Chapter 1 Previous explanations

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Why this book

Why bother writing a book on a doctrine that 5 teaches "once saved, always saved"? Why take 6 away from dear brothers and sisters the soothing 7 illusion that falsely whispers in their ears, "once 8 saved always saved"? That is true if, and only if 9 vou repent deeply in your heart of sins 10 committed after your conversion to Christ. Well 11 then, why bother myself in writing a book on this 12 heresy? 13 First, because it is a lie. And every lie must be 14 purged from Christ's Church. Second, because it is 15 an illusion. And every illusion, because it is false, it 16 is also harmful. Third, because this heretic doctrine 17 turns Christians into easy targets for temptation and 18 sin. 19 I have no economic interest in publishing this 20 book, for just as in previous books, I myself pay for 21 the printing and give them away to anyone who 22 wishes to read them. 23 24 25 26 Where is the danger in believing that once saved, 27 always saved? 28 I have had conversations with many brethren who 29 believe the doctrine of "once saved, always saved". 30 They believe that no matter how much Christians 31 sin after conversion, they will never lose their 32 salvation. This is not what God, Christ, and the 33

Holy Spirit teach, as we will see in this book.

35 Neither do the biblical writers throughout Scripture

teach this concept. There is not one single passage 36 that indicates clearly that a person that becomes a 37 Christian can continue sinning without measure, 38 and not lose his salvation. There is not even a 39 passage that will imply such affirmation. 40 41 "Many believers like to listen sermons and 42 attend churches that teach that after conversion 43 to Christ one can continue to be vile and 44 degenerate and still be saved, because we are 45 under the grace."

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Those who believe and spread such a doctrine simply satisfy Satan and his demons, who insist on proving that Christians are as corrupted after conversion as they were before conversion, and that there is no such thing as sanctification for the human being.

Those who teach such doctrine, although in 54 spoken word maintain the idea of sanctification of 55 the Church of Christ, actually deviate from such 56 goal. They make their followers believe that once 57 they became Christians they received a "Letter of 58 Marque", a license to sin. Having accepted Christ 59 is not a "Letter of Marque" to do as we wish and 60 continue thinking we are saved. (In 16th and 17th 61 centuries "Letter of Marque" was a government 62 license for practicing piracy against enemy ships). 63 They also teach that if a non-Christian commits a 64

sin, this is counted as sin; but if that same sin iscommitted by a Christian, it is not sin for them.

This is the horrible danger of that evil doctrine of "once saved, always saved". It creates believers that think that a Christian's separation of sin is only nominal.

In this book I will prove that just the opposite is 71 taught throughout the Scriptures, mostly in the New 72 Testament: that the Christian can walk away from 73 the faith and be lost. Not that he will lose it for any 74 little sin, but when a Christian sins and does not 75 want to repent, when a Christian gets used to 76 sinning, his heart hardens, he loves sin more than 77 Christ who died for him, and ends up stepping on 78 such salvation. 79

Why I number the lines

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I believe that every author that holds a thesis must 84 be open to discussion with those who do not agree, 85 rather than find refuge in their "ivory tower" to 86 avoid being proven wrong. Therefore I number 87 every line, so that anyone who wishes to object any 88 statement can easily refer to its location, by merely 89 pointing to the line number. For example, this 90 explanation is found in lines 84 to 93. 91

False doctrines of any kind, especially heretic doctrines, can only be kept alive under threats, refusing public discussion, and imposing them as dogma: if you don't believe it you will be kicked out of seminary; if you have doubts and express them you will be kicked out of ministry; if you preach against it you will end up in the fiery stake.

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"Discussion is like the light, it only bothers those who prefer darkness"

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We need to be certain of what we believe in 107 regards to keeping or losing our salvation 108 There are two extremes in regards to losing or 109 maintaining our salvation. Some believe that we can 110 lose it for anything; others think that we will never 111 lose it regardless of sin. Both are wrong. He, who 112 paid such a high price for our salvation, is not going 113 to take it away for just any sin. But He is not going 114 to allow himself to be stepped upon by those who 115 love their sin more than their Lord, and insist on 116 living in sin, while they "soothe" their conscience 117 forcing themselves to believe that salvation cannot 118 be lost. 119 In many occasions I have witnessed two friends 120 arguing an important issue, without realizing they 121 both share the same opinion, until a third one comes 122 and helps them see it. This is because neither is 123 certain of what they believe, they have not nailed 124 down their belief system. 125 126 127 128 Let's keep our concepts clear 129 Some times our concepts are not clear in our own 130 mind, because we have never answered, 131 categorically, the questions that come up. To help 132 with this clarification of concepts, I have included 133 the following introductory questionnaire which will 134 help you understand what you believe in regards to 135 the "once saved, always saved" doctrine. 136 Normally we have in our minds some 137 preconceived words or phrases with which we 138 try to express an unclear concept. This concept, 139 although not completely established, we want others 140

to understand and accept without proper definition 141 and proof. 142 Before reading this book, it would be helpful to 143 answer the questions on the provided questionnaire. 144 This is so that you can have your ideas and concepts 145 clearly and properly defined about this doctrine that 146 claims that once you are saved, you will always be 147 saved. 148 Since this questionnaire will not leave your hands, 149 you may answer in all honesty. This will greatly 150 help you in your later reasoning, since you will be 151 able to come back to see what your idea was on 152 every issue. Here is the questionnaire. 153 154 155 156 Private introductory questionnaire, to clear up 157 certain concepts 158 Mark the answer that mostly resembles your own 159 belief, or write the explanation, if required. You 160 may have to mark more than one line in a question. 161 162 1- Would you deem normal a person who, if you are 163 both in the middle of Sahara desert, would very 164 seriously warn you of the sharks swimming around 165 the area? 166 Yes No I don't know 167 168 2- Can someone fall off a ladder that he has never 169 climbed? 170 Yes No I don't know 171 172 3- Can someone leave a house where he has never 173 been? 174 Yes ____ No ____ I don't know____ 175 176

4- Can someone leave a path through which he has 177 never walked? 178 Yes No I don't know 179 180 5- Can anyone truly say of you that you are a 181 Titanic survivor, if you were never on that boat? 182 Yes No I don't know 183 184 6- A person who has been sanctified in the blood of 185 Jesus and received the Holy Spirit, is for sure a 186 Christian, a born again believer. 187 Yes No I don't know 188 189 7-There are those who think that if someone 190 departed from the faith it is because he never was 191 saved. Do you believe so? 192 Yes No I don't know 193 194 8-Some Christians think that if someone who 195 converted to Christ, and practiced the right doctrine 196 for a long time, changes and starts worshiping 197 images, sodomizing boys, invoking the dead, 198 committing adultery, stealing, etc., it means that he 199 never was converted to Christianity. Do you agree? 200 Yes No I don't know 201 202 9-There are others who think that a person who is 203 sinning any type of sin it is because he never has 204 converted to Christ. Do you agree? 205 Yes No I don't know 206 207 10-Please, mention four or six types of sin that if 208 committed by a person, who has turned to Christ 209 and has lived a Christian life, would tell you he 210 never was converted. 211 212

213 214 215 11-If you didn't mention anything in question ten, 216 does it mean that a Christian could live sinning 217 any type of sin without losing salvation? 218 Yes No I don't know 219 220 * 221 222 223 What are the main affirmations of those who 224 believe the doctrine that states "once saved, 225 always saved"? 226 There are several variants of this doctrine, but 227 they are all wrong. There are those who think that 228 the human being does not have free will, that he 229 never wanted to be saved, but God forced some to 230 be saved while leaving others abandoned to their 231 horrible destiny. 232 Others think that the human being does have free 233 will, but once he becomes a Christian loses it, 234 therefore he can't lose that salvation. It is something 235 like a fish, that once it bites the hook, it can't get 236 loose even though it fervently wants to. 237 Others think that human beings have free will 238 before and after conversion, but God doesn't allow 239 salvation for those that will later walk away, thus 240 once a person is saved, will always be saved 241 regardless of how much he sins or how much he 242 will disobey God. 243 The main affirmation of this doctrine is that he 244 who walks away, who abandons the faith, is 245 because he never had it. That is false, and I will 246 prove it in the passages we will study later on in this 247 book. 248

None of the variants of this doctrine can show
any Bible passage that will clearly say so. It can't
even show a passage that implies such a thing.
However, I can show many passages that will
clearly and emphatically say the opposite: that
once saved, a person can walk away and lose
salvation.

God does not force his creatures to love Him if 256 they do not desire to do so. God does not force 257 anyone to be with Him if he does not desire to do 258 so. That "forced salvation" that sadly is so 259 frequently preached, isn't useful for anything 260 other than to artificially tame the conscience, of 261 he who, having become a Christian, loves his sin 262 more than Jesus Christ and wants to continue living 263 in it. 264

Throughout Scripture you will not see any 265 reference to once saved always saved, regardless of 266 constantly sinning without repentance; however, 267 you will see many occasions in which it is 268 mentioned that one who is saved, sins and does not 269 want to repent from his sin, can lose his salvation. 270 The Lord said: "For out of the abundance of the 271 heart the mouth speaketh". If the writers of the 272 Bible did not have in their hearts the knowledge that 273 salvation could be lost, they would not have said 274 such things, as we see men like Peter, Paul, James, 275 John, Moses, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and others speak of. 276

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280 Summary of what this book says and its thesis

This book only affirms that a Christian can lose his salvation if he decides to walk away from the Lord, and does not like the clean lifestyle that the Lord expects. In other words, if the evil "joys" of sin are more attractive to him than the love of Jesus
Christ, that person can little by little lose his way to
the point of extreme hardening of the heart and
contempt for the divine, with no way back.

These are the steps to take in order to prove these affirmations: show first the passages that affirm that a Christian can lose salvation, and then show that the passages used by those who believe that once saved always saved, don't say what they believe, nor are they applicable to the issue.

I will show more than 30 passages that clearly 295 affirm that a Christian can turn away from the faith 296 and be lost. I would like those who believe that 297 once saved always saved, would show me at least 298 three clear passages that say that a person who has 299 been saved can sin and sin and sin, and keep his 300 salvation, and not lose it no matter how much he 301 sinned without repentance. 302

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Let us avoid dogmas

Most of the time, those who discuss an idea limit 307 themselves to create a dogma about their beliefs. In 308 other words, they affirm them so they can be 309 believed without a proper friendly discussion. 310 Something like "believe what I say because I know 311 more than you do", or "Because I have an 312 inspiration from esoteric regions". This one is a 313 more frequent tendency when talking of religious 314 beliefs, since most believers think that they have 315 received, by way of a "direct line" from esoteric 316 regions, the revelation of that which they believe to 317 be true. 318

They don't realize that if, in fact, the Holy Spirit would have put this thought in their mind or

their heart, he would have also given them a mouth 321 and the wisdom to defend such belief, as promised 322 by our Lord Jesus Christ in Luke 21:15. 323 324 "For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, 325 which all your adversaries shall not be able to 326 gainsay nor resist". (Luke 21:15) 327 328 In other words, when our beliefs have truly been 329 inspired by the Holy Spirit, we receive the gift to 330 efficiently defend, and with solid arguments, that 331 which we believe. 332 To discuss about our faith is not merely be 333 involved in an exchange of Bible passages, but to 334 prove that our friend's passages are misused, while 335 at the same time prove that ours are cited logically. 336 If we can't defend them, or if we avoid friendly 337 confrontations with our brethren, it is because 338 deep inside we know that the idea that we have, 339 came from ourselves and has no heavenly 340 inspiration, but we simply want to live in this 341 dangerous illusion. 342 We should never avoid discussing our faith and 343 hope, for Peter himself encourages us to do so. 344 345 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and 346 be ready always to give an answer to every 347 man that asketh you a reason of the hope that 348 is in you with meekness and fear." 349 (IP 3:15) 350 * 351 352 353 God gave us the Bible to be understood by all, 354 not just the educated 355

