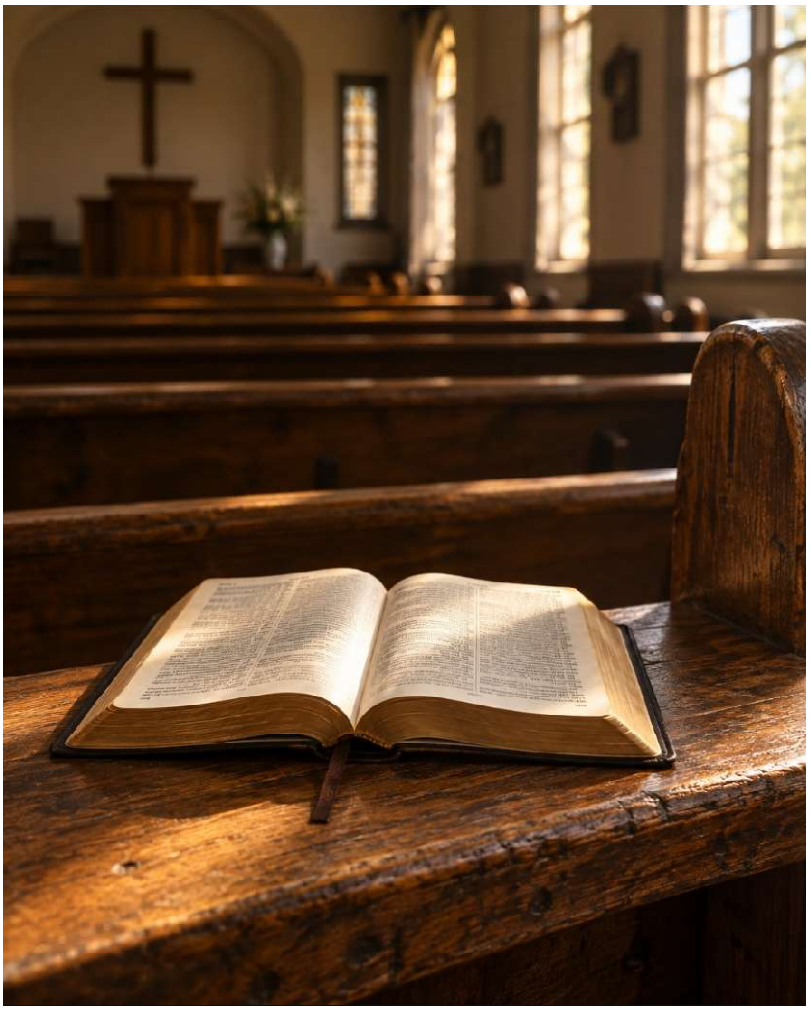
False Securities in Faith:

What We Were Taught

How Comfortable Christianity Infiltrated Christ's Church



A Six-Part Bible Study

Scott Elston
Ordinary Man Ministries

False Securities in Faith: What We Were Taught

How Comfortable Christianity Infiltrated Christ's Church

STUDY #1: "The Sinner's Prayer" Salvation

What do you believe about how someone gets saved?

Picture this: A 9-year-old boy stands in a rural Oklahoma Baptist church, tears streaming down his face. His chest aches from something he's never felt before. After the service, the pastor shakes his hand and says, "Congratulations on finding Jesus. Let's get you baptized this coming Sunday."

No prayer to repeat. No words to say after the preacher. Just: "Let's get you baptized."

But years later, that same person starts hearing something different - everywhere. In tracts, in crusades, at the end of sermons: "Just repeat this prayer after me..."

So which is it? Prayer or baptism? Or both? Or something else entirely?

The Common Teaching

Here's what millions have been told:

"Just pray this prayer and you're saved forever."

This is the exact prayer from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association website:

> *"Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name. Amen."*

And then the instruction: "If you prayed that prayer, you are now saved."

Where Does This Show Up?

1. Campus Crusade for Christ (now "Cru")

- Created "The Four Spiritual Laws" tract in 1952
- Written by Bill Bright
- Over 3 BILLION copies distributed worldwide
- Ends with a sinner's prayer

2. Billy Graham Crusades

- 1950s-2000s
- "Four Steps to Peace with God"
- Altar calls ending with prayer

3. Evangelical Tracts

- "Four Things God Wants You to Know" (Billy Sunday era)
- "Romans Road" presentations
- Decision cards with date and signature

4. Church Altar Calls

- Baptist churches (especially Southern Baptist, Independent Baptist)
- Many non-denominational churches
- Some Pentecostal/Charismatic churches

5. James Kennedy's "Evangelism Explosion"

- Counselor training program
- Taught missionaries worldwide
- Made the prayer the standard

This isn't a small thing. This is **hundreds of millions of people** who base their entire salvation on a prayer they prayed.

But Here's the Problem

That prayer isn't in the Bible.

No one in the entire New Testament got saved by praying a prayer.

Not one person.

When Did This Start?

It's a recent invention. Here's the timeline:

1700s: Prayer starts being loosely associated with conversion

Late 1800s: Dwight L. Moody develops "Inquiry Room" counseling - questions, teaching, then prayer at the END

Early 1900s: Billy Sunday popularizes it in crusades - calls it "receiving Christ"

1950s: Billy Graham makes it mainstream with "Four Steps to Peace with God"

1952: Bill Bright (Campus Crusade) creates "Four Spiritual Laws" - takes it into living rooms everywhere

Result: A practice that didn't exist for 1,900 years suddenly becomes THE way people think they get saved.

What Does Scripture Actually Say?

The FIRST Gospel sermon after Jesus' death and resurrection:

Acts 2:37-38

> *"Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"*

Three thousand people asked: **"What shall we do?"**

Peter didn't say, "Just pray this prayer."

