petition desired of him. The Lord is not willing that any should perish.”

In our topic Scripture, did John write, “If you ask anything according to your will he hears you?” No. When carefully reading this verse again, we find “if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” Subsequently, if you ask anything not according to His will, He will not hear you, and you will not receive the petition you desired of Him. In case you have forgotten, God is not willing for any to perish. After your salvation, if you asked God for permission to renounce your salvation, He will not hear you, because this is not according to His will. Therefore, you would not “receive the petition you desired of him” to lose your salvation. Born again believers cannot renounce their salvation, because God won't *hear* of it!

20 SHEPHERDS DO NOT LOSE OWNERSHIP OF SHEEP GONE ASTRAY. Rom. 14:8

“Whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.”

Many Christians thoughtlessly recite the 23rd Psalm, “The Lord is my shepherd...” forgetting that shepherds are solely responsible for the security of their sheep. The redeemed have been placed in the custody of a very “good shepherd.” Many Christians wholeheartedly believe that if a believer departs from the faith, the Lord, in turn, departs from that born again believer. Such Christians should remember the elementary principle that a shepherd doesn't lose custody of a sheep that goes astray. Neither does a good shepherd renounce a sheep that wanders from the flock. That sheep still belongs to its shepherd. Some pastors, upon learning a member of their flock has departed from the faith, write them off as having never been saved in the first place. Shame on these shepherds! This is the equivalent of a child who wanders away with some pervert, and the parents exclaim, “Well, if he could go astray with such a nasty person, then he is no child of mine,” and leaves the situation at that. Such parents are unfit, not the child, and it follows that such shepherds are unfit, not the sheep. *Waywardness is part of a sheep's nature no matter how mature it becomes.*

What if a sheep wanders from the guidance of its shepherd and falls into the jaws of a roaring lion, ravenous wolves, or a crooked serpent? Does that sheep belong to its predator? No! Sheep cannot transfer ownership of themselves. Dead or alive, sheep belong to their

shepherd. (Rom. 14:8) Like sheep gone astray, Christians who depart from the faith open themselves up to attacks from the enemy. Though Satan may slay their bodies, their souls remain in the clutches of its good shepherd.” As Jesus stated, “I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no man can pluck them out of my hand.” (John 10:27-29)

Moreover, if a sheep wanders onto the land of a farmer, does it automatically become that farmer’s property? No! When it comes to sheep, there are no finder's keepers and certainly no giveaways. Likewise, if a child denounces her parents and slips into the hands of a molester, does that child belong to the molester? No! If the molester ends the child's life, did the child cease belonging to her parents? No! Living or dead, that child belongs to its parents, and so it is with the children of God. (Rom. 14:8) As it is written:

“Whether we live, we are the Lord's and whether we die, [at Satan's hands, natural causes, or through our own stupidity] we are the Lord's. Therefore, whether living or dead we are the Lord's.”

The Good Shepherd's. (John 10:28)

20a BECAUSE BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS ARE THE SHEEP OF GOD'S PASTURE AND A SHEEP CANNOT MUTATE INTO AN UNCLEAR ANIMAL. Ps. 23:1

“We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.”

In the Bible, God classifies sheep as “*clean.*” Now, what if a sheep trots trough a pigsty and gets its wool filthy. Does God now reclassify that sheep as unclean? No! A sheep’s outward appearance holds no bearing on its cleanness, because sheep are clean through the word God has spoken. Though its wool may be filthy, God still regards the sheep as clean. A sheep can be dirtier than a pig and God’s Word still declares it clean. In light of this, what can a sheep do to cause God to reclassify its status to unclean? Nothing, and neither can the sheep of God’s pasture! If a sheep often wanders from its fold, is it now unclean? No! What if a sheep behaves unseemly, does its behavior disqualify it from its clean category? No! What if a sheep strays away and is killed prematurely by a wolf or a lion, doesn’t it still die a sheep, a clean creature? Yes! Then, how can a sheep be declared unclean before God? It’s impossible, because God’s Word declares all sheep clean from birth. Period!

If you read between the lines you’ll find that God has declared sheep clean regardless of their *low intellect, shortsightedness, and habitual waywardness.* A sheep can do nothing to make itself more clean, nor can it do anything to make itself unclean, and neither can you, the born again believer. Christ’s birth in us, make us “his people and the sheep of his pasture.” Although sheep are declared clean throughout their lifetime, this in no way insinuates that every sheep is fit for temple service. (Num. 6:14) In the Old Testament, if a sheep did not meet certain standards, though it was considered clean, it was nevertheless, deemed unfit and thus not qualified to participate in temple service, and so it is with Christians. As a Christian, you are declared eternally clean by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. However, if you are in violation of specified “instruction in righteousness” outlined in God’s Word, then you are not fit to officiate in ministerial offices in the church, though you are clean. (Titus 1:5-9, 1 Tim. 3:10-15)

Moreover, regardless of how wayward a sheep is, it cannot mutate into a goat, nor can a goat be transformed into a sheep. Likewise, if a sinner associates with Christians, and practices fundamental Christian character better than most Christians it does not make him a Christian. If this person never strays from obeying the Ten Commandments and is engaged in doing good works, and loves God and his fellow man, he will still die a sinner. Why? Because though he lived "*the Christian life*," *THE LIFE OF CHRIST NEVER LIVED IN HIM!* It's the new birth of "Christ in you" that makes us Christians "and not we ourselves." (Ps. 100:3) In case you may have forgotten, Jesus Christ is the *only* Christian life there is, for what other life can profess total sinlessness? Did He not say: "I am the life." (John 14:6) When a sinner accepts Jesus Christ by faith, that is what makes them a Christian. Beloved, Christians do not live "the Christian life," it's the Christian life that lives in Christians. He is the holy one known as "Christ in you" your only hope of Glory for without him no man can see the Lord, including you. (Heb. 12:4, Eph. 4:24)

21 *JESUS IS A FISHER OF MEN AND HE NEVER THROWS ANY BACK.* **John 6:37**

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me: and he that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

When we review Jesus' prayer, we find him declaring to his Father "Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost." (John 17:12) Since, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever," His record of having lost none will remain the same as it did yesterday, today, and forever. Notice that Jesus takes full credit for keeping every soul given to Him from being lost again. He announced:

"I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me that I should lose nothing."
(John 6:38-40)

In other words, if Jesus loses one soul His Father entrusted to Him for everlasting life, then He would be out of His Father's will. Therefore, we know Jesus won't be telling any fish stories of "the one that got away." For:

"This is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life..."
(John 6:38-40)

Born again believers by faith see that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. (1 John 5:1) If you are a born again believer, Christ has hooked your soul, and one day you will be "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thes. 4:17) Jesus is a fisher of men, and He doesn't throw the puny ones back. (John 6:37)