The prophecies and doctrines of the Bible are 356 clear, and can be understood by anyone without 357 having to study theology, Greek, Hebrew, 358 hermeneutics, etc., or graduating from any 359 seminary. God does not give his revelations so that 360 only a few scholars can understand them. He gives 361 them so that all his children can access his doctrinal 362 truths, (even fishermen) if, in fact they want to 363 know them, and the prophecies, when their time 364 comes. 365 Jesus said once that God had revealed these things 366 to the little ones and not the wise men or scholars. 367 Therefore, we don't need to be necessarily a wise 368 man or a scholar to understand them. 369 370 "At that time Jesus answered and said: I thank 371 thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, 372 because thou hast hid these things from the 373 wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto 374 babes." (Mt 11:25) 375 376 "In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said: 377 I thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and 378 Earth, that thou hast hid these things from the 379 wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto 380 babes; even so, Father, for so it seemed good in 381 thy sight" (Lk 10:21) 382 383 * 384 385 "It takes a child to clearly understand a 386 Bible truth, and a theologian to 387 complicate it, obscure it and twist it" 388 389 *** 390

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395	Chapter 2
396	Some Bible writers' opinions on the
397	heresy that claims that once you are
	saved, you will always be saved
398	saved, you will always be saved
399	The Holy Sprit says clearly that it is possible to
400 401	fall from grace
401	Those who follow the doctrines of Dutch Catholic
402 403	Bishop Cornelius Jansen and French reformer John
403 404	Calvin, insist that a person who comes to Christ,
404	and is therefore in the faith, cannot later abandon
405	the faith and be lost. However, in the next verse, the
400	Holy Spirit says something totally different.
407	They spirit says something totally different.
409	"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in
410	the latter times some shall depart from the
411	faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and
412	doctrines of devils." (I Tim 4:1)
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414	As we see in this verse, The Holy Spirit,
415	personally, indicates that some will depart from
416	the faith. In order to depart from the faith, one must
417	first be in the faith. Nobody can abandon a house in
418	which he has not been. Nobody can fall from a
419	ladder on which he has never climbed. And nobody
420	can abandon a faith in which he has never been.
421	Thus, it is evident that the Holy Spirit is saying that
422	those who were in the grace can fall from it, and can
423	abandon the faith.
424	Well then, by the Holy Spirit's affirmation that
425	some will abandon the faith, makes us see clearly

and definitely that the Christian, the human being 426 that is in the faith, the human being that is saved, 427 can abandon the faith, and therefore, not be saved 428 anymore. This shows that the hypothesis of "once 429 saved always saved" is one more heresy in which 430 Christianity has fallen. If the Holy Spirit 431 personally says that some will abandon the faith, 432 who are Jansen and Calvin to deny it? No one 433 can abandon a faith in which he has never been, no 434 one can fall from a ladder on which he has never 435 climbed, or abandon a house in which he has never 436 been in. 437 * 438 439 440 Let's see how Paul says that those who tasted the 441 heavenly gift and were partakers of the Holy 442 Spirit, later went astray 443 This is a clear declaration of the possibility of 444 losing salvation on the part of the believers. Let us 445 analyze it. 446 Paul is unquestionably talking about those who 447 "were once enlightened; tasted the heavenly gift, 448 and were partakers of the Holy Spirit". We don't 449 need to give it much thought to realize that the 450 person that satisfies those requirements is nothing 451 less but a saved person, a born-again person, a 452 Christian. I don't see a way of twisting things to 453 make it seem that a person who has been 454 enlightened, who has tasted the heavenly gift, who 455 has been a partaker of the Holy Spirit, who has 456 tasted the good word of God and the virtues of the 457 coming age, is not yet a Christian, and has not yet 458 been born again. 459 Furthermore, by saying that they "fell again" we 460 461

can clearly see that they had gone away from sin, by

the grace of God, and they fell into it <u>again</u>. Well,
according to Paul, some of them went astray. In
other words, they were once saved, and now they
are not. It is to say that they had to be renewed
<u>again</u>, therefore they had been renewed before.
Let's see.

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"4 For it is impossible for those who were 469 once enlightened, and have tasted of the 470 heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the 471 Holy Ghost, 5 and have tasted the good word 472 of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 473 if they shall fall away, to renew them again 474 unto repentance; seeing they crucify to 475 themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him 476 to an open shame." (Heb 6:4-6) 477 478

Well, these whole Christians fell away, as indicated in verse 6; and they shall not receive another opportunity, for in order to do that, Jesus would have to be crucified once more, and that is inadmissible.

And, I dare add, I am sure that he who was 484 saved on the first crucifixion, and fell again, once 485 saved again through a second crucifixion of Jesus, 486 he would fall once more; for if he didn't think much 487 of the first crucifixion, which he believed to be the 488 only one, much less would he consider the second 489 one, being sure there would be a third, and even a 490 fourth. Therefore, taking into account human 491 behavior, it is nothing but logical not to repeat the 492 Lord's crucifixion, and he who falls away from the 493 faith must pay the consequences. 494

495 Some believers of this heresy, "once saved
496 always saved", in order to get out of the bind that
497 this passage puts them in, claim that here Paul

doesn't say that the Christian can fall, but it is rather
a rhetorical question, in which he says that, "even if
someone were to fall from grace, Christ would not
be crucified again".
Well, first, Paul is not asking a question, but

making a statement. Second, if a Christian cannot 503 fall, under any circumstances, if that were absolute 504 and totally impossible, it would be illogical for Paul 505 to talk about it. It would be useless to warn that 506 there would not be a second crucifixion, because it 507 would not be needed, no one would ever fall. 508 It would be like warning a pedestrian on the 509 paved streets of his city, to be careful not to be 510 bitten by a shark that is wandering the streets. It 511 is illogical to attribute such senseless words to an 512 inspired man, like Paul, warning of a danger that he 513 very well knew, did not exist. 514 Besides everything already said, we know that 515 Paul knew how to present hypothetical examples 516 he did not believe; and he did it as to not to leave 517

room for doubt that it was hypothetical. Such 518 hypothetical example we find in Gal 4:15, where he 519 says that, if possible, you would pluck out your eyes 520 to give to me. In other words, he knew how to use 521 the hypothetical language without leaving doubt 522 that it was indeed hypothetical; and evidently, here 523 in Heb. 6:4-6 he is not using it. Therefore it is clear 524 that Paul is not speaking hypothetically but real; he 525 is not asking a rhetorical question, but rather 526 making a statement, giving a serious warning. 527

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Who falls back?

The Lord God knows that the human being is weak, and thus He has provided the opportunity to

repent. No, repentance is not lip service, it is 534 heartfelt. When a Christian sins out of weakness, or 535 a very strong temptation, or trying to be holy 536 without God's help, or out of ignorance, or trying 537 to face temptation without divine help, etc., and 538 falls, but is sorry that he did, and repents truly, 539 such Christian has not to fear of losing his salvation. 540 That is precisely why Jesus died. This is proven by 541 Peter's sin. But note his repentance: he wept 542 bitterly. 543

Such is not the case of him who sins and does not 544 weep bitterly, because he does not love the Lord 545 and therefore is not sorry for the betraval, he is just 546 using Jesus to be saved. This type of religious 547 individual believed that Christ was his savior and 548 his past sins had been forgiven; but he does not hate 549 sin, on the contrary, he loves sin more than he loves 550 Christ; that is why his sin draws him away from 551 God, because he loves his sin more than he loves 552 the Lord. 553

Those who sin and are not sorry for having sinned, those who sin and think they <u>have</u> to be forgiven, because we are under grace, are the same that little by little harden themselves.

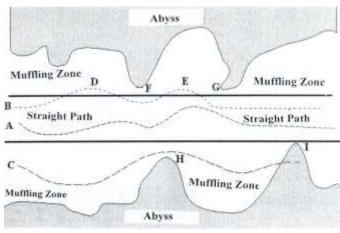
Their love for sin is such that they feel no guilt. 558 They walk all over Jesus, they hold in contempt the 559 blood of the covenant, by which he has been made 560 whole, and despise the Spirit of grace. It is those of 561 whom Paul talks about as having but a horrible 562 hope or judgment and fire. Make no mistake, 563 brethren, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is holy and we 564 cannot play with it the game of "sin-and-go-repent, 565 but I sin again because I love it, and you have to 566 forgive me, because I believe with all my faith, 567 that once saved always saved". 568

Now, no Christian should think that falling
back is about just any sin. In I John 5:16 we see
the apostle John mention prayers in favor of a
brother that has committed a "sin <u>not</u> of death".
Any sin that, after it is committed, causes a deep
pain in the soul of a believer, is a forgivable sin.

The Lord, conscious of the moral and spiritual 576 filth of the human soul, has provided a shock 577 absorber between our actual salvation and the abyss 578 of eternal damnation. Not because we just cross the 579 limits of holiness we are immediately going to fall 580 into the abyss. However, if we fall too far away 581 from the limit, and we get ourselves more and more 582 into the dark muffling zone, we may very well run 583 into the abyss, before we can see it and turn back, 584 because our eyes are callused by the sin and we 585 can't see the abyss. 586

It is as if the path of holiness in our lives were 587 lined by a muffling zone on each side; and just 588 ahead of that muffling zone, on each side, is the 589 lining of the horrendous and treacherous abyss. If 590 we go down the right path that the Lord has set 591 for us humans, we have no risk. However, if every 592 now and then we go astray from the path, only to 593 return immediately, we have little risk. But if we 594 make it a habit to walk down the muffling zone. 595 without never really going down the right path, we 596 are almost certain we will fall into the abyss of 597 eternal damnation. 598

If I were to show what I'm saying graphically, I would draw the figure that follows as a straight path, a muffling zone on both sides and an abyss of eternal damnation a little further, all seen from above:



Anyone who, like person "A", goes on the God 605 instructed way, without wavering, is never in 606 danger. Others like person "B" who sometimes 607 wavers, but repents and turns back, is not at a lot of 608 risk; only if the segments "D" or "E" along the way 609 meet up with points "F" or "G" on the spiritual 610 sphere, can he be lost forever. However, person 611 "C", who has gotten used to walking on the cushion 612 zone, sooner or later will fall into the ravine: if he 613 avoids it in "H" he will fall in "I". 614

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Paul says that if we sin <u>willfully</u>, there is only a horrid hope of judgment and fire

We also see in Hebrews 10:26-29, where the apostle talks about "those who have received the knowledge of truth (26), and "those who have been sanctified in the blood of the covenant" (29), can willfully sin and end up in hell.

