

This morning we are in Revelation 2:12-17.

Remember the outline of the book or Revelation is found in Revelation 1:19. After John saw the vision, or revelation, of Christ on the island of Patmos, verse 19 says, "Write the things which you have seen," that would be Revelation Chapter 1:12-20, that's the appearance of Christ. Secondly, "Write the things which are," that would be Revelation Chapters 2 and 3, that would be the messages to the churches. The third division of the book of Revelation at the end of verse 19, "And the things which must happen after these things," that's the literal translation.

So, write the things which you have seen, which are, and the things which must take place after these things. **μετὰ ταῦτα** (meta tauta) would be the Greek phrase, that's very important, "after these things," not *after this*, but *after these things*. The reason being is because in Revelation 4:1, do you notice that verse? It says, "After these things I looked and behold a door had been standing open." So, Revelation 4:1 to the end of the book is the third division, that would be *after these things*, that is, the things that are, the things of the Church. So, that's the three-fold division of the book.

The reason for the book is that the Lord would send His messages to the seven churches which are in Asia. The number 7 in the scriptures denotes completeness. And I also want to point out to you that at the end of these messages, and we pointed it out to you in the first two messages, notice Chapter 2 verse 7, "The one who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches," plural. So, not only is each church supposed to listen to the message of the Lord to them, but the message of the Lord to all of the churches.

This is why Satan attacks God's word and distracts believers from the book of Revelation today and discourages them from getting into it. Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 is the Lord's final message to His Church before He comes back. What does He think about me? What does He think about our church? What does He think about the body of Christ and what we are doing in the body of Christ today? We can find all of it in the seven messages to the seven churches of Revelation.

Now, we saw in our first message in Chapter 2 verses 1 to 7, the church at Ephesus. Again, all seven of these churches are in Asia Minor. This is the major seaport there in the southwest corner in Asia Minor. His message to that church. And this is kind of interesting, you remember what we talked about? "I know your works and how you work and you labor to the point of exhaustion, you are not able to bear those who say they are apostles and you test them, and you find out that they are not." This is a church I want to be a part of! They are hard working. They are laboring for the Lord. They are testing everything that people are teaching or saying, you see? Not only are they testing it, they are finding out that if it false they are rejecting it. They are testing every spirit and they are testing everything that they hear. What a great church! I'd love to be a part of this church, except the Lord says, "I have something against you. This one thing that if you don't repent of it I'm going to take the candle stick from out of its place." Which is an interesting phrase because in the original language what He is saying is, He doesn't say, "I'm going to remove your church," He says, "The light is going to go out." Your church

will no longer be a light. You'll have church as usual, but it will no longer be effective for Christ.

Now, what is interesting about this phrase, "You have left your first love," that's what He said to them. Just because of that one thing. In spite of all the things they were doing right in their relationship with the Lord, this one thing, "You have left your first love."

I shared with you the word **πρῶτος** (protos), from the Greek text, doesn't mean *go back to the beginning of your relationship with the Lord when you loved Him so much and He was everything to you, you've left that first position*. No that's not what it means. **πρῶτος** (protos) means *priority*. It is the equivalent to Exodus Chapter 20, the first of the Ten Commandments. God says "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, you shall have no other gods before Me."

It is interesting, in the Hebrew text it's not, *before Me*, like "I have to be [number] one but you can have two and three." The Hebrew text literally reads "You shall have no other gods besides Me." That's why Jesus when He answered the Torah lawyer in the New Testament, when the lawyer says, "What's the greatest of the commandments?"

Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength." You see, God says, "There can be nobody else besides Me. It's not Me first and then everybody else underneath Me, it's all Me." God says, "I want all of your mind and your soul and your strength. I want it and I want you to love Me with all that you have." That is the Exodus 20 equivalent in the New Testament, that is what God is saying. "You shall have no other gods besides Me," was His message.

So, the church at Ephesus was a hard-working church but they didn't love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. And just because of that. And we will see it in some of our messages.