He said: **"Repent and be baptized."**

What Happened Next?

Acts 2:41

> *"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls."*

Three thousand people saved.

Not one prayer is mentioned.

They heard the word. They believed. They were baptized.

What About Paul's Conversion?

Paul had been praying for three days after meeting Jesus on the Damascus road.

But listen to what Ananias told him:

Acts 22:16

> *"Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."*

Paul had been praying for THREE DAYS.

But Ananias said: **"Get up and be baptized and wash away your sins."**

If prayer saves, why did Paul still have sins to wash away after three days of praying?

A Real Example

A man once couldn't sleep the night his father died - not because he was grieving (though he was), but because he couldn't remember if his dad had ever "prayed the sinner's prayer."

His dad had been a good man. A hard worker. A provider. Loved by everyone. Raised in church as a kid, though he didn't attend much as an adult.

And now this son was tormented: **"Did my dad say the right words? Is he in heaven?"**

That's what happens when salvation gets reduced to a prayer.

It becomes about **getting the formula right** instead of **knowing Jesus.**

The Questions That Expose This Teaching

1. If the sinner's prayer is THE way to be saved, why isn't it in the Bible?

Not once. Anywhere.

2. Why did Peter tell 3,000 people to "repent and be baptized" instead of "pray this prayer"?

3. Why did Paul still need to be baptized to "wash away his sins" after praying for three days?

4. If it's just about praying a prayer, why does Jesus say in Mark 16:16:

> *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved"*

5. When did "calling on the name of the Lord" (Romans 10:13) become reduced to repeating words in a prayer?

What Scripture Actually Teaches

Prayer itself isn't bad. Many people who prayed a prayer and truly repented, truly believed, truly surrendered to Jesus - God knows their hearts.

But here's the tragedy: Millions have prayed a prayer with NO repentance, NO baptism, NO transformation, NO surrender.

And they think they're saved because someone told them: **"You prayed the prayer. You're in."**

That's not the Gospel.

That's a lie that keeps people comfortable in their sin while they're still dead.

The Simple Truth

Salvation isn't a formula or magic words.

Scripture teaches:

1. HEARING the Word of God (Romans 10:17)

2. BELIEVING that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9)

3. REPENTING - turning from sin and self to God (Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19)

4. CONFESSING Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10)

5. BEING BAPTIZED for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:21)

6. RECEIVING the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

That's what Scripture says.

Not a prayer. Not a formula.

A journey from death to life that begins with hearing and believing and responding in obedience.

Reflection Questions

1. What do you believe NOW about how someone gets saved?

2. If someone based their salvation on a prayer they prayed, but were never baptized and never repented - has their life changed? Does Scripture support this?

3. Did something shift as you read this? What was it?

4. Are you willing to search Scripture to test what you've been taught?

5. What will you do moving forward?

A Final Word

For anyone reading this who realizes: "I prayed a prayer, but I was never baptized. I never really repented. Nothing changed."

It's not too late.

God is calling - not to a prayer, but to Himself. Not to words, but to transformation.

Not to a moment, but to a life of following Jesus.

The question isn't: "Did I say the right prayer?"

The question is: **"Have I surrendered my life to Jesus?"**

If not, do it now. Not with a formula.

But with your whole heart.

STUDY #2: "Baptism Not Required"

So you prayed the prayer. What comes next?

Someone prays the prayer.

They mean it. They feel something real. The pastor shakes their hand. People hug them. Someone gives them a Bible.

And then someone says: "Now, when you're ready, we'd love to baptize you."

When you're ready.

Like it's optional.

Like it's the next step in a spiritual journey - important, meaningful, but not... necessary.

"Baptism doesn't save you," they say. "It's just an outward symbol of an inward change. A public declaration. A testimony."

And the person thinks: Okay, I'll get to it. When I'm ready.

But what if they're wrong?

The Common Teaching

Here's what millions have been taught:

"Baptism is just a symbol. It doesn't save you. It's important, but not required."

This isn't a fringe belief. This is mainstream evangelical teaching.

Where Does This Show Up?

1. Southern Baptist Convention - Baptist Faith & Message (2000)

The official statement of faith for 16+ million Southern Baptists says:

> *"Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour..."*

Notice the word: **symbolizing.**

Not "accomplishing." Not "for the forgiveness of sins."

Symbolizing.

The Baptist Faith & Message introduction makes it even clearer:

> *"They [confessions of faith] are not intended to add anything to the simple conditions of salvation revealed in the New Testament, viz., repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord."*

What's missing?

Baptism.

2. GotQuestions.org

One of the most popular evangelical Q&A websites states:

> *"Baptism is not necessary for salvation. It is our contention that baptism is an important step of obedience for a Christian, but we adamantly reject baptism as being required for salvation."*
>
> *"Baptism is the symbol of what has already occurred in the heart and life of one who has trusted Christ as Savior."*

Already occurred.

Meaning: Saved BEFORE baptism.

3. Desiring God (John Piper)

John Piper, one of the most influential pastors in America, teaches:

> *"The physical act of baptism is the parable, it's the drama, it's the emblem, but the reality of new birth is not physical and is not received by physical acts."*

4. Evangelical Training Materials

The teaching shows up everywhere:

- Sunday school lessons: "Baptism is an important NEXT step"
- Membership classes: "We encourage baptism, but it's not required for salvation"
- Evangelism training: "Lead them to Christ first, baptism can come later"

5. Sermons and Altar Calls

Common statements:

- "Baptism is just an outward sign"
- "The thief on the cross wasn't baptized and Jesus saved him"
- "We're saved by faith, not by works - and baptism would be a work"
- "Baptism doesn't wash away sins - only the blood of Jesus does"

This is what the church has been teaching for generations.