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- 626 *"26 For if we sin <u>willfully</u> after that we have* 627 *received the knowledge of the truth, there* 628 *remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 but a*

certain fearful looking for of judgment and 629 fiery indignation, which shall devour the 630 adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law 631 died without mercy under two or three 632 witnesses. 29 Of how much sorer punishment, 633 suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who 634 hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and 635 hath counted the blood of the covenant, 636 wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, 637 and hath done despite unto the Spirit of 638 grace?" (Heb 10:26-29) 639 640 In verse 29 we clearly see Paul is talking about 641 believers, people that had been sanctified in the 642 blood of Christ, and received the Holy Spirit. 643 Whoever has been sanctified in the blood of Christ 644 is nothing but a Christian, a saved person. No one 645 can be sanctified by the blood of Christ and not be 646 saved. 647 Those are the ones Paul says that if they sin 648 willfully they will be condemned ending up in Hell. 649 Therefore, "once saved always saved", is not true. 650 651 652 653 Pablo assures us that the Christian can walk 654 away from grace 655 If we read Hebrews 12:15 we see the apostle 656 warning the brethren to be vigilant so that no one 657 falls from the grace of God. 658 659 "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the 660 grace of God; lest any root of bitterness 661 springing up trouble you, and thereby many be 662 defiled." (Heb 12:15) 663 664

If Paul considers that we need to be vigilant 665 not to fall from grace, it is because we can fall 666 from that grace. It would be useless and absurd to 667 warn against a danger that can never exist. It would 668 be like saying: "Brothers, be careful when the sky is 669 cloudy, lest a piece of cloud may fall and break 670 your head". To warn someone against such danger 671 would qualify for stupidity or insanity, since such 672 danger has never existed, and such warning will 673 never be necessary. Nevertheless some people use 674 such "reasoning". Some think Paul is warning 675 against a danger that, according to them, can never 676 exist. 677

Paul very clearly establishes here a doctrine that 678 contradicts and totally destroys the absurd and 679 heretic hypothesis of predestination, that of once 680 saved always saved, that of not being able to fall 681 from grace and that of not having free will. By 682 saying "...looking diligently lest any man fail of 683 the grace of God...", Paul is showing that in his 684 mental structure was the knowledge that falling 685 from grace was a possibility that Christians would 686 face. He also helps us see how this is a willful act of 687 the human being, since he uses the active form of 688 the verb in the phrase "any man fail" rather than 689 the passive form "is made to fail" as if someone 690 was causing him to. Paul did not say "he is made to 691 fail" as if someone else would do it for him. He 692 said, "any man fail", because he knew it was an act 693 of the will to remain in the Lord or walk away from 694 Him. 695

If that were not so, Paul would not have said
"...<u>looking diligently</u> lest <u>any man fail</u> of the grace
of God;...", because it is not logical to warn a
Christian, or anyone, of an inexistent danger.

No one in his right mind will warn his neighbor not to walk through a certain street because in the corner lives a dinosaur that can devour him. To accuse Paul of warning of the danger of falling from grace, even though he knew it couldn't happen, would be like accusing him of warning his neighbor a dinosaur will devour him in the corner.

Many are the times in which Paul warns in his letters of the possibility of walking away from the faith. If such thing were not possible, "because once saved always saved", he would not waste so much time and ink in warning against something that is not a danger for the Christian, especially something that, being a lie, would confuse the Christian.

If Paul warns us of the danger of walking away 714 from the grace of God, that indicates several things: 715 a) it is possible to fall from grace; b) if it is possible 716 to fall from grace, then that of "once saved always 717 saved" is false; c) if that of "once saved always 718 saved" is false, then the hypothesis of the 719 predestination of the human being to be saved or 720 lost is also false; and lastly, d) if Paul, referring to 721 avoid walking away from the grace, warns 722 Christians to "look diligently", he makes us see that 723 he knew that man had free will, since he lays the 724 "looking diligently" on the hands of the Christian. 725

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If Hymenaeus and Philetus went astray, it is because they had been in the faith

If a person has never been in New York it can't be
said he left New York. If a person has not been on
Fifth Avenue, it can't be said that he left Fifth
Avenue.

"17 And their word will eat as doth a canker, 736 of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18 who 737 concerning the truth have erred, saying that 738 the resurrection is past already; and overthrow 739 the faith of some." (II Tim 2:17-18) 740 741 Paul says that Hymenaeus and Philetus erred 742 concerning the truth. If these two individuals had 743 not been in the truth, they could have never erred 744 concerning the truth, and Paul could not have said 745 they erred concerning the truth. No one can leave a 746 path on which he has never been. We can then 747 assume, without much of a mental effort, that a 748 person that has been saved can stop being saved. 749 Therefore, such heretic hypothesis of "once saved 750 always saved" is false, because Hymenaeus and 751 Philetus were saved and erred concerning the truth. 752 753 754 755 Paul assures us that Hymenaeus and Alexander 756 shed the faith and sank in it 757 If someone were to say that he shook off planet 758 Venus from his body, no one would believe him, 759 because everyone knows no one can have planet 760 Venus on himself. If someone were to say that he 761 shook off a pencil from his body, that would be 762 believable, because anyone can have a pencil on 763 him and shake it off. What can be affirmed in any 764 logical conversation, and it is clear in any normal 765 mind, is that no one can get rid of something he 766 never had on. 767 768 "19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; 769 which some having put away concerning 770

faith have made shipwreck. 20 Of whom is

- 772 Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have
- delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to
 - *blaspheme.*" (I Tim 1:19-20)
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If Hymenaeus and Alexander put away the 776 faith it is because they had it. No one can put 777 away something he does not have. If, after being in 778 the faith, they put it away, and made shipwreck of 779 the faith, it means that after being saved they 780 stopped being saved. You can't tell a person "you 781 went down with the Titanic" if that person never 782 was in the Titanic. No one can be shipwrecked in a 783 faith in which he has never been. This categorically 784 denies the heresy that has infiltrated Christianity, 785 insisting that once saved always saved. It is clearly 786 shown that a person, who is saved now, can put 787 away the faith, make shipwreck, and stop being 788 saved. 789

If a Christian sins and sincerely repents, he 790 will not lose his salvation; he only receives the 791 earthly temporary punishment according to his sin. 792 This, however, does not mean that the Christian is a 793 "predestined" piece that cannot be lost, or cannot 794 lose salvation. A Christian can reject God, or Christ, 795 or the Holy Spirit, and then be lost. Or he can sin 796 and refuse to repent, and be lost, because the Lord 797 does not receive in heaven someone with a heart 798 that loves sin more than God. 799

Another thing that is evident in this passage is the 800 free will of the human being. If Paul affirms that 801 some have put away the faith, it is an obvious signal 802 that they have the power to put it away or not put 803 it away. In other words, the human being has free 804 will. If he did not have that power to do or not do as 805 he wishes, Paul would not have said "some have put 806 away the faith", rather he would have said 807

something like, "some have been stripped of their faith".

Paul lets us see that man has free will, and he 810 knew more of the celestial dynamics than all those 811 "Bible scholars" that invent heresies. These 812 "scholars" affirm their dogmas, but never discuss 813 them, privately or publicly, because they can't 814 sustain them. If they could burn their 815 contradicting fellows they would, but since they 816 can't, they avoid discussions, both public and 817 private. 818

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Paul says we are saved as long as we keep the faith to the end

In this passage we see that the apostle, without 824 saying it directly, allows seeing that a person that is 825 saved can cease being saved. First we must note 826 how in verse 6 he calls the saved "house", to later 827 say that we are "house" as long as we hold fast 828 unto the end our confidence. So therefore it is easy 829 to reason that if we did not hold fast we would 830 lose it and stop being what we are. The "if" lets 831 us see that being saved today does not guarantee 832 that it will be so next month, if in a week we will 833 walk away from the Lord. 834

If salvation could not be lost at any cost, if no 835 saved person could ever walk away from the Lord, 836 "because once saved always saved", then the 837 apostle would not introduce such conditional 838 concept, it would be lying. If a saved person would 839 always be saved, Paul would not have to add that 840 we would be saved if we would hold fast to our 841 confidence because he would know we would get to 842

keep it whether we wanted or not, even if we do not
hold fast to our confidence.

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"6 But Christ as a son over his own house; 846 whose house are we, if we hold fast the 847 confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm 848 unto the end. 7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost 849 saith: To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 harden 850 not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the 851 day of temptation in the wilderness, 9 when 852 your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw 853 my works forty years. 10 Wherefore I was 854 grieved with that generation, and said: They do 855 always err in their heart; and they have not 856 known my ways. 11 So I swore in my wrath, 857 They shall not enter into my rest.) 12 Take heed, 858 brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil 859 heart of unbelief, in departing from the living 860 God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is 861 called Today; lest any of you be hardened 862 through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we are 863 made partakers of Christ, if we hold the 864 beginning of our confidence steadfast unto 865 the end" (Heb 3:6-14) 866 867

We can get the same idea from verse six that we 868 get from verse 12, where, speaking to the brethren, 869 he explicitly admits that he who today is in the 870 living God, may not be tomorrow, because he 871 himself walks away. If someone walks away from 872 the living God, it means he was walking with Him 873 before; no one can walk away from someone with 874 whom he has never been. Therefore there is no 875 argument that those who are saved (and Paul calls 876 brethren, because they were in the living God), 877 tomorrow can walk away from the living God. If it 878

were impossible for a saved person to be lost, Paulwould not mention such possibility.

Next, on verse 13, we see Paul again mention the
possibility of a Christian to harden himself at the
deceit of sin. By saying that, he is indirectly
showing us that the saved person can harden his
heart and be lost.

The same idea is perceived in verse 14, where he 886 says we are partakers of Christ, if we hold the 887 beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the 888 end, which is, without argument, our faith in Christ. 889 This verse shows Paul once more admitting that the 890 possibility does exist for a Christian to be saved no 891 more, because there is a possibility that a Christian 892 will not hold fast that confidence unto the end. 893

That idea that if someone was a Christian and 894 is not a Christian anymore, it is because he never 895 was, is simply not true, because here, evidently, 896 Paul is talking about those who were Christians, 897 those he calls brethren. The hypothesis that 898 someone gets lost because he never was a Christian 899 to begin with, is nothing but a made up fable whose 900 presenters have not one verse to properly sustain. 901

I see then, no basis for that harmful heresy that
has infiltrated the Church, saying that once one is
saved, he can never be lost. Because of that heretic
and harmful doctrine, many Christians let
themselves be swept away by sin, making many
churches weak and complacent.

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- If Peter warns Christians that the Devil can devour them, it is because he knew that
- 912 devour them, it is because he knew th
 913 Christians can lose their salvation

What would you say if, while traveling through 914 the Sahara Desert, someone comes and warns you 915 very seriously to be vigilant, for there is a shark 916 lurking around the camp that can devour one of 917 you? The first thing you would think is that the poor 918 thing was suffering from heatstroke, that the sun 919 had affected his mental abilities, and was delirious; 920 because there is not one remote possibility for a 921 shark to be lurking around the Sahara Desert, much 922 less devour you. No one can think that Peter would 923 be crazy or didn't know what he was talking about 924 when he warned: 925

927 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your
928 adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh
929 about, seeking whom he may devour"
930 (I P 5:8)

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If Peter believed that once saved always saved, 932 if he believed that those who had believed were 933 predestined to be saved always, then, why warn the 934 brethren of a danger he knew was not there? If 935 Satan could never devour one who has been 936 "predestined" to be saved, why warning them? 937 Why worry the brethren about such horrendous 938 danger that really did not exist? It would be like 939 accusing Peter of being a sadist, who liked to scare 940 people for no reason, to accuse him of tainting 941 God's truth. If some one who is once saved, stays 942 saved forever, regardless of how much he sins or 943 what he does, why warn him of a danger that does 944 not exist, "given the fact" the Devil can never 945 devour him? 946

From the moment in which Peter warns his
brethren of the danger of being devoured if they
are not vigilant, it is because he knew that a saved

person can be saved no more. It is evident 950 throughout the New Testament, that not the Holy 951 Spirit, not Peter, not John, not James, or any other, 952 believed in the immutability of salvation, 953 predestination, or in once saved always saved, or 954 anything like it. Are we going to accuse Peter of 955 knowing that once saved always saved, but he just 956 liked to scare the brethren with some kind of 957 ulterior motive? Is it that he didn't know what he 958 was talking about, or was insane? Of course not; it 959 is evident that if the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to 960 warn against such danger, it is because it was 961 possible for them to happen. If these things could 962 happen, it is because the possibility exists that one 963 who has been saved can be deceived by that so 964 called security, let go his spiritual life, and 965 gradually descend into the abyss. 966

Of course, if we present these arguments to those who hold on to these non-biblical doctrines, since they have no other argument to take hand of, they will utter the coined phrase we so often hear: "those are mysteries, brother". There is no mystery here, either you don't read your Bible or you just don't want to hear the truth.

