CAN WE LOSE OUR SALVATION?

(Matt 7:21-27 - 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven..."

WHAT IS SALVATION?
Jesus came to save us from something we have no escape from...our sins - Matt 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

We are being saved from the worst punishment you can imagine - Rom 2:5-6 - 5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done."

Before becoming a Christian, we were ALL part of a corrupt world - Eph 2:3-7 - All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus

Christ made it possible for us to inherit life eternally - Heb 9:15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

He offers to us a gift of Grace that will cleanse us from our sins and He empowers us with the Holy Spirit - Titus 3:3-8 - 3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

When we get saved, we literally become a new creation - 2 Cor 5:17-19 - 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

When we accept Christ, though we are not presently saved, through God's Grace we already have salvation - Rom 8:22-25 - 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Salvation means Christ becomes our life and we must live for him - Col 3:1-4 - Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When CHRIST, WHO IS YOUR LIFE, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Once again, Salvation's purpose is to protect us from God's Wrath - 1 Thess 5:9-11 - 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Once we are Christians no one can take that from us - John 10:27-29 - 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

God will work in us until the end - Phil 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

HOW TO GET SALVATION?

Know that it's offered to everyone –
Rom 1:19-20 - 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation HAS APPEARED TO ALL MEN.

We are all in the same boat, if we don’t have Christ, it’s a boat headed to Hell. IT’S OUR CHOICE. - John 3:18-21 - 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned. ⇒
already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

The process is acknowledging who Christ is and what the source of your salvation is - Rom 10:9-10-9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Understand, you can do NOTHING to earn salvation, it's a gift offered to all from God. But you have to correctly receive it and the only way to receive it is through faith - Eph 2:8-9 - 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, THROUGH FAITH — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

IF your faith is real, it will be “displayed” by how you live not just by what you say. This is belief - James 2:20-24 - 20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that HIS FAITH AND HIS ACTIONS WERE WORKING TOGETHER, and HIS FAITH WAS MADE COMPLETE BY WHAT HE DID. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham BELIEVED GOD, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that A PERSON IS JUSTIFIED BY WHAT HE DOES AND NOT BY FAITH ALONE.

Our faith is our connection to God and our protection in God. It will be tried and tested - 1 Peter 1:3-9 - 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, 5 who THROUGH FAITH are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Getting saved has “qualifiers”
Allowing ungodly qualities are acts that reject Grace – Eph 5:3-7-3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 FOR OF THIS YOU CAN BE SURE: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of God. 6 LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU WITH EMPTY WORDS, for because of such things GOD'S WRATH COMES ON THOSE WHO ARE DISOBEDIENT. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.

There is a nature that we call “human nature” (which is really a “sinful nature”). Following that, instead of the Spiritual nature, leads to eternal death - Gal 5:19-21 -19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I WARN YOU, as I did before, that those who LIVE like this WILL NOT inherit the kingdom of God.

Make no mistake, not inheriting does mean Hell - Rev 21:7-8 - 7 He who overcomes will INHERIT all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their PLACE WILL BE IN THE FIERY LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR. This is the second death."

THE TRUE PROBLEM IS MANY NEVER REALLY GET SAVED.
Our ministry needs to be based on sound doctrine to guide people to the right path - Matt 7:13-14 - 13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and ONLY A FEW FIND IT.

Those who don't make it in the narrow door will be doomed –
Luke 13:23-24 - He said to them, 24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. 25 Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' 26 'But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' " 28 "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.

There are false teachers that claim to be from Christ, but were never part of Christ - 1 John 2:18-19 - 18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.
There are going to be many who falsely think they are Christians and are in for a rude awakening - Matt 7:21-27 - 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord,' but only HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

**Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

There are those that believe they are Christians, but under their own standards and beliefs - Titus 1:15-16 - 15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

It is not what "you do", but what "you are" that will dictate your inheritance - 1 Cor 6:9-11 - 9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? DO NOT BE DECEIVED: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor bisexual people nor alcoholics nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 10 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

There are professed Christians that have these qualities which makes them wicked - 1 Cor 5:9-13 - 9 Do you not know that not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