But Here's the Problem

That's not what the Bible says.

Not even close.

The FIRST Gospel Sermon After Jesus Rose

Acts 2:37-38

> *"Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"*

Three thousand people asked: **"What shall we do?"**

And Peter said: **"Repent and be baptized FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS."**

Not "as a symbol of forgiveness you already have."

Not "whenever you're ready."

For the forgiveness of your sins.

What About Paul?

Paul had an encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road.

He was blind for three days.

He was praying and fasting.

But he still wasn't saved.

Acts 22:16 - Ananias comes to Paul and says:

> *"Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."*

Paul had been **praying for three days**!

He had met Jesus.

He believed.

But Ananias said: **"Why are you waiting? Get baptized and WASH AWAY YOUR SINS."**

If baptism is just a symbol, why did Paul still have sins to wash away after three days of prayer?

What Did Jesus Say?

Mark 16:16

> *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."*

Jesus didn't say: "He who believes is saved, and baptism is a nice testimony."

He said: **"Believes AND is baptized shall be saved."**

Both.

Not one or the other.

Both.

What Did Peter Say About Baptism?

1 Peter 3:21

> *"Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."*

"Baptism now saves you."

Not symbolizes salvation.

Not testifies to salvation.

SAVES YOU.

Peter clarifies - it's not the water itself that saves. It's the appeal to God, the calling on His name, the faith expressed IN baptism.

But he still says it: **Baptism saves you.**

A Real Example

A man once waited five years to be baptized.

He "got saved" at a youth camp. Prayed the prayer. Felt the emotions. Signed the card.

But he never got baptized.

Why? Because they told him it wasn't necessary.

"You're already saved," they said. "Baptism is just the next step when you're ready."

So he waited.For five years!

He kept sinning. He kept living however he wanted. He figured: *I prayed the prayer. I'm good.*

When he finally got baptized, something broke inside him.

He realized: **For five years, he'd been living like he was saved, but he never actually obeyed.**

He wept in that water.

Not tears of joy.

Tears of repentance.

Because for five years, he'd believed a lie.

The Questions That Expose This Teaching

1. If baptism is just a symbol, why does Peter say it "now saves you"?

2. If baptism isn't necessary, why did Paul still need to "wash away his sins" after three days of prayer?

3. If baptism is optional, why did Jesus command it in the Great Commission right alongside "make disciples"?

Matthew 28:19-20

> *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."*

4. If baptism doesn't matter for salvation, why does Acts record IMMEDIATE baptisms after belief?

- Acts 2:41 - 3,000 baptized **the same day**
- Acts 8:12 - Samaritans baptized **when they believed**
- Acts 8:36-38 - Ethiopian eunuch: "See, here is water! **What prevents me from being baptized?**"
- Acts 16:33 - Philippian jailer baptized **the same hour of the night**

They didn't wait.

They didn't say "I'll get to it when I'm ready."

They were baptized **immediately.**

5. If Jesus commands baptism, and someone truly believes He rose from the dead, why would they delay?

What They'll Say

Here's how evangelicals defend "baptism not required":

Argument #1: "We're saved by faith, not works. Baptism would be a work."

Response: Is repentance a work? Is confession a work? Is calling on the name of the Lord a work?

No one says "Don't repent, that's a work."
No one says "Don't confess Jesus, that's a work."
But they say "Don't require baptism, that's a work."
Baptism isn't a work we do to earn salvation.

Baptism is an act of **faith and obedience** where GOD does the saving.

Romans 6:3-4 makes this clear:

> *"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."*

We don't save ourselves in baptism.

God saves us when we're baptized into Christ.

Argument #2: "The thief on the cross wasn't baptized."

Response: The thief on the cross died under the Old Covenant.

Jesus hadn't died yet.

Jesus hadn't risen yet.

The church hadn't been established.

Christian baptism didn't exist yet.

Using the thief on the cross to say baptism isn't necessary is like using Abraham to say we don't need Jesus.

The thief is the **exception**, not the **rule.**

Every person AFTER Pentecost who was saved was baptized.

Every. Single. One.

Argument #3: "1 Corinthians 1:17 - Paul says 'Christ did not send me to baptize.'"

Full verse:

> *"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void."*

Response: Paul is saying his PRIMARY mission was preaching, not that baptism is unimportant.

In fact, **in the same letter**, Paul says:

1 Corinthians 12:13

> *"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."*

Paul baptized people. He just didn't make it his PERSONAL focus because others could baptize too.

But he never said baptism was optional.

What Scripture Actually Teaches

The water itself doesn't save.

Baptism isn't magic.

God can save someone who dies before baptism.

But Scripture is clear:

Baptism is **for the forgiveness of sins** (Acts 2:38).

Baptism **washes away sins** (Acts 22:16).

Baptism **saves you** (1 Peter 3:21).

Baptism is when someone is **baptized into Christ** (Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27).

And if someone believes Jesus rose from the dead, and He commands baptism, **they should be baptized immediately.**

Not when they're ready.

Not when it's convenient.

Now.

The Simple Truth

Salvation isn't:

- Pray a prayer ✓
- Get baptized later (optional)

Salvation is:

- **HEAR** the gospel (Romans 10:17)
- **BELIEVE** Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9)
- **REPENT** of sins (Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19)
- **CONFESS** Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:10)
- **BE BAPTIZED** for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16)
- **RECEIVE** the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

That's the pattern.

That's what Scripture teaches.

Not "baptism when you're ready."

Baptism as part of the response to the gospel.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you been baptized? If not, why not?