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A Christian can err about the truth and be lost

Again we see in this passage what we have 978 already seen in others: that a Christian can be lost 979 if he walks away from the truth. Verse 19 proves 980 that James is talking to Christians; brethren that 981 were in the truth, from which some may have 982 erred. If James refers to them as erring from the 983 truth, it is because they were in the truth, no one 984 who is not a Christian is in the truth, therefore, they 985

were Christians. If James refers to them as
"brethren" it is because those he is speaking to are
Christians. Then he says, "If any of <u>you</u>", which
proves that he was talking to Christians.
Immediately he says, "Do err from the truth";
which implies that James knew that a Christian
could err from the truth.

994 "19 <u>Brethren, if any of you do err from the</u>
995 <u>truth</u>, and one convert him, 20 let him know,
996 that he which converteth the sinner from the
997 error of his way shall <u>save a soul</u> from death,
998 and shall hide a multitude of sins"
999 (James 5:19-20)

That Christian who erred from the truth is the one 1001 who James considers must be converted by another 1002 brother. Then says that he who converted the 1003 brother from the error of his way, would save a 1004 soul from death. If he would save a soul, it is 1005 because that soul, by continuing in that state, could 1006 be lost. It is not logical to save someone who cannot 1007 be lost, because once saved, he would remain saved. 1008 From this we can assume that if James believes that 1009 someone is on the verge of being lost, it is because 1010 the possibility exists that a Christian can be lost if 1011 1012 he errs from the truth and does not come back to the path. 1013 We conclude then, that if a Christian sins, he 1014

1014 we conclude then, that if a Christian sins, he 1015 must repent and walk away from sin, because it is 1016 the only way, by turning from the error of his sin, 1017 that he will save his soul from death.

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1021You will never fall if you do these things1022The apostle tells us indirectly that a Christian can1023be lost. Therefore, I don't see a basis for the1024Janseno-Calvinist heresy that sustains that once1025saved there is no way to be unsaved; which allows1026for many to not refrain from their instincts and1027sinful lusts.

Precisely, Peter warns Christians not to sleep on
their laurels, that he who holds the true faith must
act accordingly. Then, he lets them know that if
they do as he says, they will never fall; implying
thus, that if they don't, they can fall.

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1037 1038 "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence <u>to make your calling and election</u> <u>sure</u>, for if ye do these things, <u>ye shall never</u> <u>fall</u>." (II P 1:10)

There are those who find themselves out of the 1039 hellish pit of sin, by the grace of the blood of Jesus, 1040 and then they stay there, right on the border. If they 1041 would work, their work would take them away from 1042 the border, and with it, the danger of falling back 1043 into the pit. But those who remain on the edge of 1044 the pit, because they like the evil smell let out by 1045 the deep abyss, will have it always there, close, 1046 restless and threatening, like a black mouth that 1047 constantly seems to swallow them. Then, as if to 1048 "appease" themselves, if only artificially, they 1049 hold fast to the false and heretic doctrine that once 1050 saved always saved. 1051

Faith produces works, as we read in James 2:14-1053 26. Don't allow yourself to be seduced by the fable 1054 that we can sit and have a lot of faith. Or lie down 1055 and "believe real hard" that **deception** that says that 1056 if we were once saved, we can never be lost.

1057	Having a lot of faith on a heresy, will not force
1058	God to do what you want him to.
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1062	If the pig that had been washed clean went back
1063	to the mud, it is because the Christian can walk
1064	away from the faith
1065	Peter is very clear that if those who walked away
1066	from the worldly contamination because of the
1067	knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, go
1068	back to them, and are overcome by them, their latter
1069	state is worse than the first. We see, then, that in
1070	Peter's mental structure was the knowledge that
1071	he who had believed in Jesus Christ, if he is
1072	corrupted, can be overcome and be lost.
1073	
1074	"19 While they promise them liberty, they
1075	themselves are the servants of corruption; for
1076	of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he
1077	brought in bondage. 20 For if after <u>they have</u>
1078	escaped the pollutions of the world through the
1079	knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus
1080	Christ, they are again entangled therein, and
1081	overcome, the latter end is worse with them
1082	than the beginning. 21 For it had been better
1083	for them not to have known the way of
1084	righteousness, than, after they have known it,
1085	to turn from the holy commandment delivered
1086	unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them
1087	according to the true proverb: The dog is
1088	turned to his own vomit again; and the sow
1089	that was washed, to her wallowing in the
1090	<i>mire.</i> " (II P 2:19-22)
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For anyone who does not want to cover the eyes 1092 of knowledge, this is a passage that affirms the idea 1093 that a Christian can cease being saved. If we read 1094 carefully verse 20, we will see that Peter is 1095 referring to Christians, not unbelievers, because 1096 he says, "...for if after they have escaped the 1097 pollutions of the world through the knowledge of 1098 the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ In other 1099 words they had walked away from the world's 1100 contamination because of the grace of Jesus Christ. 1101 He is not talking about a "decent" but non-believing 1102 person, but of someone who had previously walked 1103 away from the world's contamination thanks to 1104 coming to the knowledge of our Lord. It is logical 1105 that if they came to the knowledge of Christ, and 1106 thanks to that they had walked away from the 1107 pollution, they were Christians. 1108

Besides, it is accepted by all Christians that no one can walk away from sin, except through Christ. If those mentioned in verse 20, had walked away from sin, they had Christ in their heart; otherwise, they would not have been able to do it.

To say that those that walked away were never Christians is the same as to say that they could have escaped sin on their own merit. On the other hand, to accept that they were Christians is to accept that a Christian can fall.

Again, verse 21 refers to Christians when it says, 1119 "For it had been better for them not to have known 1120 the way of righteousness..." Therefore, if they 1121 knew the way, there is no doubt they were 1122 Christians. Those same Christians that knew the 1123 Lord and His way, are the same ones that Peter says 1124 walked away from the faith, when he says in verse 1125 20, "...they are again entangled therein, and 1126 overcome...". 1127

And again, "...the latter end is worse with them 1128 than the beginning..." shows that the latter stage 1129 of the man in question was worse than when he 1130 did not believe in Jesus. That can only be true of 1131 one who did not believe, then believed, and finally, 1132 walked away again. If he never believed, his latter 1133 stage had no reason to be worse than the beginning. 1134 But both, beginning and end would be the same. 1135 Also, verse 22 screams, if we would not cover our 1136 ears, that when we compare the mentioned 1137 individuals with the dog that returns to his vomit, it 1138 is because at some point both walked away from 1139 their filth (the vomit), and then came back to it; 1140 meaning that anyone who converts, can later 1141 return to his former state of enmity with God. 1142 The example of the pig is just as eloquent. If she 1143 had been washed, she represents the human being 1144 that is washed by Christ, the only one who can wash 1145 away sin; and if she went back to the filth, is 1146 because she went back to his lost state. This, 1147 together with many other passages that talk about 1148 the matter, clear up that a Christian can be lost if he 1149 wants to. Nobody forces him to remain in God, if 1150 God's rules for his life are not of his liking. 1151 * 1152

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1155The widows that turned back evidently had been1156ahead

A person that believes in Christ can go back, not only because the Bible says it in many places, but because logic indicates it. Salvation is not a fishing hook that once it goes in cannot be pulled out. It doesn't make us robots either, stripping us away of our free will, and forcing us to continue being Christians even if we do not wish to.

Verse 11 confirms this, saying how some widows 1164 began to be immoral against Christ. Verse 15 also 1165 says that some went back. 1166 1167 "11 But the younger widows refuse; for when 1168 they have begun to wax wanton against 1169 Christ, they will marry; 12 having damnation, 1170 because they have cast off their first faith. 13 1171 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering 1172 about from house to house; and not only idle, 1173 but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking 1174 things which they ought not. 14 I will therefore 1175 that the younger women marry, bear children, 1176 guide the house, give none occasion to the 1177 adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some 1178 are already turned aside after Satan." 1179 (I Tim 5:11-15) 1180 1181 The phrase "wax wanton against Christ" helps 1182 us see that they had been Christians before, for if 1183 they had not been Christians, it would not make 1184 sense to say that now they had waxed wanton 1185 against Christ. If they had not been Christians the 1186 most that could be said against them is that they had 1187 waxed wanton, without adding "against Christ". 1188 But even stronger is verse 15, "For some are 1189 already turned aside after Satan". If these women 1190 had not been believers. Paul had not said "turned 1191 aside" since they would have never turned away 1192 from Satan. Those who went back were first in 1193 the back, went forward, and then went back 1194 again. 1195 Verse 12 also refers to these women in a way that 1196 makes us think that they had been Christians and 1197 had belonged to the faith, when we read, "having 1198 damnation, because they have cast off their first 1199

faith". Anyone who had a first faith and cast it off, 1200 says two things: a) he was a believer of Christ, and 1201 **b**) he cast off his faith and therefore must carry the 1202 penalty. 1203 We don't need a great mental effort to understand 1204 that a person who is a Christian, can cease being 1205 one. 1206 * 1207 1208 1209 Paul says that the reprobate himself walks away 1210 from God 1211 In this verse we can see that in Paul's mental 1212 structure was the knowledge that the human being 1213 has free will. We see this when he challenges the 1214 brethren not to walk away from God. By saying 1215 "walk away" he is saying that it is the individual 1216 that carries on the action. If it were something 1217 other than the subject that would push him away, 1218 Paul would use the phrase "having been pushed 1219 away" rather than "having walked away". 1220 Besides, if there were no possibility that a 1221 Christian could walk away from God, Paul 1222 would not bring this issue into sight. It would be 1223 useless. It would be like telling Christians not to 1224 jump high lest they hit their head with the moon. 1225 1226 "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being 1227 left us of entering into his rest, any of you 1228 should seem to come short of it." 1229 1230 (Heb 4:1) Ψ 1231 1232 1233 Once saved always saved as long as you stay 1234 grounded in faith 1235

In this passage Paul talks as one who knows we 1236 have free will. By saying, "if ye continue 1237 ...grounded...", he is admitting that they can stop 1238 being grounded. Paul describes in verses 19-22, 1239 how Jesus is the savior, and whose savior He is. In 1240 verse 23, though, he conditions everything he just 1241 said to the fact that those who were made saints, 1242 unblameable and unreproveable, continue grounded 1243 in the faith, and not moved away from the hope of 1244 the gospel they had heard. 1245

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"19 For it pleased the Father that in him 1247 should all fullness dwell; 20 and, having made 1248 peace through the blood of his cross, by him to 1249 reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, 1250 whether they be things in earth, or things in 1251 heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime 1252 alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked 1253 works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 in the 1254 body of his flesh through death, to present you 1255 holy and unblameable and unreproveable in 1256 his sight; 23 if ye continue in the faith 1257 grounded and settled, and be not moved away 1258 from the hope of the gospel, which ye have 1259 heard, and which was preached to every 1260 creature which is under heaven; whereof I. 1261 *Paul, am made a minister*" (Col 1:19-23) 1262

The fact that Paul conditions the first (be holy 1264 and unblameable and unreproveable), to the 1265 second, (continue in the faith grounded and 1266 settled, , and be not moved away from the hope) 1267 makes it clear that the first is not unconditional, 1268 that even though salvation is firm, it is not 1269 something that cannot be lost. If it were 1270 unconditionally firm, Paul would not mention any 1271

1272 condition. If it were absolutely and totally
1273 impossible to lose one's salvation, he would not
1274 have to mention the conditions to keep it, as Paul
1275 does.