In some of our messages when we are in Philippians in our worship service, we're going to start a word study -- we're going to start a four-part word study on Satan's Only Weapon Against a Believer. I think you'll be interested in what that is. It is going to take four weeks to cover just one word, that's how important it is, and we're going to start that this morning. But it is interesting that one of the things, the word is **μεριμνάω** (merimnao) that we are going to study. It is a Greek word that means *anxiety*, or *worry*, and it has to do with *occupying the attention of the mind*. We're not talking about psycho things or psychological principles, we are talking about the fact that where the Lord speaks to us and ministers to us, yes, He does minister and speak to our hearts but the *psyche* in the New Testament is the *arena*. That's where the energy impulses come, where God Spirit ministers His word to your heart. That's where you have interaction with God Spirit, you're speaking to Him, He is speaking to you. That's where Satan attacks, he attacks the *psyche*, he attacks that arena and the Bible says that it is called *anxiety* or *worry*. That is not emotional word, that means that Satan comes, and he sees a believer filled with and sealed by the Holy Spirit in their spirit; so what he does is he knows now that you belong to Jesus Christ, what does God want to do now? Paul says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." In Ephesians 4:23 he says, "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

So, God's Spirit is changing my whole thought processes: how I live, how I think, how I look at life, who I serve, who I am. It is a growth process that happens over a long period of time. And so, Satan says, "Okay, I lost your soul, Jesus has filled you with His Spirit, He has sealed you with His Spirit, you are being kept by the power of God until the Lord comes for you, so I'm going to spend the rest of your days trying to distract you." Worry. Anxiety. You worry, it just snow balls, and the attention of your mind is taken. And we're going to show you in scripture that Jesus said, "It is impossible." You were not created to have the capacity to serve God and mammon.

Mammon is an Aramaic word, **μαμωνᾶ** (mammona) that means *the things of this physical world*. Not just physical things, but also it is activities. You see, it could be my career. Maybe I am really set on a career. If I set all my attention and all my goals towards my career, am I focused on the Lord to serve Him? Jesus said, "No, you can go to church all you want to, you can believe in Me in your creed and in your confession all you want to," but if you're serving your goal, your earthly goal, then we are not focused on Him and it is going to interfere.

Question: You said that we have been sealed until the Lord comes, is it your conviction that we can't ever lose salvation?

Answer: That is an excellent question because that is one of the debates, if I can use that word, struggles, reasonings that Christians are going through today. One of the big things that is being attacked is, "Once saved always saved," versus, "You can lose your salvation." My personal conviction, what I have heard from both sides, is that both sides are wrong.

One side that believes once saved always saved says, and it is kind of interesting it is in our text, it is part of the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. Nicolas in Acts 6:5 broke away from the church according to tradition and history and went out and told the Christians that Paul's doctrine was, "that where sin abounds, grace does much more abound, so it does not make any difference if you go out and sin because God's grace is going to abound more. So, you can do anything you want to. You can go out and sin. You have the freedom to sin and God will forgive you so don't worry about it." Well the truth is correct, where sin abounds grace does much more abound, but I John Chapter 3 says that if you are born of the Spirit of God it is impossible to continue sin as a habit of your life. Impossible.

I go back to the premise -- and those of you have heard me for long period time I'm going to continue to harp on this, I call it harping, nagging, preaching, whatever you want to call it -- about what salvation is. The body of Christ does not understand what happens to a Christian when you are saved. Let me explain.

I know it is receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, believing in Him. But John, the apostle John, the same guy that wrote the book of Revelation, he also wrote in the gospel of John and first, second, and third John. He is called a polemic writer, very controversial, because he says, "Either you belong to the Lord or you don't." No matter what you say. You can believe anything that you want to but here is one factor that both Paul, and John, and the other disciples preached and what they taught. When you receive Jesus Christ --

I don't like the word *accept*. In all due respect for everybody else, if you tell someone, "What you need to do is accept the Lord," okay, that's fine, but I am letting you know where I stand. The word *accept* the Lord, is a mental thing. If you look it up in your dictionary, the word *accept* means that you *mentally agree with the truth*. And in religious circles today they say, "Do you believe that Jesus died for you?"

"Yes, I do."

"You're in."

Now wait a minute now, the Bible says *true belief* is when *you are born of the Spirit of God*. You're a true believer. In James Chapter 2, James says, "Even the demons believe and are trembling." I have even heard little kids, when we use to give Bible stories to children and when we had prayer requests, the kids would pray for Satan, that he would give saved. "Well, he believes, doesn't he?" Even Satan believes the truth.