2. If you were taught "baptism is just a symbol," where did that teaching come from? Was it from Scripture or from tradition?

3. If Peter said "baptism now saves you," and you've been taught "baptism doesn't save," who will you believe?

4. If Jesus commanded baptism, and you believe He rose from the dead, why would you treat His command as optional?

5. What will you do now?

A Final Word

For anyone reading this who realizes: "I prayed a prayer, but I was never baptized for the forgiveness of my sins..."

It's not too late.

The same grace that saved the 3,000 on Pentecost is available.

The same Jesus who met Paul on the Damascus road is calling.

Acts 22:16 - *"And now **why do you delay?** Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."*

Why wait?

Not because it's a work. Not because it's optional.

But because Jesus commanded it.

And when someone rises from that water, they know:

They didn't just testify to salvation.

They received it.

STUDY #3: "No Lord Without Savior"

Can you have Jesus as Savior without making Him Lord?

Someone gets "saved."

They prayed the prayer. They signed the card. They believe Jesus died for their sins.

But nothing changes.

They still live however they want. Still chase the same things. Still serve themselves.

And when someone suggests they should surrender to Jesus, submit to His authority, obey His commands - they get defensive:

"I'm already saved. Jesus is my Savior. Making Him Lord is optional. That's works-based legalism."

But what if that's not salvation at all?

The Common Teaching

Here's what millions have been taught:

"You can accept Jesus as Savior without making Him Lord. Lordship comes later - or never."

This isn't a fringe belief. This is taught by respected theologians, in seminary textbooks, and from pulpits across America.

Where Does This Show Up?

1. Lewis Sperry Chafer - Founder of Dallas Theological Seminary

SOURCE: "Systematic Theology" (1947)

> *"The message of faith may... exclude all reference to submission, separation, and service. The Gospel is designated 'the gospel of the grace of God' with its major emphasis upon a Savior, rather than upon a Lord."*

Key claim: You can preach salvation without ever mentioning submission, obedience, or lordship.

2. Charles Ryrie - Systematic Theologian

SOURCE: "So Great Salvation" (1989)

> *"The lordship message ... mingles faith and works and grace and merit."*
>
> *"The only condition for receiving eternal life is believing in the Lord Jesus Christ."*

Key claim: Making Jesus Lord is a separate act from salvation. Requiring it "adds works to grace."

3. Zane Hodges - Grace Evangelical Society

SOURCE: "Absolutely Free!" (1989)

> *"The gospel of grace should never be confused with invitations to discipleship."*
>
> *"Repentance and faith are not two conditions for salvation but different ways of expressing the single condition of trust."*

Key claim: Discipleship and lordship are optional. Salvation is belief only - no surrender required.

4. The Scofield Reference Bible

Millions of Christians were educated through Scofield's notes, which often separated "belief for salvation" from "submission to lordship" - creating a two-tier Christianity where you can be saved but not surrendered.

5. "Free Grace" Movement

Churches and ministries teaching:

- "Salvation is a free gift - no strings attached"
- "Jesus as Savior vs Jesus as Lord are two different decisions"
- "Lordship salvation adds works to grace"
- Grace Evangelical Society (Bob Wilkin)
- Some Independent Fundamental Baptist churches
- Certain dispensationalist denominations

6. Popular Gospel Presentations

Many tracts say: "Accept Jesus as your Savior" but never mention:

- Repentance
- Surrender
- Obedience
- Lordship
- Counting the cost

But Here's the Problem

Scripture never separates Savior from Lord. Not once.

The FIRST Gospel Sermon

Acts 2:36 *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."*

Peter's first Gospel sermon after Jesus rose from the dead: Jesus is LORD.

Not "Jesus is Savior, and later you can decide if He's Lord." LORD.

What Does "Lord" Mean?

The Greek word is κύριος (kyrios) - master, owner, sovereign, one with absolute authority.

When Scripture says "confess Jesus as Lord," it's not just acknowledging He's divine.

It's surrendering to His authority.

It's saying: "You are my Master. I am your servant. I will obey."

What Did Jesus Say?

Luke 6:46 *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*

Jesus rebukes people who call Him "Lord" but don't obey Him.

If you call Him Lord but don't do what He says - He's not actually your Lord.

Matthew 7:21-23 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"*

Many will call Jesus "Lord." Many will even do religious activities.

But Jesus will say: "I never knew you."

Why?

Because they never actually submitted to His lordship. They practiced lawlessness - living as their own master while calling Jesus "Lord."

What Did Paul Say?

Romans 10:9-10 *"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."*

Not "confess Jesus as Savior."

"Confess Jesus as LORD."

Acts 16:31 *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."*

Not "believe in Jesus the nice teacher."

Not "believe Jesus died for sins and that's enough."

"Believe in the LORD Jesus."

His authority. His kingship. His right to rule your life.

2 Corinthians 5:15 *"and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."*

Salvation isn't: "Jesus died so you can keep living for yourself."

Salvation is: "Jesus died so you no longer live for yourself, but for Him."

A Real Example

A man once attended a church for years.

He believed Jesus died for his sins. He prayed the prayer. He was baptized.

But he lived however he wanted. Chased money. Served himself. Ignored Scripture when it was inconvenient.

When confronted, he said: "I'm saved by grace. Jesus is my Savior. I don't have to make Him Lord - that's works."

One day, he was reading Romans 6:16:

> *"Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"*

It hit him: He was still a slave to sin.

He'd never surrendered. He'd never submitted. He'd never made Jesus Lord.

He'd prayed a prayer, but he'd never bowed his knee.

And for the first time, he understood: He'd never actually been saved.

He'd been comfortable. He'd been religious. He'd been confident in a formula.

But he'd never surrendered his life to Jesus.