Now, what are the conditions to keep one's 1276 salvation? Is it to be good? Obeying the law? 1277 Belonging to a church? Being a "chosen" one? 1278 Preaching the gospel? Tithing? Being baptized? 1279 Verse 23 clearly states the condition: to continue in 1280 the faith of Jesus Christ, grounded and settled. If we 1281 do not continue grounded in the faith of Jesus 1282 Christ, we will lose our salvation. 1283

A person that stays in one place, was already 1284 there. We cannot say to someone who has never 1285 been on the Tower of Pisa, to stay there. Therefore, 1286 if Paul tells someone he is going to receive 1287 something (be holy and blameless, etc.) so that he 1288 stays there (grounded in faith) he means that **a**) he 1289 assumes they must already be there, and **b**) if he is 1290 there, then he can stop being there, in other words 1291 he can stop being saved. 1292

In very few words, Paul knew that if someone 1293 was founded in faith, he could still stop being so. 1294 If he didn't have this idea in his mind, he had no 1295 reason to challenge those who were already founded 1296 in faith, to stay there. If nobody could lose the faith, 1297 if nobody could go chasing his own will, from the 1298 place where he is founded, because "once saved 1299 always saved", it would be useless to challenge him 1300 to stay where he is. 1301

1302 It would be like telling a blind man, "don't look at 1303 these things", or telling a mountain "I urge you to 1304 stay put". The mountain has to stay there whether 1305 someone challenges her or not, she can't go 1306 anywhere! Paul speaks as one who has in his 1307 mental structure the knowledge that he who is in the faith can walk away from it, and one who
knows that the human being has free will to stay
or walk away from the faith.

If we could not lose our salvation, why does Paul 1311 ask the Colossians to continue grounded? If the 1312 believers could not abandon the faith of the gospel 1313 because "once saved always saved", why ask them 1314 not to move away from the hope of the gospel? If a 1315 human being does not have the possibility of 1316 walking away from the foundation of the faith, why 1317 ask him to stay in it? The man who abandons his 1318 salvation by grace, loses it, he has fallen from the 1319 faith. And according to Paul, these things could 1320 happen. 1321

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Paul specifies that the women who are saved are those that <u>continue</u> in faith

If someone were to tell you that you would be 1327 saved by not continuing to practice sodomy 1328 anymore, you would complain saying you never 1329 were homosexual. If someone were to tell an honest 1330 woman that she would be saved by not continuing 1331 in adultery, she would protest that this is a lie, 1332 because she had never committed adultery. In other 1333 words, in both cases anyone who hears these words 1334 would understand them to mean that to tell someone 1335 not to continue in a specific sin means the accuser 1336 thinks this person to be in that sin. Otherwise you 1337 could not say "don't continue" because the word 1338 "continue" implies the person is already there. It is 1339 the same case as in the verse below. 1340

When Paul talks about these women, he tells them
they would be saved *if they continue in faith*. There
are two very significant words in this sentence. One

is the conditional "if", and the other one. 1344 "continue" Let's see. 1345 1346 "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in 1347 childbearing, if they continue in faith and 1348 charity and holiness with sobriety." 1349 (I Tim 2:15) 1350 1351 By using Paul the verb "to continue" he tells us 1352 that he knew these women were Christians; in other 1353 words, they were in the faith at that moment. If they 1354 had not been in the faith, he would not have used 1355 the word "continue" but "adopt the faith" or "come 1356 to faith" or "accept the faith". Therefore it is 1357 outside all discussion that Paul is referring to 1358 Christian women. 1359 Paul tells these women that if they continue in 1360 the faith they would be saved. This is a clear 1361 signal that they could walk away from faith, or 1362 stop being in the faith. If they could not walk away 1363 from the faith because "once saved always saved" 1364 Paul would not waste his time warning them against 1365 a danger that would not affect them. It would be 1366 like warning them that they would always be 1367 saved as long as they did not turn into cats. Such 1368 a warning would be idle and stupid, because no 1369 woman can turn into a cat. 1370 This is evidence that the Christian can fall from 1371 faith, and once saved he is not necessarily going to 1372 remain saved forever; he can stop being saved. 1373 Anyone who cannot understand this simply doesn't 1374 want to understand it. 1375 * 1376 1377 1378

1379	If you leave a road, it is because you were		
1380	previously on that road		
1381	No one can abandon a road through which he has		
1382	never been. This is elementary and logical. If Paul		
1383	says that someone wandered away from the faith in		
1384	pursuit of money, it is because he knew that person		
1385	had been in the faith.		
1386			
1387	"For the love of money is the root of all evil;		
1388	which while some coveted after, they have		
1389	erred from the faith, and pierced themselves		
1390	through with many sorrows."		
1391	(I Tim 6:10)		
1392			
1393	It is evident to even the most ignorant of human		
1394	beings that someone who leaves a road can do so		
1395	because he had been there previously and then left		
1396	it. Denying this is only the result of not wanting to		
1397	admit the truth. If Paul considers that some were in		
1398	the faith and later erred from the faith or moved		
1399	away from the faith, it is because a saved person		
1400	can cease being saved, because that heretic doctrine		
1401	that claims that once saved always saved is		
1402	absolutely false.		
1403	Don't be fooled, just because those who hold fast		
1404	to that heresy, "believe it really hard", they will not		
1405	force God to save them though they sin and sin. If		
1406	they were saved and then turned to sin, and don't		
1407	repent, they will end up in hell, even though they		
1408	pretend to "believe really hard" such heresy.		
1409	I say pretend to believe because so far I have		
1410	not found any one who is willing to talk about		
1411	the subject. All of them reject any discussion, so		
1412	not to have to admit consciously that it is a false		
1413	doctrine, and they can continue "enjoying" their		

sins without being bothered too much by their 1414 conscience. 1415 The same can be understood from I Tim 6:21 1416 where Paul once again says that some erred from 1417 the faith, in other words, they walked away from the 1418 faith, to follow the falsely called science. If they 1419 walked away now, it is because they were on the 1420 right road before. 1421 1422 "20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to 1423 thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, 1424 and oppositions of science falsely so called. 21 1425 Which some professing have erred concerning 1426 the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen. The first 1427 to Timothy was written from Laodicea, which is 1428 the chief city of Phrygia Pacatiana." 1429 (I Tim 6:20-21) 1430 1431 1432 1433 Barnabas did not believe that once saved always 1434 saved. He challenged the Christians to remain in 1435 the grace 1436 If you are sitting on the ground by the shade of a 1437 great tree, impossible to climb, and someone passes 1438 by and says, "Hold on to the branches, you may fall 1439 off the tree", what would you think about that 1440 person? The first thing you would think is that he is 1441 joking, or he is not all there; because if I am not up 1442 in the tree, nor can I climb it, why is this man telling 1443 me to hold on to the branches so I won't fall off? 1444 His warning is ridiculous and absurd. I cannot fall 1445 off the tree because I am not up in the tree. Neither 1446 can I climb the tree because the trunk is too wide, 1447 the tree is too tall, and it does not have branches to 1448 hold on to while I'm climbing it. Why, then, does 1449

this man tells me to hold on to the branches lest I'll 1450 fall off? Is he stupid, is he crazy, or is he pulling my 1451 leg? 1452 1453 "22 Then tidings of these things came unto the 1454 ears of the church which was in Jerusalem; and 1455 they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as 1456 far as Antioch. 23 Who, when he came, and had 1457 seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted 1458 them all, that with purpose of heart they 1459 would cleave unto the Lord." 1460 (Acts 11:22-23) 1461 1462 We see in this passage that Barnabas saw the 1463 grace of God in which the ones from Antioch 1464 were, and charged the recently converted brethren 1465 to cleave unto the Lord. Therefore, Barnabas knew 1466 they could walk away and not remain in Him. If 1467 Barnabas would have believed that once saved 1468 always saved, he would not have charged them 1469 as such. It would be absolutely and totally 1470 unnecessary. 1471 It is naive to tell a person not to walk away from 1472 the Lord if once you are saved you will always be 1473 saved, because even if he wanted to, he couldn't. It 1474 is naive to tell a person who is not up a tree, nor can 1475 he climb it, to hold on to the branches so he doesn't 1476 fall. 1477 If the brethren in Antioch could not fall from the 1478 grace that Barnabas saw them in, because once 1479 saved always saved, it was useless and absurd to 1480 give them such warning. Such hypothesis that once 1481 saved always saved is an unfounded heresy. 1482 The same reasoning used here for what Barnabas 1483 told the believers in Antioch of Syria, is valid for 1484 what Paul and Barnabas said in Acts 13:43 to the 1485

Jews and Gentiles that accepted the faith in Antioch 1486 of Pisidia. Let's see what they told them. 1487 1488 "Now when the congregation was broken up, 1489 many of the Jews and religious proselvtes 1490 followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to 1491 them, persuaded them to continue in the 1492 grace of God." (Acts 13:43) 1493 1494 As we can see, in Barnabas' mental structure, 1495 when he was by himself in Antioch of Syria, and in 1496 Paul's and Barnabas' mental structure when they 1497 were together in Antioch of Pisidia, the belief that 1498 today's saved person can go astray tomorrow, 1499 was definitely present. 1500 The same happened in Lystra, Iconium and 1501 Antioch of Pisidia, as we can see in Acts 14:21-22. 1502 Everywhere that Paul and Barnabas went, they took 1503 the same doctrine with them: the believer can 1504 wander away from the faith and fall from grace. The 1505 proof is that they charged those who have already 1506 believed, those who were already in the grace, 1507 and those who were already in the faith, to 1508 continue as such. If the believers could not 1509 wander away from the faith or fall from grace, 1510 they would not need to be warned, because no 1511 one can fall from a tree of which he has not 1512 climbed. 1513 1514 "21 And when they had preached the gospel to 1515 that city, and had taught many, they returned 1516 again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, 22 1517 confirming the souls of the disciples, and 1518 exhorting them to continue in the faith, and 1519 that we must through much tribulation enter 1520

into the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:21-22) 1521

Reading this passage we see that Paul and Barnabas **exhort** the disciples **to continue** in the faith. If we analyze the mental structure of these two men, we see that they believed in free will, not in predestination, in the style of Jansen and Calvin.

1522

Those who invent or defend a heretic doctrine 1528 have three characteristics to them: a) they change 1529 the meaning of the words that are in the Bible, if 1530 they cannot change the Bible itself, b) they hold on 1531 to one passage, or a few of them, rejecting the rest 1532 of the Bible, and most of all, c) they avoid 1533 discussing their point of view with others, unless 1534 they have the power to dogmatically impose their 1535 doctrine. 1536

In this passage, I repeat, we see that Paul and
Barnabas exhort the disciples to remain in the
faith. The meanings of the words cannot be
changed. When you exhort a person to remain in
something, or in a place, two things are considered:
that the person is already in that place or thing,
and 2) that the person can leave that place or thing.