When Jesus walked into the synagogue and there were people there who were demonized, the demons cried out in confession to who Jesus was. They know who He is. "The Holy One of God." The demons can confess the truth about who Jesus is, but they are also opposed to Him, aren't they? They don't believe in Him in the sense that they are in submission to, and under the control of His Spirit. No, they're not.

So, the bottom line is this, without taking too much more time, the bottom line is this, a person who belongs to Jesus Christ is born of His Spirit.

That's why Paul said in Romans Chapter 8, I think is about verse 9, "If a person does not have the Spirit of Christ, he doesn't belong to Him." Now, that's cut and dry. And I've told you this before and I've actually done this in many, many groups where we said, "Look," and you know me, I don't put people on the spot, I don't give people tests, and I don't pull tricks on people to try to make people look dumb, or something. But I have done this with groups of brothers and sisters who just love the Lord and you ask them, "What does it mean to be saved?" You'll find that just about everybody will give a different answer. It's not that we don't believe in Him, or that we are not born of Him, we don't understand the salvation process. I am saved when Jesus Christ in the person of His Spirit comes into my spirit, my heart, my soul; because that is what saves me.

In Ephesians Chapter 2, you remember, in fact, at the end of Ephesians Chapter 1 [Editor's Note: Actually, it is Ephesians 3:14-21] Paul says, "I am praying for you Christians that you'll know the height and the depth and the width and the breadth of Christ, because now you are energized" - and I'm using the literal language now, because it's the word *working* in English - "because you are now energized with the same energy that raised Jesus from the dead." Every day of my life I am energized by the Holy Spirit with the same energy that raised Jesus from the dead. But then in Ephesians Chapter 2 he says, "But you once were dead in your trespasses and sin, and you were energized by the prince and power of the air to fulfill the will and desire of the flesh and of the mind." Paul says, "You're either one way, or the other." You are either energized by Satan to fulfill the will of the flesh and of the mind, or you are energized by Jesus Christ. You are

either of one spiritual family or the other, see? And because I was once energized by Satan to do my own thing --

Now, I could be a nice person. I can be unsaved and be one of the sincerest, nicest people that you would ever want to meet. Of course, that's not me, but I could be. But that doesn't mean I'm saved. If I am energized by Satan to fulfill my own will, the desires of the flesh and the mind, I am not saved. That's what I need to be saved from.

In I John Chapter 3, I think is verse 9, it says, "The son of God was manifested and revealed that He might destroy the works of the devil." The word *destroy* is λύω (luo) in Greek and it means *to untie* or *loosen you*. When Jesus Christ, when He literally came into my heart, He literally loosened me, unbound me, from Satan's control energizing me to sin against God and live my own life. When the Bible talks about salvation, salvation happens when the Spirit of Christ comes into your heart, you are born again. He resides inside of you. He fills with His Spirit. I think it is Ephesians 1:14 it says, "We are sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption, when He comes for His purchased possession." In I Peter Chapter 1 Peter says, "We are those who are being kept by the power of God until our salvation comes." What I'm telling you is what the grace of God is.

Romans Chapter 3 says, "Without His Spirit, the natural person without Christ does not care about the things of God, does not understand the things of God, is not interested in the things of God." When He started touching my life to help me realize my need for Christ, that wasn't me, that was the Holy Spirit, started drawing me. When I realize my need for Christ -- Now, I went to a Bible study for nine months before Christ came into my heart. And I realize now, that during that nine-month period God's Spirit was using His Word to prepare my heart. To help me see my need for Christ.

But I remember the night that Christ came into my heart. I was walking across my bedroom floor. I was over in Puerto Rico and I was walking across my bedroom floor, going over to the dresser drawers and I wasn't even thinking about the Lord and His Spirit just came right down on me. And I knew who it was, and He came into my heart. And I'm searching. I started reading my Bible and I cannot help but think about the Apostle Paul, Saul of Tarsus. Here's a man walking down the road to Damascus to round up the Christians, had authority of the government in his hand, and going down to Damascus to round up the Christians. Do you think he was seeking for the Lord? Or he was saying, "I want to sit in on some of those Bible studies and find out what's...." He was angry! He ravaged the church, he said. He was there at the stoning of Stephen. They laid the coats at his feet and that meant that Saul of Tarsus was put in charge to make sure that Stephen was stoned and that the sentence was carried out. Here was a man that rounded Christians up and put them in prison, and he is on the road to Damascus. He is not just satisfied with Jerusalem, he is going to Damascus to get more. And what happens? Jesus appeared to him on the road.