The Questions That Expose This Teaching

1. If you can have Jesus as Savior without making Him Lord, why does Romans 10:9 say "confess Jesus as LORD"?

2. If lordship is optional, why does Jesus say "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

3. If salvation doesn't require surrender, why does Paul say "He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him"?

4. If you can be saved without submission, why does Jesus say "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father"?

5. If lordship is a separate decision, why does Acts 2:36 say "God has made Him both Lord and Christ" - not Lord OR Savior, but Lord AND Christ?

What They'll Say

Here's how this false teaching gets defended:

Argument #1: "Lordship salvation is works-based legalism"

Response: Submission isn't a work. Surrender isn't earning salvation.

When someone believes Jesus rose from the dead and is Lord, the natural response is to bow the knee.

That's not adding works to grace. That's faith expressing itself in surrender.

James 2:17

> *"Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself."*

Faith that doesn't produce obedience isn't saving faith.

Argument #2: "Romans 10:9 just means confess He's divine, not submit to His authority"

Response: That's not what the word κύριος (kyrios) means.

Kyrios = master, owner, sovereign.

When Romans 10:9 says "confess Jesus as Lord," it means:

- Acknowledge His authority
- Submit to His kingship
- Surrender your life

Not just "agree He's God."

Argument #3: "1 Corinthians 3 shows carnal Christians - saved but not surrendered"

Response: Paul is rebuking immature Christians who ARE struggling with sin but ARE growing.

He's not saying you can be saved without ever surrendering to Christ.

He's addressing believers who need to mature - not unbelievers who think they're saved.

Argument #4: "Making Jesus Lord is progressive sanctification, not salvation"

Response: Progressive sanctification is GROWTH in obedience.

But salvation itself requires surrender.

Luke 14:33 *"So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."*

Jesus doesn't say "You can be saved without giving up anything."

He says you can't be His disciple without surrender.

And if you're not His disciple - you're not saved.

What Scripture Actually Teaches

Salvation isn't:

- Believe Jesus died for sins ✓
- Keep living for yourself
- Maybe submit later (or never)

Salvation is:

- Believing Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9)
- Confessing Him as Lord (Romans 10:9-10)
- Surrendering your life to Him (Luke 14:33)
- Following Him (John 10:27)
- Obeying Him (Hebrews 5:9)

Philippians 2:9-11 *"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

Everyone will confess Jesus as Lord.

The only question is: **Will you do it now in faith, or later in judgment?**

The Simple Truth

There is no such thing as "Savior without Lord."

Jesus doesn't save you from sin so you can keep sinning.

He saves you from sin so you can serve Him.

Romans 6:16 *"Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"*

You're either a slave to sin or a slave to Christ.

There's no third option of "saved but autonomous."

John 8:34-36

> *"Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin... So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."*

Jesus doesn't set you free so you can serve yourself.

He sets you free from sin so you can serve Him.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever surrendered your life to Jesus? Or did you just pray a prayer and continue living for yourself?

2. If someone asked you, "Is Jesus actually your Lord?" - what's the honest answer based on how you live?

3. If Jesus isn't Lord of your decisions, your money, your time, your relationships - is He really your Savior?

4. What does it look like to confess Jesus as Lord in real, practical terms?

5. What will you do now?

A Final Word

For anyone reading this who realizes: "I believed Jesus died for my sins, but I never surrendered my life to Him..."

It's not too late.

Salvation isn't just intellectual agreement.

Salvation is surrender.

Romans 10:9-10 *"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."*

Confess Him as Lord. Not just as Savior. Not just as "fire insurance."

As LORD.

Master. King. Owner. The one who has absolute authority over your life. And when you do, you'll know: You didn't just get a ticket to heaven. You got a new Master.

And that changes everything.

STUDY #4: "Faith Alone Without Repentance"

Can you be saved by faith alone without repenting?

Someone hears the Gospel.
They're told: "Just believe Jesus died for your sins. That's it. You're saved."
No mention of repentance.
No mention of turning from sin.
No mention of sorrow over sin.
Just: "Believe and you're in."
So they believe - intellectually. They agree Jesus died for sins. They pray a prayer.
But nothing changes.
They keep living the same way. Same sins. Same priorities. Same master.
And when someone says "You need to repent," they respond:
"I'm already saved by faith. Repentance would be adding works to grace. That's legalism."
But what if faith without repentance isn't faith at all?

The Common Teaching

Here's what millions have been taught:
"You don't need to repent to be saved. Just believe. Repentance is optional - or it just means changing your mind about Jesus, not turning from sin."
This teaching is found in respected theological books, evangelical churches, and popular gospel presentations.

Where Does This Show Up?

1. Zane Hodges - Grace Evangelical Society

SOURCE: "Absolutely Free!" (1989)
"Repentance is simply a synonym for faith and does not involve a commitment to forsake sin."
"The gospel should be free of any demand for surrender, submission, or a turning from sin."
Key claim: Repentance just means changing your mind about who Jesus is - not turning from sin or changing behavior.

2. Bob Wilkin - Grace Evangelical Society

SOURCE: Journal of the Grace Evangelical Society articles
"Turning from sins is not a condition of receiving eternal life."
Key claim: You can be saved without repenting of sin. Faith alone (intellectual agreement) is enough.

3. Charles Ryrie - Systematic Theologian

SOURCE: "So Great Salvation" (1989)
"Repentance... is not a work that must be added to faith."
Key claim: Repentance is simply a mental change about Jesus, not forsaking sin.

4. "Easy Believism" Gospel Presentations

Many altar calls and evangelistic tracts say:
- "Just believe Jesus died for you"
- "Accept Jesus as your Savior"
But they never mention:
- Repentance
- Turning from sin
- Sorrow over sin
- Confession of sin

But Here's the Problem

Scripture never separates faith from repentance.
Not once.