I say that when you exhort someone to stay in one 1544 place it means the person is already there, because 1545 you can't tell someone to stay in China if he has 1546 never been to China. What I want to say here is 1547 that we cannot change the meaning of the words to 1548 make the passage fit our interpretation, our own 1549 heresy. If Paul and Barnabas exhort them to 1550 remain in the faith, it was because those disciples 1551 were already in the faith and could stop being in 1552 the faith. 1553

I also said that if you exhort someone to remain in a place or thing, it is because you consider that the person can abandon such place or thing. If the person could not leave that place, if the person

cannot abandon that place, it would be illogical and 1558 ridiculous to exhort him to remain there. It would be 1559 crazy to tell a woman to continue being a woman 1560 when we all know she cannot become a monkey. 1561 If we see that the apostles admitted that the 1562 disciples were in the faith, we can deduce that the 1563 apostles exhorted them to not abandon the faith 1564 because in their mental structure they were 1565 convinced that those who were in the faith could 1566 walk away from it. In other words, a Christian can 1567 fall from grace; "once saved always saved" is false, 1568 it is a heresy that Satan has infiltrated among the 1569 Christians to keep them in their sin. 1570

If the mental structure of these brothers was to not 1571 believe that once saved always saved, then they 1572 believed in our free will, not in predestination. If 1573 they had believed in predestination, it would 1574 have been silly to exhort them to remain in the 1575 faith, if they knew that by being predestined, 1576 they could not abandon the faith, even if they 1577 wanted to. On the other hand we see that they new 1578 they had free will, because they appealed to the will 1579 of the disciples to not abandon the faith. This is a 1580 sure sign that if the disciples wanted to, they 1581 could abandon it; once more, clear evidence that 1582 the apostles believed in free will. 1583

1584 1585

1586

Paul affirms that a Christian can fall from grace. The dogma that denies it is heresy

According to the doctrine of "once saved always
saved" <u>a believer can sin and sin again</u>,
without measure or limit, and cannot lose his

1592 **salvation, even if he doesn't repent**. If we point to

1593 someone who having been a Christian is now far

from the Lord, they get out of the bind by saying 1594 that those were never really converted. Of course, 1595 that is a supposition they cannot prove, but 1596 nevertheless they affirm it as if they could. 1597 I can't find a Bible passage that proves this 1598 Jensen-Calvinist dogma. There isn't a place in all of 1599 Scripture that can serve as a basis for such a 1600 doctrine. The passage that follows is one that most 1601 clearly lets us see that the fall from grace is a 1602 possibility. The argument of those who maintain 1603 such doctrine is not true, saying that if someone 1604 walks away it is because he was never in the Lord. 1605 If he had never been in the Lord, no one could 1606 say that he has fallen from grace. No one can fall 1607 from a place where he has never been. 1608 1609 1610

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye <u>are fallen</u> from grace." (Galatians 5:4)

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1612 1613

Suppose you see a child skating on a sidewalk next to a tower, and he falls. None of you would ever think to tell the paramedics that the child fell from the tower. The mere fact of being next to the tower does not motivate anyone in their right state of mind, to say he fell from the tower.

Paul was in a very right state of mind, to think
that one can fall from grace, if has never been in
the grace, but that has only been "skating"
around it in church.

If by divine revelation Paul knew that once someone is a believer, he could never again stop being one, he would have never written such a thing. By telling the Galatians, "*Ye are fallen from grace*..." it is clear that **the knowledge of not falling from grace was not in Paul's mind.** I don't think anyone can accuse Paul of not
believing it and yet telling a lie to the Galatians
just to frighten them.

He who walks away from grace is because he was
there before. If not, he could not walk away. You
can't give capricious, arbitrary, or absurd meanings
to words just to satisfy the dogmas of your
denomination, nor should you juggle with words.

It is quite clear that if Paul considers that someone 1638 can walk away from grace or fall from it, that 1639 person has to necessarily be or have been in the 1640 grace. That means that one who has been saved 1641 through Jesus can lose that salvation. He is not 1642 going to lose it for any little thing, because He who 1643 loved him enough to forgive and let himself be 1644 crucified, is not going to "throw into damnation one 1645 who cost so much to redeem", but no one should 1646 go around believing that salvation in Christ is a 1647 license to do what one pleases. God doesn't admit 1648 in heaven people who continue to love sin more 1649 than God. 1650

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Paul was afraid that the tempter had changed the Thessalonians

Paul expressed many times that he knew that one 1656 who had been saved could be saved no more. In 1657 other words, he did not believe that "once saved 1658 always saved" thing. In this next passage, when 1659 Paul says, "...lest by some means the tempter have 1660 tempted you, and our labour be in vain ... " lets us 1661 see that: 1) he considered them Christians, 1662 otherwise, the tempter had no reason to change their 1663 beliefs; 2) one who was a believer could be saved 1664

no more, otherwise he had no reason to believe hewould labor in vain.

"For this cause, when I could no longer
forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some
means the tempter have tempted you, and our
labour be in vain." (I The 3:5)

1673 If the tempter could change those who were 1674 converted by Paul's preaching, that is an indication 1675 that there is no such thing as saved always saved, 1676 nor a predestination to be saved or damned.

When someone rebels it is because he was a Christian

The doctrine of "once saved always saved" 1682 assures us that if after being a Christian someone 1683 walks away, it is because he never was a Christian, 1684 because that doctrine makes us think that a believer 1685 is predestined to continue being a believer. 1686 However, once more, now John proves that he 1687 believed in the human being's free will and not in 1688 his robotic predestination or the heresy of "once 1689 saved always saved". John, by exhorting his 1690 brothers saying "Look to vourselves", shows us that 1691 he believed we had free will, for if we didn't we 1692 could not look to ourselves, it would have had to be 1693 coined since the time of his predestination. 1694

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1696 "8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those
1697 things which we have wrought, but that we
1698 receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever
1699 <u>transgresseth</u>, and <u>abideth not</u> in the doctrine
1700 of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the

1701	doctrine of Christ,	he hath both the Father and
1702	the Son."	(II John 1:8-9)

1703

In verse 9, John says that anyone that 1704 "transgresses" and "abides not" in the doctrine of 1705 Christ does not have God. This is evidence of three 1706 things: a) that the human being has free will to 1707 transgress, if not we would have to think that his 1708 rebellion was predestined, in other words, those 1709 who believe in predestination would blame God for 1710 someone's rebellion; b) that the human being can 1711 quit persevering in the doctrine of Christ, abandon 1712 it, which means that one who is saved can be lost; 1713 and c) that religions that do not accept Christ do not 1714 have God. 1715

Rebelling means failing to duly obey. One who 1716 rebels (transgresseth) is because he first obeyed. So 1717 when Paul admits here the possibility that some 1718 rebel against Christ, he shows us that those that 1719 rebelled were once with Christ. Once again, it is 1720 shown that a Christian can rebel and cease being a 1721 Christian, once again destroying the heretic and 1722 absurd hypothesis of "once saved always saved". 1723 This hypothesis, on the other hand, cannot be based 1724 on Scripture, but on brainwashed dogma. 1725

If John admits that a person rebels, he has to 1726 have in his mental structure the certainty that he 1727 has free will, otherwise he would have to say that 1728 such rebellion was predestined, and that the poor 1729 thing could not help but rebelling. In other words, 1730 John is implying the human being's free will. 1731

"Persevering," means staying constant in the 1732 pursuance of that which has been started, or 1733 staving at the place where one is. No one can 1734 persevere (abideth) in something he has never 1735 started. In order to persevere, he has to start it. 1736

1737 Consequently, advising against the possibility that 1738 some do not persevere in Christ, shows us the 1739 possibility that someone that has been in Christ, can 1740 stop being. That means that someone who is in 1741 Christ today, may not be so tomorrow, in other 1742 words, **"once saved always saved is false"**.

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A saved person is always saved as long as he keeps the Word, if not, <u>no</u>

We see in this passage that in Paul's mental structure was the idea that a previously saved man could cease being saved. Both conditionals in verse show that it is not impossible to lose salvation, though I do consider it improbable.

Verse 1 shows that Paul was speaking to 1753 brethren, in other words, people who were already 1754 Christians, whom had heard the preaching of the 1755 gospel, which they had received and wherein 1756 they stood, according to the testimony of the 1757 apostle himself. In other words, judging by the 1758 statement in verse 1, there is no doubt that what is 1759 said in verse two was being said to convert 1760 Christians, people that had received the gospel and 1761 persevered in it. No one can persevere in a faith that 1762 he has never had; that is how we know they were 1763 real Christians. The same can be said when Paul 1764 speaks of "keeping in memory". No one can keep 1765 something he has never had. We can't juggle the 1766 language to make the Bible agree with our errors. 1767 Therefore it is evident that Paul was speaking to 1768 people that had been converted and were still 1769 Christians at the moment which he writes. 1770

1771

"1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the 1772 gospel which I preached unto you, which also 1773 ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 by 1774 which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory 1775 what I preached unto you, unless ye have 1776 believed in vain." (I Co 15:1-2) 1777 1778 Well then, Christians, converted people, to 1779 those Paul says that they are saved, if they keep the 1780 word, or, if they don't change their minds and 1781 abandon it; in which case they have believed in 1782 vain. They had believed for nothing, because the 1783 salvation they got when they believed, they would 1784 lose it by not keeping the word. If Paul says that if 1785 they keep the words they are saved, it is logical 1786 to assume that if they don't keep the word, they 1787 will not be saved. Paul would not say that if they 1788 kept the word they would be saved while secretly 1789 knowing they would be saved anyway, whether they 1790 kept the word or not. Besides, Paul would not warn 1791 them about the possibility of not keeping the word 1792 if he knew they would keep it regardless by being 1793 programmed through predestination. 1794 If Paul is saying these things to Christian 1795 brethren, it is evident that he considered that given 1796 the right circumstances, a saved Christian could lose 1797 his salvation. 1798 * 1799 1800 1801 1802 It wouldn't be logical for someone to cry over the death of someone he knows is not dead 1803 Many believe these two absurdities: 1) that once 1804 one is saved he can never be lost; and 2) even if the 1805 saved does not repent of his sins, he can still be 1806 saved. According to them, God forgives all things 1807

regardless of whether we repent from our sins or
not. In the following passage, Paul, talking to the
Christians in Corinth, and about the Christians
there, rejects both. Let's see:

*And lest, when I come again, my God will
humble me among you, and <u>that I shall</u>
<u>bewail</u> many which have sinned already, and
<u>have not repented</u> of the uncleanness and
fornication and lasciviousness which they
have committed." (II Co 12:21)

1812

1819 From the moment that Paul says, "...I shall 1820 bewail many..." he is saying that either those 1821 Christians were lost, or they could get lost. If 1822 their salvation would be absolutely guaranteed 1823 regardless of sin, Paul would have no need to 1824 weep over them. If those saved would always be 1825 saved, there would be no need to cry over them, 1826 because even if they sinned and sinned again, and 1827 didn't repent, they would still be saved. This clearly 1828 shows that a saved person can lose his salvation if 1829 he refuses to truly repent of his sins. The Christian 1830 who does not wish to repent of his sins has no 1831 forgiveness, he loses his saved status, if not, Paul 1832 would not have to cry over him. Remember, God 1833 does not let into heaven people that do not repent of 1834 their sins, because that means they still love it and 1835 they will keep sinning in Heaven. It would mean 1836 that they love their sin more than God and Jesus. 1837 We clearly see in this passage that these were 1838 Christians who had abandoned the faith, because if 1839 they had not, he would not have to bewail them 1840 either; and if they weren't Christians, he wouldn't 1841 cry for them now, but rather before. 1842

It is equally evident that he cries because they 1843 have not repented of their fornications, lusts, 1844 dishonesty, etc; which is indicative that the 1845 Christian who does not repent is one step away 1846 from damnation. In other words, that true 1847 indispensable for divine repentance is 1848 This means that he who does not forgiveness. 1849 repent of his sins, while being a Christian, cannot 1850 prevail in salvation; otherwise there would be no 1851 need to cry for them. 1852

We don't even have to go to the Bible, common 1853 sense tells us that God, being holy, is not going to 1854 take unto him a person who continues to harbor 1855 in his soul the sins that keep people away from 1856 God. An envious person that does not walk away 1857 from his envy would still envy in heaven those who 1858 are higher than him. A selfish person would 1859 continue being selfish in heaven. A non-repentant 1860 slanderer would continue to slander his brethren in 1861 the Kingdom, and so on and so forth. 1862

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Peter warns us so we do not fall off our own steadfastness

Once again we see in Scripture that all Bible 1868 authors had in their mental structure the idea that 1869 humans have free will, which is why Peter exhorts 1870 them to guard themselves from error. If Peter did 1871 not believe in free will he would not say such a 1872 thing, because he would know that man could not 1873 keep himself from error, nor grow in grace. Rather, 1874 he would say something like this, "I ask God to 1875 keep you from error and make you grow in grace". 1876 It isn't logical for Peter to, on one side not believe 1877 in man's free will to keep from error and grow in 1878

grace, while on the other hand exhort them to do
both. It would be like telling a blind quadriplegic,
"Run, come quick so you can see what beautiful
sight!" knowing that the poor soul can neither see
nor walk.