His testimony to Timothy in I Timothy Chapter 1, he says, "I'm the chiefest of sinners. I persecuted the church of God." All that time God was working on him, all those believers that were put to death by Saul of Tarsus, all those believers that were persecuted and put in prison,

God was using those precious lives to work against Paul so that the day that he is saved by Jesus, that whole humbling process. Paul could not stand up and say you know, "I sat under Gamaliel, I was one of the head students in the Hebrew school, and now I'm a Christian, so I ought to be right up there. You ought to put me right up there as the head teacher." He says, "I don't even deserve to be a Christian. I am the chiefest of sinners, Timothy, and God saved me so that I might be an example of God's mercy and grace. Because if I am the chiefest of sinners, God can save anybody." And Paul carried that weight on him the entire time. What a humbling process, to stand up in front of a church, and you know right after Saul of Tarsus was converted, when he would go to Christian assemblies they were afraid of him. He had a reputation. "See, this guy, he is just sitting in amongst us, you know, he is spying us out. This is the guy that had our brothers and sisters put to death, or tortured." They would not trust him. They said, "Get him out of here."

Not until Barnabus and some of the others began to speak up for him and say, "No, this guy's been saved by Jesus, he has been born again." Can you imagine yourself being Paul, standing up in front of a group of believers, and start to explain how Jesus had mercy on him and saved him, he being the chief person that persecuted Christians? This humbled him to the point that he said, "I don't even deserve to be up here." Why do you think God used him so much? It was because he was so humbled by his persecution against the Lord and against the Lord's people, that he didn't feel that he'd deserved to be representing Jesus Christ. That's why the Lord was so effective through him, because he was not the example of the apostle Paul, he was the example of the chiefest of sinners; and, "If God can have mercy on me and save me, my message to you is that He can save anybody. No matter what sin that you have committed, where sin abounds, grace doesn't much more abound." If anybody knew that it was the apostle Paul.

When a person is saved, the Spirit of Jesus Christ literally comes into your heart, literally. Not just the belief comes into your mind, but you're born of His Spirit. He fills you, He seals you, and His power keeps you. Now the question is, "Can I lose my salvation?" Well, I can't win it.

Going back to I John Chapter 3, the polemic writer, he says, "Now wait a minute here," and he is speaking to churches, like the Word of God ought to be speaking to churches today. John, in I John Chapter 3 says, "Now wait a minute here, if you say that you believe in Jesus Christ and that you belong to Him," however you want to say it, "and you continually, habitually sin," as if you didn't know Him, just like your old life before you came to know Christ. John says, "Let me tell you, you are not of Him," because if His Seed, if His Spirit is in you, you cannot habitually sin.

Let me show you something, let's turn to Galatians for a moment. This is a good session this morning. In case you haven't noticed, that subject has been eating on me for many, many weeks. Over the internet, I've got people that -- Galatians chapter 5 -- that just argue this point, and my message to them is, "You don't understand salvation." In order for me not to be saved, Jesus, His Spirit would have to leave me, because that is what makes me saved. You understand what I'm saying? But if I have Jesus in my heart and I go out to sin, and you people don't see me, and I go sin, who's with me? I've got Jesus in my heart. I'm sinning right in the light of Jesus. If I sin, I have to be convicted.

I want you to notice something, Galatians 5:16-17. I'm going to give it to you literally. Notice the beauty of this, and I will explain. Galatians 5:16, "I say then, walk in the spirit and you will not fulfill the desire of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit is against the flesh." Now, I want you to notice it doesn't say, "the Spirit lusts against the flesh," it says, "the Spirit is against the flesh." My flesh - *its desires*, which is what the word *lust* means - the desires of my flesh are actually desiring against the Spirit of God because we are going in two different directions, aren't we? But God's Spirit doesn't lust against the flesh, it is against the flesh. Now watch this, verse 17, "And these are contrary to one another," here it is, "so that you may not do the things that you wish." The word *wish* is the word *will*.