Jesus' FIRST Sermon

Mark 1:14-15 -"Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"

Jesus' first sermon after beginning His ministry:

"**REPENT** and believe."

Not "just believe."

REPENT AND BELIEVE.

Both.

Peter's FIRST Gospel Sermon

Acts 2:37-38 -"Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Three thousand people asked: "What shall we do?"

Peter didn't say: "Just believe."

He said: "REPENT."

Paul's Summary of His Ministry

Acts 26:20 -"but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance."

Paul summarized his entire ministry:

"Repent and turn to God."

Not "just believe."

Jesus' Warning

Luke 13:3, 5 - *"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."*

Jesus said it TWICE.

"Unless you repent, you will PERISH."

Not "unless you believe only."

"Unless you REPENT."

What Does Repentance Actually Mean?

The Greek word is **μετάνοια** (metanoia):

Meta = change

Noia = mind/thinking

"Change of mind."

And some teachers stop there: "See? Repentance is just changing your mind about Jesus. Not turning from sin."

But that's not how Scripture uses the word.

2 Corinthians 7:10 -*"For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death."*

Godly sorrow → repentance → salvation

Repentance involves SORROW OVER SIN.

Not just intellectual agreement.

Acts 26:20 (Again) -*"that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance."*

Paul says repentance produces:

- Turning TO God
- Changed behavior
- "Deeds appropriate to repentance"

Repentance isn't just mental.

It's turning **FROM** sin and **TO** God.

Real Examples from Scripture

The Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16-22)

The rich young ruler asked Jesus: "What must I do to obtain eternal life?"

Did Jesus say: "Just believe"?

No.

Jesus told him to keep the commandments. Love his neighbor.

The man said he'd done all that.

So Jesus said: "Sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

The man went away sorrowful. He wouldn't repent of his love for money.

And Jesus didn't chase after him saying: "Wait! You don't have to turn from anything! Just believe!"

The man walked away. And Jesus let him.

Because faith without repentance isn't faith.

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

When Zacchaeus met Jesus, did Jesus say: "Just believe in Me and keep stealing"?

No.

Zacchaeus repented:

> *"Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."*

And Jesus' response?

"Today salvation has come to this house."

Salvation came when Zacchaeus repented.

Not when he just "believed."

When he turned from his sin and to Jesus.

A Modern Example

A man once "got saved" at a youth camp.
He prayed the prayer. Believed Jesus died for his sins. Signed the card.
But he never repented.

He kept living the same way. Same drinking. Same lying. Same using people.
When someone confronted him, he said: "I'm saved by grace through faith. Repentance would be works. I already believe - that's enough."
For twenty years, he lived like that.
Confident he was saved. No sorrow over sin. No turning from sin. No changed life.
Just intellectual agreement.

One day, he read 2 Corinthians 7:10:

> *"For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation."*

He realized: He'd never felt godly sorrow.

He'd never repented. He'd believed facts about Jesus. But he'd never turned from his sin and TO Jesus.

He'd been living a lie for twenty years. And for the first time, he broke. He wept over his sin. He turned from his sin.

He turned to Jesus. And he was saved. Not twenty years earlier when he "believed."

But that day.

When he repented.

The Simple Truth

What Repentance Is NOT:

- Not sinless perfection
- Not earning salvation
- Not cleaning yourself up before coming to Jesus
- Not never sinning again

What Repentance IS:

- Godly sorrow over sin (2 Corinthians 7:10)
- Turning FROM sin (Acts 26:20)
- Turning TO God (Acts 26:20)
- Changed life (Acts 26:20, Luke 3:8)
- Confession and forsaking sin (Proverbs 28:13)

You don't clean yourself up and THEN come to Jesus.

You come to Jesus in repentance - turning from sin and TO Him - and HE cleans you up.

But you can't come to Jesus saying: "I want Your forgiveness, but I'm keeping my sin."

That's not repentance. That's not faith.

That's not salvation.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever felt godly sorrow over your sin? Not just regret at consequences - but grief that you offended God?

2. Have you turned from your sin and to God? Or did you just intellectually agree with facts about Jesus?

3. If someone looked at your life, would they see "deeds appropriate to repentance"? Changed behavior? A changed heart?

4. If you've never repented - if you've just "believed" without turning from sin - are you really saved?

5. What will you do now?

A Final Word

For anyone reading this who realizes: "I've believed facts about Jesus, but I've never actually repented..."

It's not too late.

God is calling you to repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:10 -*"For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation."*

Feel the weight of your sin.

Not just what it's cost you. But what it cost Him.

Turn from it. Turn to Him.

Acts 3:19 -*"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away."*

Repent.

Not to earn forgiveness. But to receive it. And when you do, you'll know:

You didn't just change your mind about Jesus.

Jesus changed your heart.

And that changes everything.

STUDY #5: "Backsliding with Guaranteed Return"

Can you walk away from Jesus and still be saved?

Someone "got saved" years ago.

Prayed the prayer. Walked the aisle. Got baptized.

But now?

They haven't prayed in months. Haven't opened a Bible in years. Don't go to church.

They live however they want. Chase the same things the world chases. No fruit. No change. No Jesus.

When someone suggests they might not be saved, they respond:

"I'm once saved, always saved. I got saved when I was 12. I can't lose my salvation. God will bring me back eventually."

But what if that's not biblical?

The Common Teaching

Here's what millions have been taught:

"Once you're saved, you can walk away from Jesus and still be saved. You can backslide indefinitely and God will still take you to heaven."

Where Does This Show Up?

