



Don't Claim The Bible Says It ... Part 3 by Gerald Cowan

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

DON'T CLAIM THE BIBLE SAYS IT IF IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY SAY IT - Part 3

There's a nearly inexhaustible pool of bogus claims about what the Bible says and teaches but we will end out series of examples with this part of our essay. The principle we want to establish is simple: If you say, 'the Bible says' or 'God's word teaches,' or something similar be prepared to say where it says it, where it is taught. Give book, chapter, and verse so that one can read it for himself in God's word. Don't misquote the Lord or any of His inspired writers and writings. We might also add here, don't use an incorrect or invalid translation to make your point. The bewildering number of translations can't all be right if they disagree with each other. Be as sure as you can be that the translation you depend upon is accurate. The fact that a certain translation or "version" outsells other is no guarantee of veracity or authenticity.

In this final segment of the essay we will focus on two errors falsely and erroneously said to be taught in or by the Bible. Both of these matters reveal a problem with the human psyche and spirit, a problem that has been around since the beginning of humanity. The first of the two is how to avoid blame for any and all bad things we do and how to blame God for everything that happens, whether good, bad, or indifferent. The second and last is one of the most egregious and damning false teachings attributed erroneously to the Bible, which continues to confuse and mislead countless truth-seekers. It is one of those matters which some have called a "most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort" – it may be very full of comfort to those believe it, but is so self-evidently wrong, so logically impossible that nobody should be deceived by it.

DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS, INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL SALVATION OR REPROBATION, WAS FOREKNOWN TO GOD AND HAPPENS ACCORDING TO THE PREDETERMINATION AND PREDESTINATION OF THE SOVEREIGN GOD? IT DOES NOT SAY THAT.

Shifting the blame and claiming "it wasn't my fault – it isn't my fault" doesn't make you innocent. The Bible does say, in **Genesis 1:26-31**, and **Genesis 2:15-25** that God created the first man and then the first woman, perfectly equipped for all that He asked or commanded them to do and to be. He gave them dominion over His creation, placed them in a perfect environment, charged them with tending the garden and commanded that they never eat from one specifically identified tree – the penalty, if they disobeyed Him, was death. Then a cunning and crafty tempter entered the picture – spoken of in Genesis as a serpent (**Genesis 3:1**) but identified elsewhere as the devil Satan, the ubiquitous tempter deceiver (**1 Timothy 2:14**) disguised as a serpent. He put a plausible spin on what God had said, confused the woman who induced the man to join her in disobedience and both suffered immediate

consequences, not all of which have yet been withdrawn. (We may wonder why he started with the woman and not the man — I will not suggest the reason though I do have some ideas about it. Their “want to” got in the way of their “ought to.” They wanted something more than they feared God, and so they followed someone who offered to give them what they really wanted). What they learned led to shame, remorse, regret, and fear so that they tried to hide from God what they had done and what had happened. The Lord God put all three – the man, the woman, and the serpent – on trial (**Genesis 3:1-18**). Then the shifting of the blame began.

To Adam: “Why have you done this?”

Adam’s answer: “It isn’t my fault. That woman You gave me; it’s her fault” (also implied here: it’s Your fault for giving me that woman).

To Eve: “What have you done, and why did you do it?”

Eve’s answer: “It’s not my fault. The serpent deceived me and so I did it.”

To the serpent – no question, because obviously it didn’t have a leg to stand on – its guilt was simply stated and the results of its treachery would have devastating consequences for itself (by implication the evil one in it and using it – Satan himself) and for all humanity. But through humanity (interestingly enough, through the woman, not the man) would come the instrument of Satan’s own destruction.