If you are truly a Christian it will be displayed in HOW you live –

Doing good vs doing evil - Rom 2:7-10 - 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, HE WILL GIVE ETERNAL LIFE. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, THERE WILL BE WRATH AND ANGER. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Walking in darkness instead of light - 1 John 1:6-7 - 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Living not providing for others - Matt 25:41-46 - 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44 "Then they will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45 "Then they will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

In a nutshell, Living for the flesh instead of the Spirit - Gal 6:7-8 - 7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

**CAN WE LOSE SALVATION?**

**The answer to this question is NO you can't lose your salvation, HOWEVER; you can decline your salvation. The following verses will show how this is done.**

What you can lose is rewards but not Salvation - 1 Cor 3:10-15 - 10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; HE HIMSELF WILL BE SAVED, but only as one escaping through the flames.

This is what the Bible describes as Declining the free gift of Salvation

***NOTE*** Those that believe in " Eternal Security" use the "Eternal Security" "concept" to explain the following verses instead of using the Bible to explain itself. I.e. Where the Bible says if you don't forgive you will not be forgiven, they use the Eternal Security belief to state that they must be talking about another type forgiveness.

If we don't forgive, we will not be forgiven - Matt 6:14-15 - 14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.
You can’t hate your brother and still go to Heaven - 1 John 3:15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that NO MURDERER HAS ETERNAL LIFE IN HIM.

Shrinking back dooms us for Hell - Heb 10:35-39 - 35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. 38 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." 39 But we are not of those who SHRINK BACK AND ARE DESTROYED, but of those who believe and are saved.

Some will come to know Christ and decide to turn back (it’s called backsliding) - 2 Peter 2:17-21 –17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity — for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. 20 IF THEY HAVE ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION OF THE WORLD BY KNOWING OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

Preaching anything other than the true Gospel will condemn. - Gal 1:8-9 - 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, LET HIM BE ETERNALLY CONDEMned!

To Knowingly continue to reject Christ - Heb 10:26-31 - 26 If we DELIBERATELY keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

I believe this is referring to a fully mature Christian who still clearly decides to leave Christ - Heb 6:4-8 - 4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, 6 if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. 7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. 8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

We must be careful not to become arrogant in our presumed position! - Rom 11:20-24 - 20 Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. DO NOT BE ARROGANT, but be afraid. 21 For IF GOD DID NOT SPARE THE NATURAL BRANCHES, HE WILL NOT SPARE YOU EITHER. 22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, PROVIDED that you CONTINUE IN HIS KINDNESS. OTHERWISE, YOU ALSO WILL BE CUT OFF.

Altogether, not only are we to be in Jesus, we must also REMAIN in Jesus - John 15:5-6 - 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man REMAINS in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone DOES NOT REMAIN in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Remain - meno (men'-o); a primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy):

BEFORE WE GET SAVED KNOW WHAT IT MEANS

We must be ready to TRULY “let go” to let God -Luke 9:23-27 - 23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? 26 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Receiving salvation is not just a statement it’s a complete life change - Luke 14:28-33 - 28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? 29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Since we have been saved then let’s live as those that have been saved - 1 Tim 6:11-12 - 11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
1. What does Jesus’s name mean?

2. When we become Christians, we must set our minds on things above and not on what?

3. Only a few people will have salvation offered to them (True or False)?

4. Christians are justified by what?

5. Everyone who say’s “Lord Lord” to Jesus in the Kingdom of heaven will be save? (True or False) -

6. Preaching what will make a person eternally condemned? -

7. What are the two things a person must do before they can become a disciple of Christ -

8. If God did not appoint people to go to Hell, why are so many going to Hell?

9. From the beginning of time, what has been clear to all men?
10. Explain the process of “belief”.

11. If the Gate is the life we choose and the road is the life-path we select, please in your own words describe EITHER the “small” & “narrow” or the “wide” & “broad”.

12. What is the “Will of my father” that Jesus speaks of to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

13. What will expose if a person is a Christian or not?

14. If a Christian can’t lose his salvation. What can we lose?

15. In a nutshell, how can one “Decline” his salvation?