I can show you other texts that say the same thing. When Jesus Christ comes into your heart -- I will use me as an example. When Jesus Christ comes into my heart and I sin, His Spirit is there to keep me from doing what I want to do. Period. Me and my flesh, I would have to overcome the Holy Spirit for me to go out and live a life of sin, habitual sin, like I did before I received Christ. This is the depths of the grace and mercy of God. He doesn't just save me and say, "Okay now, if you don't have a good performance here, I'm rating you and if I don't see a good performance, I'm going to take back your certificate of salvation." He knows I am but dust. You know what makes me saved? It's not that I'm perfect, it's when I sin God convicts me and deals with me because he is right there with me and His Spirit says --

Do you ever stop and think why didn't God make salvation available by going through a religious ceremony? Why didn't He say, "Go to your local church, stand on your head in the corner, and stack BBs with boxing gloves, and you're in." Or, "Just go to the front of the church, and the local pastor, or priest, or whatever, he will pronounce a saying over you, and you go through this ceremony and you're in." Why do you think it is that Jesus Christ Himself has to come into your heart? That's the control room. That's where it all happens. Not only do I need to be saved, but I need to stay saved. I can't be saved by works, how can I keep my salvation by works? His gift to me is, "I'm going to give you My Spirit and I am going to keep you from getting away, because if I didn't give you My Spirit you'd be gone."

I can confess that today. If He did not give me His Holy Spirit, I'd be -- I might go to church every once in a while, but I'd be gone. I'm like the apostle Paul, not in ministry, but the same in that, if the Lord not interrupt my life and show me my need for Him, I would be gone. That is His gift to me. He interrupted my life. His Spirit came into my heart and my flesh has been trying to get away ever since. But you know His Spirit keeps me, so that I cannot do the things that I wish.

Now John, in I John Chapter 3, says, "That is the mark." All the way through his letter: I John 3:24; I John 4:14 says, "By the we know that we abide in Him, by the Spirit that He has given to us." Not our confession. Not our beliefs. It is by His Spirit dwelling in me. As I stand before you this morning, the only way that I can confess to you that I belong to Jesus Christ and that He is my Lord and Savior, is not just because of my religious, or intellectual, acceptance and belief in what the Bible says about Him, but the fact that I've been born of the Spirit of God. Literally. His Spirit lives inside of me.

One more text and we'll finish this up. Turn with me to I John Chapter 2. Remember, I have been mentioning about I John Chapter 3, about how John says, "If you continually, or habitually, sin." Those are called participles that shows activity, lifestyle, habit. Notice I John 2:1, "My little children, these things I write to you so that you may not sin, and if anyone should sin," notice the translation, "we have an advocate with the Father Jesus Christ the Righteous One, who He Himself is the propitiation," which in Greek means *satisfaction*, the sufficiency for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. Notice in verse one, "If anyone should sin," that's the literal translation. It is what is called the aorist subjunctive verb. Aorist means to commit an act, subjunctive means *possibility*. He is not saying a Christian will not sin. A Christian will commit an act of sin, but the Lord is the sufficiency. He died for our sins, that if we come and confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. But, when he used the aorist subjunctive for an act of sin, he never uses participles for a Christian. You cannot habitually live a life of sin. It's impossible. It is literally impossible.

Question: So, does that mean that Satan cannot snatch away a believer?

Answer: No. How? He would have to overpower the Holy Spirit. He would have to somehow get the Holy Spirit out of me, unseal me by the Holy Spirit. See, we are talking spiritual here, we're not talking religious, or works.

And that is why, and I'm saying this in love, we in the body of Christ, we do not understand spiritual things. We are trying to understand it humanly speaking. "Oh, I am a bad Christian," or, "I committed this act of sin therefore I can lose my salvation." It is all "I" centered. "I can lose it." "I did wrong." "I did sin." And understanding spiritually, is that God looks at me and He says, "Yeah, and if you didn't have My Spirit you'd be gone. That is what My Spirit is there for."

Let me finish up with this. We started in Revelation, but we have been all over the place. This is very important, okay? What I just explained about salvation, about being born of the Spirit of Christ, that is very important; but here is my pet peeve right now, this is kind of the platform that the Lord has had me on. There's two pieces of scripture that are very important in the Bible for me right now. The first one is I Corinthians 11:19 and the second one is I John 2:19.