1. Charles Stanley

SOURCE: "Eternal Security: Can You Be Sure?" (1990)

> *"Even if a believer for all practical purposes becomes an unbeliever, his salvation is not in jeopardy... believers who lose or abandon their faith will retain their salvation."*

Key claim: You can abandon faith completely and still be saved.

2. "Once Saved, Always Saved" Proponents

Common teaching in Baptist and many evangelical churches:

- "If you were truly saved, you'll go to heaven no matter what"
- "You can backslide for years and God will still save you"
- "The prodigal son came back - you will too"
- "God's promises are unconditional"

But Here's the Problem

Scripture warns repeatedly about falling away.

Hebrews 3:12-14

> *"Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God... For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end."*

"**Falls away from the living God**"

"**IF we hold fast... until the end**"

Not automatic. Conditional.

Hebrews 6:4-6

> *"For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance."*

People who:

- Were enlightened
- Tasted the heavenly gift
- Were partakers of the Holy Spirit
- Tasted God's word

Can **FALL AWAY.**

And it says "**impossible to renew them again to repentance**."

Not "they'll definitely come back."

Hebrews 10:26-27

> *"For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries."*

"If **we** go on sinning willfully"

"**No longer remains a sacrifice**"

"**Terrifying expectation of judgment**"

Not "you're still saved."

2 Peter 2:20-22

> *"For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them."*

People who escaped defilements through Jesus.

Can return to sin.

And Peter says: "**It would be better for them NOT TO HAVE KNOWN the way**."

Not "they're still saved."

John 15:1-6 (Jesus' Words)

> *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away... If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned."*

Branches **IN CHRIST** can be taken away.

Thrown into the fire.

Burned.

Matthew 24:10-13

> *"At that time many will fall away... But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."*

Many will FALL AWAY.

Salvation requires **ENDURING TO THE END.**

Not "you're guaranteed to return."

Colossians 1:21-23

> *"He has now reconciled you... to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast."*

"**IF you continue in the faith**"

Not automatic.

A Real Example

A man "got saved" at age 14.

Prayed the prayer. Walked the aisle. Got baptized.

At age 18, he walked away.

Stopped going to church. Stopped praying. Stopped reading Scripture.

For twenty years, he lived like the world.

Got drunk. Chased women. Chased money. Lived for himself.

No fruit. No change. No Jesus.

But he wasn't worried.

He thought: "I got saved when I was 14. Once saved, always saved. I'm good."

At age 38, he had a heart attack.

In the hospital, facing death, he read Hebrews 10:26:

> *"If we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins."*

Terror hit him.

He'd been sinning willfully for twenty years.

And Scripture says: **"No longer remains a sacrifice."**

He realized: **He wasn't saved.**

He'd walked away from Christ.

And God hadn't "brought him back."

He repented - genuinely, desperately.

And God saved him.

Not because he was "still saved."

But because he **repented and returned.**

Questions That Expose This Teaching

1. If you can't fall away, why does Hebrews 3:12 warn "that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God"?

2. If you're guaranteed to return, why does Hebrews 6:6 say it's "impossible to renew them again to repentance"?

3. If salvation is unconditional, why does Jesus say "the one who endures to the end, he will be saved"?

4. If branches in Christ can't be removed, why does Jesus say they are "thrown into the fire and burned"?

5. If those who walked away are still saved, why does 2 Peter 2:21 say "it would be better for them not to have known the way"?

The Simple Truth

Can a true believer stumble? YES.

Can a true believer sin? YES.

Can a true believer struggle? YES.

Can a true believer ABANDON CHRIST and still be saved? NO.

Salvation requires:

- Faith that ENDURES to the end (Matthew 24:13)
- ABIDING in Christ (John 15:6)
- CONTINUING in the faith (Colossians 1:23)
- HOLDING FAST to the end (Hebrews 3:14)

- Not falling away (Hebrews 6:6)

Reflection Questions

1. Are you abiding in Christ right now? Or have you walked away?

2. If you haven't prayed, read Scripture, or followed Jesus in months or years - are you really saved?

3. If your life looks exactly like the world - no fruit, no change, no Jesus - what does that say about your salvation?

4. Are you counting on a prayer you prayed years ago while living in rebellion now?

5. What will you do now?

A Final Word

For anyone reading this who realizes: "I walked away from Jesus years ago and haven't returned..."

It's not too late.

But you're not "still saved."

You need to return.

Not because you never left.

But because God is **willing to receive you IF you repent.**

Luke 15:18-20

> *"I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' So he got up and came to his father."*

The prodigal son came back **in repentance.**

Not confident he was "still a son."

But broken over his sin.

And the father received him.

Return.

Repent.

Come back to Jesus.

Not because you're "guaranteed to."

But because He's **calling you to.**

And if you don't... you will perish.

STUDY #6: "Deathbed Conversion Guarantee"

Can you live however you want and repent at the last minute?

Someone lives their whole life for themselves.

Chases money. Chases pleasure. Chases success.

Ignores God. Ignores Scripture. Ignores the Gospel.

And when someone challenges them, they say:

"I'll get right with God someday. I've got time. Look at the thief on the cross - he got saved at the last minute. I will too."

But what if that's not guaranteed?

The Common Teaching

Here's what people believe:

"You can live however you want your whole life, then repent at the last minute and be saved. God will always give you a deathbed moment to get right with Him."

Where Does This Show Up?