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1892

1885 "17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these
1886 things before, beware lest ye also, being led
1887 <u>away with the error of the wicked, fall from</u>
1888 your own steadfastness. 18 But grow in grace,
1889 and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour
1890 Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both, now
1891 and for ever. Amen." (II P 3:17-18)

Another thing to see is that in verse 17 Peter
admits that the Christian can be lost, and fall from
his own steadfastness, clearly seeing that Peter did
not believe the "once saved always saved" nonsense.

The Lord himself said, "Out of the abundance of
the heart the mouth speaks". If Peter didn't have in
his heart the knowledge that once saved it is
possible to lose salvation, he would not say such
things. The same can be said of the other Bible
writers like Paul, James, John, Moses, Isaiah, etc..

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Paul says the Galatians went over to another gospel after receiving the gospel of Christ

Since cats cannot become dogs, you would never see anyone in his right state of mind write to a friend saying that he is marveled or awed that his cat has become a dog. You would not hear anyone either exhort the Chinese not to become black, or exhort blacks not to become white, or exhort whites not to become Chinese. **These changes simply** cannot happen, therefore nobody in his right state
of mind can marvel that these changes have
happened or can ever happen.

1918If Paul believed that once saved man would1919remain saved, if he believed that a person that got1920converted did so because he was predestined to be1921saved, he would not tell the Galatians that he was1922awed seeing that having accepted the Gospel of1923Christ now they had crossed over to another1924gospel.

A person that believed that "once saved always 1925 saved", would not say such a thing because he 1926 "knew" that could not happen. It would be 1927 ridiculous, to say the least, to warn against a danger 1928 that cannot come to pass. If one who is saved is 1929 always saved, he could never abandon the faith 1930 and cross over to another gospel, which is what 1931 Paul is saying happened. If those who were 1932 predestined to convert couldn't cease being 1933 Christians, Paul would not be warning the Galatians 1934 against a danger that did not exist. 1935

1936

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from
him that called you into the grace of Christ,
unto another gospel" (Galatians 1:6)

As we can see, Paul believed that a Christian 1941 could remove himself from the faith. If he 1942 believed such a thing, he could not believe at the 1943 same time that once saved always saved, and he 1944 could not believe in predestination, but in free will. 1945 In other words, man is not a robot, and he is not a 1946 fish that once trapped by the hook of salvation he 1947 cannot escape even if he wants to. 1948 1949

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You must remain in His goodness, otherwise you will be cut off

In the passage below, free will is evident in 1958 several places and the non-existence of predestina-1959 tion as to man's behavior, feelings and eternal 1960 destiny. Before we begin, allow me to explain the 1961 simile used by Paul. We have the wild olive tree 1962 that grows in the wild, and therefore its fruit is less 1963 and of a lesser quality than the cultivated tree. To 1964 graft means to take a bud or a shoot of one tree and 1965 "insert" it into another tree of the same family, to 1966 ensure a better quality fruit. With this explanation, 1967 let's go to Paul's example. 1968

Beginning in verse 17 Paul says that some of the 1969 olive branches (the Jews) were broken in order to 1970 graft in the new branches (the Gentiles) that would 1971 take part in the olive's sap, or the divine blessings. 1972 In verses 18 and 19 he tells the new branches not to 1973 boast. In verse 20 he gives the reason for which the 1974 old branches (the Jews) were broken, that reason 1975 being unbelief. On the other hand, the reason for the 1976 1977 new branches to be grafted in was faith.

In this last verse, (20) Paul shows that the 1978 believing Gentile, due to his faith, is standing, or 1979 saved, warning him immediately not to boast, and 1980 then goes on to speak in verse 21 of the possibility 1981 that if he boasts, God will not forgive him. In other 1982 words, he assures that he who is in the faith, 1983 because he was grafted into the good olive, he 1984 who is saved, can come to lose the forgiveness he 1985

now enjoys. Here we can see again that the believercan lose his salvation.

Further on, in verse 22 he reaffirms the idea of 1988 losing the salvation by mentioning God's severity 1989 with those who fell. If they fell from faith it is 1990 because they were in the faith. No one can fall 1991 from a ladder on which he has never been. Later 1992 in the same verse, Paul, speaking of God's 1993 goodness, warns the believer that he can enjoy that 1994 goodness if he remains in that goodness, adding 1995 that if not, he will be cut off. In these words of 1996 Paul we clearly see two things: a) that the believer 1997 can fall, and b) that humans have free will. In 1998 verse 23, this time talking about the Jews, he says 1999 that they could be grafted back in if they would not 2000 remain in their unbelief, once more indicating that 2001 human beings have free will. Let's read on. 2002

"17 And if some of the branches be broken off, 2004 and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted 2005 in among them, and with them partakest of the 2006 root and fatness of the olive tree, 18 boast not 2007 against the branches. But if thou boast, thou 2008 bearest not the root, but the root thee. 19 Thou 2009 wilt say then: The branches were broken off, 2010 that I might be grafted in. 20 Well, because of 2011 unbelief they were broken off, and thou 2012 standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear. 2013 21 For if God spared not the natural branches, 2014 take heed lest he also spare not thee. 22 Behold 2015 therefore the goodness and severity of God; on 2016 them which fell, severity; but toward thee, 2017 goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; 2018 otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. 23 And 2019 they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, 2020

2003

shall be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again." (Ro 11:17-23)

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By putting the conditional "if" in verse 22, he 2024 shows that humans have free will, yes, he is not 2025 predestined to be what he is, nor to be saved or 2026 damned, just because. The believer is given a 2027 condition that he has to fulfill, and that is to remain 2028 in the goodness. If Paul sets that condition it is 2029 because he knew humans could fulfill it, and 2030 because he also knew that if he didn't he would 2031 be cut-off and lose his salvation. Again, we see 2032 that salvation is not immutable; it is not a thing that 2033 chases us, catches up to us and remains with us 2034 even if we don't want it, only because we were 2035 predestined. 2036

It is evident that Paul is speaking to Christians, 2037 since he talks of those who did not suffer God's 2038 severity but His goodness. It is in talking to them 2039 that he exhorts them to "continue" and warns 2040 them that they can be cut off. If Paul wrote these 2041 things it is because in his mental structure was not 2042 the idea that one who was saved could continue 2043 living as he pleased because he could never lose 2044 that salvation. In other words, Paul did not believe 2045 that "once saved always saved". 2046

We also see that Paul did not think that a non 2047 believer was predestined to it, because he says 2048 that they could leave their spiritual state if they 2049 would not remain in their unbelief. It is evident that 2050 in Paul's mental structure, the idea that the human 2051 being predestined to a certain state of salvation or 2052 damnation, was not there. Instead he believed that 2053 the human being could leave either state through his 2054 own will. 2055

Paul was not about to play with people or 2056 make fun of them by exhorting them to do 2057 something that he knew they could not do 2058 because they were predestined otherwise. It 2059 would be mean if, knowing he couldn't see, we 2060 would tell a blind man, "Come to the window and 2061 see this wonderful landscape". Or if we yelled to a 2062 man without legs, "Run, the house is on fire!". We 2063 would have to think the same of Paul if, believing 2064 the Jansen-Calvinist doctrine of predestination, he 2065 would have told those who were fallen, that if they 2066 wanted they could get out of their lost condition, 2067 when he knew they were predestined to it and 2068 therefore, they would never get out of it. 2069

It would be another jeer if Paul would frighten
the believers making them believe they could be
cut off and lose their salvation, if he truly believed
that salvation could not be lost. Not only would it
be a lie, but a lie in the name of God.

Finally, it is Paul himself, whom many believe to be the icon of predestination, the one who speaks convinced of man's free will. And he does it in the letter that many credit as being the biggest defender of predestination. It is each person, with his free will that can determine one thing or the other.

He who wants to be with God, though he has 2082 no strength to do it, will receive divine help for it. 2083 On the other hand, he who has no desire of being 2084 with God, because God's behavior rules are not to 2085 his liking, will not be forced to love God. If the 2086 human being didn't have such ability, Paul would 2087 not have said the things he said, rather something 2088 like "they would enjoy God's goodness if God 2089 would make them remain in it"; and of the 2090 unbelievers, he would say "they would leave such 2091

awful state if God would want to take away their
unbelief and implant in their hearts a love for God".
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2097If the weaker brother can perish, it is not true2098that once saved always saved

There are two heretic doctrines that have infiltrated Christianity. One is "predestination" after the Janseno-Calvinism, and the other one is "once saved always saved". Both have shown their falsehood in this passage.

"9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty 2105 of yours become a stumbling block to them that 2106 are weak. 10 For if any man see thee which hast 2107 knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall 2108 not the conscience of him which is weak be 2109 emboldened to eat those things which are 2110 offered to idols; 11 and through thy knowledge 2111 shall the weak brother perish, for whom 2112 Christ died?" (I Co 8:9-11) 2113

2114

Paul tells the brethren that know better to be 2115 careful not to be a stumbling block for the weaker 2116 ones. If the weaker one sees the one with 2117 knowledge where the idols are, this can entice the 2118 weaker brother to eat from that which has been 2119 sacrificed to the idols, and this can cause the 2120 weaker brother to perish. That shows us that Paul 2121 did not believe in predestination nor in "once 2122 saved always saved". 2123

I say he did not believe in predestination because if so he would have never thought that he who had been predestined to be saved could perish by eating, because he had been predestined for salvation.

I say that he did not believe in "saved always
saved" either, because if so, he could not think that
someone would lose his salvation by eating
something offered to idols.