I Corinthians 11:19 Paul says, "Brothers, it is necessary for divisions to take place amongst you so that those who are approved of God might be made manifest." Divisions? In the body of Christ? Oh yeah.

I John 2:19 John says, "They went out from us because they were not of us. Had they been of us they would not have gone out from us; but because they were not of us, it was manifested, and so they went out from us." It sounds like a bunch of mumbo jumbo, but basically what John is trying to say is -- remember I said that John is a polemic writer -- if you do not have the Spirit of Christ, you don't belong to Him. No matter what your religious beliefs are, your creed, your activities -- whatever you do, you must be born of the Spirit of God. You must have Christ in

your heart. Now John was one of those guys that said, "I'm going to teach the truth to the church, the body of Christ." Now if you listen to God's word, and you say, "I don't believe that. This guy is off his rocker. I'm going to go find a church where they don't have the Word and I don't feel this conviction." John says, "The reason they left to get away from the Word is because it was revealed that they were sitting in amongst and confessing they were Christians because they went to church and believed in God, or whatever; but as soon as they heard the truth of the Word they said, 'I've got to get out of here! I don't believe that.'" And John says that is God manifesting in and amongst His people who really are His people and who are not.

And so, my platform is this, there are two divisions taking place in the world today. Spiritually and biblically there are two divisions taking place. Unfortunately, the church, and I'm speaking ours, I'm not pointing fingers, the body of Christ, the church today is falling down on the second one. The first division that takes place is when the gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed to the world and the Lord draws out from the unbelievers to Himself those that He is going to save. That's the first division that takes place.

The second division, guess where it takes place? In the church. There are people sitting in our churches who believe in Jesus Christ intellectually, they believe the truth about what the Bible says, they accept it. They say, 'Yeah, that is true, I agree with that,' but they've never received Christ. And John says, "In the church we should be proclaiming the whole counsel of God." Not selected scriptures and little social issues and little stories. And both John and Paul, the whole Bible proclaims to us, "You teach the truth, it's going to divide the church." I say that today because we -- and I'll represent myself and the ministerial association, I'll represent the ministers of the gospel, okay? -- The reason we do not like to teach and preach on certain passages is because the goal today is to get numbers of people and financial support; and so, we really want to try to attract people to the church and to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Do you think John was trying to attract people? I don't think so. "You can't come except the Spirit of God draw you."

The mental frame of mind of Paul, and John, and all the others was, "Whoever the Lord wants to be here He is going to draw by His Spirit." My Hebrew teacher made this statement, and he made many statements that shocked me right out of my socks; but he spoke in a church one time and he says, "You know, it is just as important who does not come, as who comes. You don't want to bring everybody into the church, you only one the people that the Lord wants to come." Just invite them but you don't drag them in. You don't say, "Hey, we're going to have a big banana split, free banana split for everyone that comes to church," and justify it by saying, "Well, they are going to hear the gospel." They can hear all they want to, but if it is not by the Spirit of God, it is going to fall on deaf ears.

"Except the Lord builds the church, they labor in vain that builds it." People can't build God's church. Did you know that the Lord never commissioned those in the ministry to build churches for Him? He never did that. Do you know what they did in the New Testament in the book of Acts when the Holy Spirit came? They continued in the apostle's doctrine, in fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. The church

is for believers. Now that doesn't mean that non-believers can't come. The church is for believers.

Comment: And non-believers can have their ears opened through listening.

Yes. But if they are drawn by God's Spirit, and if they are ministered to by God's Spirit. But just if they come, doesn't mean that their ears have been opened.

So, what I am saying to you is, that if we in the ministry preach the whole counsel of God from cover to cover, guess what is going to happen? The people that are born of the Spirit of Christ and have a heart for the Him are just going to be so blessed. Jesus said, "You will come to know the truth, and the truth is going to set you free." Just like you were saying, Satan planted that little something in you that, "You make a mistake and I'll take you back." That's a lie. He would have to defeat the Holy Spirit that God has given you, that's His gift to you, and Satan would have to defeat the Holy Spirit. What makes you belong to Christ is you are filled with, and you are sealed by His Spirit, see?

