

# THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

April 5, 2009

## Adam's Response To A Baptist Pastor--4

**Question 3-** *“If my past sins are forgiven when I am baptized in water, and it is possible for me to ‘lose my salvation’ and go to hell after I have been baptized, then wouldn’t my best chance of going to heaven be to **drown in the baptistry?!!--before I had a chance to sin so as to be lost again? If I wanted to be absolutely sure of heaven, isn’t that the best opportunity?”***

Since several of the remaining questions deal with baptism and will be discussed in detail as we continue, I will simply deal with losing one’s salvation in this answer. Is it possible for one to fall away from Jesus Christ after their initial salvation? Yes, it is. Hebrews 2:1-3; 3:12; 6:4-6; and 10:26-32 serve as just a few examples where losing one’s salvation is shown to be a very real possibility.

Mr. Martin and those like him have it in their minds that if it *is* possible for one to fall away from grace (the *exact* phrase used by Paul in Galatians 5:4, by the way), then a Christian can never know at any given time whether they are saved, and what a terrifying life that must be. Again we must rely on them to insert that information into Scripture because the Holy Spirit never did. In fact, quite the contrary is stated in 1 John 2:3-6. **“And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. Whoever says, ‘I know Him’ but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in Him; whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.”** Mr. Martin implies that we can never be absolutely sure of heaven unless we *drown in the baptistry!* John states quite the opposite, he asserts that we *can* know that we are saved by keeping His commandments and walking as Christ walked (1 Peter 2:21).

Mr. Martin may go on to say, as many Baptist’s have said in the past, “This would mean that we have to walk sinlessly as Christ walked. We simply cannot be perfect and sinless *all of the time* as was Christ. Thus we are right back where we started. It *would* be best for a person just to drown in the baptistry!” Fortunately for the Christian, provision has been made for those occasions when he sins and falls short of the glory of God. The Christian can receive forgiveness of his sins by repenting and confessing them to God. Is this something that we simply make up to support some preconceived notion, theory, or idea? Absolutely not. It is precisely what the Scriptures teach for the Christian who has sinned. Note Peter’s words to Simon from Acts 8:22. **“Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.”** Do

not forget that Simon was a Christian when these words were said (verse 13). Note also 1 John 1:9, a verse that we will discuss in much greater detail in answering a later question. **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** Obviously, John was writing to those who were already Christians.

What a truly wonderful blessing it is that we can know at any particular moment that we are saved and we can receive the forgiveness of our sins after baptism by repenting of them and confessing them to God!

**Passage to Remember**

**“Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.’ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me council; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.”** Psalm 16:1-10

In Need of Prayers	General Information
<p>Ron and Sharon Tirey continue to recover.</p> <p>Mildred Collins (David’s mother) is recovering well from her surgery. The family continues to await the results of her Thyroid test.</p> <p>Edwin Brown, a member of the Evendale Church of Christ (the congregation Jackie and I attended in Cincinnati), is in the process of recovering from heart surgery. Please remember him in your prayers.</p> <p>Adam Daniels’ friend, Will Markem, continues to recover from his motorcycle accident.</p>	<p><b>Our Gospel Meeting Begins Today!</b> Brother David Philips is here through Friday to deliver lessons from God’s Word. It is not too late to invite friends, family, or those we work with. Why not attend as many nights as we can to support the meeting and learn more about those things that please the Lord?</p> <p>The member information sheets are still in the back. If you have yet to fill one out, please do so and return it to Garry Banks. Please remember that husbands and wives (and children, as the case may be) should fill out individual sheets so as to avoid confusion. When all the sheets are received, we can begin updating the directory. Thanks!</p>