1. Popular Evangelicalism (Implied)

While not explicitly taught, this belief is widespread:

- "You have until your last breath"
- "God will give you one more chance"
- "The thief on the cross got saved at the last minute - so can you"

2. Gospel Presentations That Overemphasize the Thief

Many sermons and tracts use the thief to suggest:

- You can wait until the end
- No preparation needed

- One moment of faith is enough, regardless of your life

3. Cultural Christianity

Movies, stories, testimonies featuring:

- Hardened sinners who "get saved" moments before death
- Atheists who convert on their deathbed
- The implication that this is normal and expected

But Here's the Problem

Scripture screams: TODAY. Not tomorrow.

Proverbs 1:24-28

> *"Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention... Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but they will not find me, because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD."*

"I called and you **refused**"

"Then they will call on me, but **I will not answer**"

There comes a point where it's too late.

Proverbs 29:1

> *"A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy."*

"**Beyond remedy**"

Not "one more chance at the end."

2 Corinthians 6:2

> *"Behold, NOW is 'THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,' behold, NOW is 'THE DAY OF SALVATION'"*

NOW.

Not "you'll have time at the end."

NOW.

Hebrews 3:7-8, 15

> *"Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."*

TODAY.

Not tomorrow. Not your deathbed.

TODAY.

Luke 13:24-27

"Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'"

Once the door is **SHUT**.

People will knock.

And Jesus will say: **"I do not know you."**

Matthew 25:10-12 (Parable of the Ten Virgins)

> *"And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'"*

Five virgins weren't ready.

They tried to get ready **at the last minute.**

The door was **SHUT.**

"**I do not know you.**"

Isaiah 55:6

> *"Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near."*

"**WHILE He may be found**"

"**WHILE He is near**"

Implying there's a time when He **WON'T** be found.

Genesis 6:3

> *"Then the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever.'"*

God's Spirit doesn't strive **forever.**

There's a **limit.**

Real Examples from Scripture

The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

The rich man lived selfishly.

He died.

He went to torment.

There was NO deathbed repentance.

There was NO second chance.

There was a "great chasm fixed."

The Flood (Genesis 6-7)

God warned through Noah for 120 years.

People mocked.

Then the door of the ark was **SHUT.**

And the rain came.

And they died.

No deathbed salvation.

The Man Who Built Bigger Barns (Luke 12:16-21)

A rich man planned for the future: "I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones..."

But God said: "**You fool! This very night your soul is required of you.**"

No warning.

No deathbed moment.

THAT NIGHT.

The Thief on the Cross - Properly Understood

YES, the thief on the cross was saved at the last moment.

But:

1. He was under the Old Covenant

Jesus hadn't died yet. The church hadn't been established. Christian baptism didn't exist.

2. He REPENTED

"We are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

3. He CONFESSED Jesus as Lord

"Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom."

4. He had NO opportunity

He was physically nailed to a cross. He couldn't be baptized. He couldn't do anything.

5. This is the EXCEPTION, not the RULE

After Pentecost, every single person who was saved was baptized immediately.

The thief is NOT proof that you can:

- Live however you want
- Wait until the end
- Expect a deathbed moment

The Dangers of Waiting

1. You Don't Know When You'll Die

Heart attack. Car accident. Stroke. Aneurysm.

Many people die with NO warning.

NO deathbed moment.

2. Your Heart Gets Harder

Every time you say "not today," your heart hardens.

Proverbs 29:1 - "**hardened beyond remedy**"

3. Sin Deceives You

Hebrews 3:13 - "hardened by the deceitfulness of sin"

Sin promises "you have time."

Sin lies.

4. You Might Not Want to Repent

Living in sin changes you.

You might reach the end and NOT WANT to repent.

You might love your sin more than God.

5. God's Spirit May Stop Striving

Genesis 6:3 - "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever"

Romans 1:24, 26, 28 - "God gave them over"

There comes a point where God stops calling.

A Modern Example

A man lived his whole life for himself.

He heard the Gospel dozens of times.

But he always said: "Not today. I'll get right with God someday. The thief on the cross did it - so can I."

At age 52, he had a massive heart attack.

Dead before the ambulance arrived.

No deathbed moment.

No last chance.

He gambled with his soul.

And he lost.

The Questions That Expose This Teaching

1. If you're guaranteed a deathbed moment, why does Scripture say "NOW is the day of salvation"?

2. If God will always answer at the end, why does Proverbs 1:28 say "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer"?

3. If the door is always open, why does Jesus say it will be "shut" and "I do not know you"?

4. If you can wait, why does Scripture repeatedly say "TODAY" and "WHILE He may be found"?

5. If there's always more time, why does James 4:14 say your life is "a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes"?

The Simple Truth

Can God save someone on their deathbed?

YES.

Should you COUNT on it?

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

Your life is a vapor.

Here today. Gone tomorrow.

Don't presume you'll have time.

Don't gamble with your soul.

TODAY is the day.

Reflection Questions

1. Are you waiting for "someday" to get right with God?

2. If you died today - right now - where would you go?

3. Are you counting on a deathbed moment that might never come?

4. If Scripture says "TODAY" and you say "tomorrow" - who are you obeying?

5. What will you do NOW?

A Final Word

For anyone reading this who has been waiting...

Waiting for "someday."

Waiting for "when I'm ready."

Waiting for "the right time."

TODAY is the right time. NOW is the acceptable time.

2 Corinthians 6:2

> *"Behold, NOW is 'THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,' behold, NOW is 'THE DAY OF SALVATION'"*

Not tomorrow. Not someday. Not on your deathbed.

NOW.

Hebrews 3:15

> *"Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."*

You're hearing His voice right now.

Don't harden your heart.

Don't say "tomorrow."

Repent.

Believe.

Be baptized.

Follow Jesus.

TODAY.

Because tomorrow might not come.

And if it does...

The door might be shut.

And you might be outside...

Knocking...

Hearing those terrifying words:

"I do not know you."