Question: In other words, if you are born of the Spirit you can't get un-born?

Answer: That's right. Exactly. You can't win it. You can't win Christ, so how can you lose Him? *Losing* is a human word. Where does it ever say that you can lose Christ? It's not my belief that makes me saved, it is the fact that His Spirit came into my heart. I am born again. I belong to Him.

You might look at me someday out mowing the lawn, and my lawnmower break down right in the middle of mowing a lawn, I might kick the thing while you are driving by. Yeah! There's brother Bill! Oh no! And I thought he was Christian." That's not what makes me a Christian or what does not make me a Christian. It is the fact that that the Spirit of Christ is in my heart, and the fact that I am convicted that I kicked my poor lawn mower and lost my temper. Because I care about what the Lord thinks, because I care about my witness for Him, I belong to him. I have a personal, intimate, relationship with Him and the only way that I can have that is because He lives in my heart.

I know I am taking a long time, but I will make the other part short. In I Corinthians Chapter 12, remember where it says, "No one can confess Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit"? Literally from the Greek text it reads, "No one can say, 'Lord Jesus,' except by the Holy Spirit." That's why religious people can confess Jesus Christ is Lord and still not be saved, understand? Do you understand what I am saying? Anybody can say that statement but not everybody can say, "Lord Jesus." It's personal. I cannot call upon Him as my Lord without His Spirit being in me, because it is His Spirit that gives me the ability and the relationship to have that personal -- Nobody can say directly to Him in a personal way, "Lord Jesus," as they are talking to Him, without His Spirit being in them. Anybody can say, "Jesus is Lord," but that is not what the Greek text says. It literally says, "Lord Jesus." There is no "is" and it says, "'Lord Jesus,' except by the Holy Spirit."

Understanding Salvation Bible Study Transcript

Now, what I just presented to you today is just the tip of the iceberg of understanding what God's grace and mercy is for us, as far salvation goes. That's why when we spend eternity with Him we're going to be giving praise to the glory of His grace throughout eternity, because when we get there we're going to find out that everything that we confess that He did and everything that we confess that we did, we didn't do at all. You understand what I'm saying? It was all Him. Even the ability to believe, and to function, and to serve, and to love. You see, I was dead in my trespasses and sins, how spiritual was that? When you're dead, you're dead. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, he died again, but He said, "I'm the resurrection, I'm going to raise you from the spiritual dead. I am your resurrection." But it is His presence in me, through me, and around me, that makes me belong to Christ, nothing of me.

So, getting back to your question, can a believer lose their salvation? To me the book of Hebrews, I John, all the scriptures that people quote and argue back and forth, they do not -- In fact, the one scripture that I write back to all these people over the Web, or in person, or whatever the case may be, is it is true when Jesus said, "You do not understand the scriptures, nor the power of God." You can't win your salvation. You can't lose your salvation. Because you are saved by Jesus. And if you're ever to lose your salvation, Satan would have to kick the Lord out of your heart. That's impossible.

In Hebrews 13:5, listen to the words of Jesus, listen to this, now I will give it to you literally. Jesus said, "I will never, never leave you, no not ever, ever forsake you." Stop and think about that. There is a double negative with the first one, "I will never, never leave you." That Greek word has to do with Him responding to us. If I say to Jesus today, "Lord, leave me. I don't want to be a Christian anymore. Get out of my life. Get out of my heart." He says, "I will never, ever, leave you." Secondly, He says, and he used a triple negative in Greek, "I will never, ever, ever forsake you." That's leaving you on His part. In other words, He was saying, "If you tell me to leave, I'm not leaving; and I'll tell you something that's impossible, it's impossible for Me to ever leave you." He would be coming and going all the time. His Spirit would be coming in and out of you all the time. You say, "Leave me alone." You go out and sin, and in the morning, you regret it and you receive the Lord again. You're receiving the Lord, you're losing Him, you're receive Him, you're losing Him. No, that's not how salvation works. I can't keep myself. That's not a license for sin. I confess, "I can't do it." Jesus said, John 15:5, "Without Me you cannot do one thing." I have spent the last thirty plus years finding out, "Hmmm, the Lord's right. Without Him I can't do one thing."

Let's close with prayer.