It is not logical to think that if someone does 2133 not believe in a certain danger could warn 2134 against such danger. I have never heard anyone 2135 say to someone else: "Don't jump too high for you 2136 may bump into the moon and break your head". 2137 This type of warning nobody makes, because 2138 nobody thinks that anyone could jump so high as to 2139 bump against the moon. By the same token, if Paul 2140 believed in predestination he would not warn a 2141 Christian against the possibility that his behavior 2142 could make another Christian perish, since that 2143 brother is predestined to be a Christian and be saved 2144 regardless. At the same time, if he believed that 2145 once saved always saved, he would not dream of 2146 warning him that the weaker brother could perish, 2147 since that brother would always be a brother, 2148 because once saved always saved. As we can see, 2149 Paul did not believe neither in the janseno-calvinist 2150 predestination nor in once saved always saved. 2151 2152 2153 2154 John says there are sins that lead to death, for 2155 which we cannot pray on behalf of our Christian 2156 brethren 2157

What John is saying here is in direct opposition with the doctrine of "once saved always saved", because in speaking of Christian brethren, he is saying that there are sins that lead to death for which we must not pray. 2163 "16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which 2164 is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall 2165 give him life for them that sin not unto death. 2166 There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he 2167 shall pray for it. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, 2168 and there is a sin not unto death." 2169 (I John 5:16-17) 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 There are four things made clear in this 2175 passage: 2176 1) There are degrees of sin. Some sins are graver 2177 than others. We even see that some sins are unto 2178 death while others are not. 2179 2) John is talking about Christians that sin, for 2180 he calls them brothers; and he is exhorting other 2181 Christians to pray for them, so their sin is forgiven 2182 and they may receive life. 2183 3) John exhorts Christians to pray for their 2184 brothers that have sinned, if that sin is not unto 2185 **death.** If it is a sin unto death, they must not pray 2186 for them. 2187 4) A Christian can commit a mortal sin and 2188 perish. In this case a human being that was saved 2189 and was called a brother, loses his salvation. 2190 As we can see, this statement by John is against 2191 the doctrine that affirms that one who was once 2192 saved can never lose his salvation, regardless of 2193 how much he sins without repentance. John says 2194 that a brother can commit a mortal sin, of such 2195 magnitude, that would render his brother's prayers 2196 useless. 2197

This reminds me of Samuel and Saul, when God 2198 told the prophet not to pray for Saul anymore; also 2199 Jeremiah and the people of Israel. 2200 2201 "And the LORD said unto Samuel: How long 2202 wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have 2203 rejected him from reigning over Israel?" 2204 (I Sam 16:1) 2205 2206 "Therefore pray not thou for this people, 2207 neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither 2208 make intercession to me, for I will not hear 2209 thee." (Jeremiah 7:16) 2210 2211 "Then said the LORD unto me: Pray not for 2212 this people for their good." (Jer 14:11) 2213 2214 As we can see, it is not only John who shows us 2215 there are limits to how much believer, and the 2216 human being, can sin. God himself shows us that 2217 same teaching. We cannot continue playing with 2218 God the little game of "I'm saved now, so from 2219 now on you've got to keep me saved regardless of 2220 what I do". 2221 * 2222 2223 2224 Anyone who thinks he is standing, watch lest he 2225 fall. 2226 It is Paul himself who warns the Corinthians that 2227 if they are not careful they may fall. If a person is 2228 not in the faith he is not saved; there is no need to 2229 give them this advice because they are already 2230 fallen. Therefore, Paul directs the advice to those 2231 who are Christians, those who are in the faith. 2232 2233

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth 2234 take heed lest he fall." (I Co 10:12) 2235 2236 To those who are already Christians Saint Paul 2237 charges to be careful, lest they may fall. Therefore, 2238 the heresy of "once saved always saved", which has 2239 so damaged the sanctification of Christianity, is 2240 false. 2241 *** 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 Chapter 3 2247 Some passages used wrongly as a basis for 2248 the "once saved always saved" doctrine. 2249 2250 No one will pluck them out of my hand 2251 Categorically, Jesus says here no one can pluck 2252 them out of my hand. No one, no matter how 2253 astute or powerful, can separate us from the Lord, 2254 as long as we will to be with Him. That does not 2255 mean that after believing we are enslaved, bound or 2256 chained so we can never leave even if we wanted to. 2257 No one can make us leave the Lord, but at the 2258 same time <u>no one</u> can force us to stay. 2259 2260 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they 2261 shall never perish, neither shall any man 2262 pluck them out of my hand." (John 10:28) 2263 2264 What I want to say is that in fact it is true that our 2265 salvation is secure in Christ, but it is not true, as 2266 the Janseno-Calvinists believe, that God is going 2267 to force us to be saved whether we want to be 2268

saved or not. No one can take us away from the
Lord, but we can take ourselves away from him;
God does not force us to remain in Him. This is
voluntary. Conversion is not a fishing hook that
once it gets you doesn't release you even if you
want it to.

If I say that nobody can make Raymond say, "Yes", that does not mean that Raymond can't say, "Yes" if he wants to. At the same time, when Jesus says that no man can pluck his sheep from him, he is not saying that the sheep can't leave if it so desires.

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2284 No one can separate us from the love of Christ

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Paul says here that **no creature or adverse circumstance** can separate us from the love of Christ. That does **not** mean, as some want to make it look, that a Christian cannot walk away from the faith. In I Timothy 4:1 you saw that the selfsame Holy Spirit said that there would be Christians who would stray from the faith.

That no one can separate us from the love of Christ does not mean that once one becomes a Christian, he is held on by a fishing hook from which he cannot escape even if he wanted to. If someone says that no one can bring Tom out of his castle it does not mean that Tom can't come out of his castle if he wanted to.

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2300 "35 Who shall separate us from the love of
2301 Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or
2302 persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril,
2303 or sword? 36 As it is written: For thy sake we
2304 are killed all the day long; we are accounted as

sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these 2305 things we are more than conquerors through 2306 him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that 2307 neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor 2308 principalities, nor powers, nor things present, 2309 nor things to come, 39 nor height, nor depth, 2310 nor any other creature, shall be able to 2311 separate us from the love of God, which is in 2312 Christ Jesus our Lord." 2313

2314 2315

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(Ro 8:35-39)

If we analyze what Paul is saying, he is talking 2316 about third persons or circumstances: tribulations, 2317 distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, 2318 sword, death, life, angels, principalities, powers, 2319 things present, things to come, height, depth, or 2320 creatures. Never does he make reference to the 2321 believer himself, but to things outside of him. 2322 Therefore, this passage **cannot** be taken as a basis 2323 to say that a Christian cannot walk away from the 2324 faith, since Paul himself received a revelation from 2325 the Holy Spirit that says that the Christian can 2326 indeed depart. Let's see I Tim 4:1. 2327

- "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the
 latter times some shall <u>depart</u> from the faith,
 giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines
 of devils" (I Tim 4:1)
- In order to depart from the faith it is indispensable to have been in the faith. No one can leave a place where he has never been. The same Paul who wrote the passage in Romans, which many use to base their erred doctrine, is the one who wrote this passage in I Timothy that we just read. If he admits in this passage that a Christian

can depart from the faith, and even predicts it, it 2341 is not logical to think that the passage in Romans 2342 can mean that once a person is saved he will remain 2343 saved. They think he can never depart from that 2344 faith, because he has bitten in to a fishing hook 2345 from which he cannot be set free even if he wants 2346 to, because once converted he is forced to love God 2347 even if he doesn't want to. To think this way is 2348 absurd. God does not want a forced love, 2349 predestinated or robotic love. 2350

From what we have seen so far we can rest 2351 assured that the absurd proposition that says that if 2352 someone departs from the faith it is because he has 2353 never been in it, is totally false. It contradicts that 2354 which we have seen the Holy Spirit reveal, when 2355 he said that in the later times some would depart 2356 from the faith. Let those who propose the heretic 2357 doctrine that states that once saved, always saved 2358 find at least one verse where the Holy Spirit says 2359 that no Christian can depart from the faith, or that 2360 once saved he will always be saved. 2361

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God's promises are not unconditional, and neither is salvation

There are "petty lawyers" and litigious people 2367 who believe that they can hold on to words, phrases 2368 or verses to "force" God to make good on 2369 something they want to believe He promised or 2370 said. They proceed, in religion, much like a petty 2371 lawyer trying to save his criminal client, holding on 2372 to words and technicalities of the penal code of the 2373 time. That can be done in the human system, 2374 because there is always someone who is willing to 2375

be bought with favors and bribes, but it is not the 2376 way things are done in heaven. 2377 That is why they read a phrase or a promise that 2378 they believe justifies their sin, and hold fast to it, 2379 with no regard for what the rest of the Bible has to 2380 say about the issue. 2381 2382 "Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith: I 2383 said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy 2384 father, should walk before me for ever; but 2385 now the LORD saith: Be it far from me; for 2386 them that honour me I will honour, and they 2387 that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." 2388 (I Sam 2:30) 2389 2390 This verse refers to the promise received by 2391 Aaron's family in verses like Exodus 25:13; 29:9: 2392 40:15 and Numbers 18:7. If one reads these 2393 passages only alone, one can believe that the 2394 promise of priesthood for the sons of Aaron was 2395 unconditional, that all you needed was to be a 2396 descendent of Aaron to "demand" the fulfillment 2397 of such "promise". But here we see that was not 2398 so. 2399 It seems, however, that such is what the sons of 2400 Eli thought, and they figured it would not matter 2401 what they did. As long as they were descendants of 2402 Aaron they would receive the priesthood because 2403 such was the "promise"; and since they could not 2404 avoid being Aaron's descendants. God "had" to 2405 fulfill it. However, we see in the verse we read that

fulfill it. However, we see in the verse we read that
God tells Eli by way of a prophet that things were
not as they wished them to be, but as God had
ordained.

2410 Something of the sort happens to many 2411 believers, especially those predestination advocates that believe that once saved always
saved. They think that because they want to believe
that God promised them an unconditional salvation,
they have it by the beard; and they can go about as
they wish and sin like there's no tomorrow, without
risking salvation or losing it.

Going about as litigious and petty lawyers, they believe they can appeal to such and such a verse or passage as if it were a penal code from a human society, manipulated once and again to make it say whatever is convenient to them. If they do not learn from lessons such as this, they may have to swallow very bitter drinks when they least expect it.

2425When God makes a promise, even if at that2426moment the conditions aren't expressed, it is2427logical to think that they are applied, that they2428are implied.

When I promise employment to someone, it is 2429 implied that he who received the promise is able to 2430 do what will be asked of him, that he is not lazy, 2431 that he does not steal, that he takes care of the job I 2432 give him, that he respect my words, is a team 2433 player, does not come to work naked, goes to the 2434 bathroom to relieve himself, takes frequent baths, 2435 comes on time, etc., the one thousand implied 2436 conditions that always exist in a promise like this. 2437

I don't need to make all these conditions clear in a
written document to the recipient of my promise of
employment. God doesn't need to make clear to
us either of the conditions that his promises
carry. Common sense does when lust does not
blind us.

If someone asks me for a job and I have employment for him, and I promise that the job is his if he can type, it is true that I have made a promise that appears to be unconditional; but that is not so, all the implied conditions can be applied to
the applicant and he can't allege I did not say
anything about it.

Suppose that the applicant brings me the letter, in
which I promised that if he can type, the job is his.
But when he comes into my office, he is naked. Do
I have to fulfill my promise?

Suppose he can type, yes.....but has dozens of 2455 errors. Am I obliged to comply? What if the man is 2456 lazy, or steals my things, or breaks the equipment 2457 constantly from wrongful treatment, or laughs at me 2458 when I give him an order, or gets in to constant 2459 fights with other employees, or relieves himself in 2460 any corner of the office, or doesn't take a bath and 2461 smells like a skunk, or never comes on time, etc., 2462 am I bound to my promise of giving him a job or 2463 keep him there, just because I did not legislatively 2464 specify the one thousand and one implied 2465 conditions that are present in any promise? 2466

Don't be fools, those who hold fast to words
and phrases and meaningless verses. When you
come before God you will not be able to talk trash
like you do now. Salvation is God's promise in
Christ, but it has implied conditions. He who
accepts Christ is saved, but there are implied
conditions that cannot be mocked.

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