Blame shifting man thinks he has found a way to blame God for the belief that man’s troubles are all by the sovereign will and predetermined action of God. According to the doctrine every person born into the world – remember, Adam and Eve were created, not born – comes from Adam and Eve and are encumbered with the guilt, the loss of freedom of will or ability to choose anything for oneself, but must accept whatever God has foreordained, whether it be heaven or hell. So man can complain and cry out to God, “Why did you make me this way?” But man cannot do anything to change his ultimate destiny and end (**Romans 9:18-21**). The ultimate ‘cop out’ is: “I am what I am and I do what I do because God made this way and God makes me do what He wills for me. If I get to heaven it won’t be my personal effort and success, and if I end in hell it won’t be my fault or failure. God already has it all set up and He will work it out according to His will.” Nonsense! Every request, requirement, or command of God implies the ability and freedom to choose whether to obey it or not. Consequences and results are announced for those who do and those who do not do what God specifies. Since you do not automatically know these things of the Lord you should search His word for yourself to find them. Do not depend upon what ‘somebody says’ the Bible says. Insist on seeing and reading it for yourself in the Bible.

DOES THE BIBLE SAY ONCE YOU ARE SAVED YOU ARE ALWAYS SAVED AND CANNOT EVER BE LOST AGAIN? IT DOES NOT SAY THAT.

Let us get right to the point here with some scripture references the advocates of “once saved always saved” fumble and stumble over but cannot answer or refute, so they deflect and obfuscate. Please pause here and read carefully **1 John 1:1-10**; **Hebrews 6:1-4**; **2 Peter 2:20-22** – note that they are addressed to persons who were already saved, people of God, not to pagan non-Christians. Read also **Ezekiel 18:20-32** which was addressed not to strangers and aliens but to covenant people of God. In each case those addressed are once-saved and fully saved who have become or are in danger of becoming unsaved again.

The persons addressed are not untaught but have been fully taught and have come to know and fully understand the will of God, have tasted and experienced the benefits and blessings, even the promises and powers of the Holy Spirit. They are warned

against continuing in or returning to the sins and penalties from which they had been freed. Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound? God forbid! (**Romans 6:1-2**). One who has been born of God cannot continue sinning (**1 John 3:9**) Both John and Peter warn against engaging in new or additional sins. The wages (penalty and consequences) of sin are still and always spiritual death (**Romans 6:23**). There is no hint that, though some rewards may be reduced or lost by unfaithfulness to one's commitment to God's way, yet one's great salvation and promised place in heaven will never be withdrawn from one who has once believed and accepted them as God's "gift."

The warning is: Even if and when one is fully saved and born again into the family and fellowship of God in Christ unrepented and unforgiven sins committed after that will result in death to God again and, this time, one's condition will be worse than before he was saved and born again (**2 Peter 2:20**). The words from **Ezekiel 18** are of critical importance here. If one sins he dies. If he does righteousness he lives. Note: if one has a prior long-standing or lifetime history of sin and wickedness but he turns from it and does what God accepts as righteous, in his new righteousness he will live. All the now-forgiven sins of his past will not be remembered against him – in his righteousness he remains alive to God. How comforting that is! But remember: he must continue in his righteousness in order to stay alive. If he remains faithful for a long time but then turns from it and indulges in sin, in his sin he will die – all his past righteousness will not be remembered and will not save him; in his sin he will die to God again. That is terrifying! Where is one headed before his conversion to Christ? To hell. After his conversion where is he headed? To heaven. But if he has a reversion, abandoning his conversion and leaving the pathway to heaven, where is he headed? To hell again.

There will always be some seducing spirits (Satan's ministers) preaching doctrines of demons, tickling your itching ears and telling you exactly what you want to hear (**1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:3-4**). If you listen to them you will become a willing accomplice in your own deception and destruction. As Satan said to Eve, "Yeah, did the Lord really say that?" And the devil's servant will say to you, "God won't let you be lost. He wants you to be happy and He doesn't want to lose you, so He won't deprive you of salvation." The fact is, God will grieve over losing you (**Ezekiel 18:32**), but He will let you go if you choose to leave Him (compare Jesus in **John 6:66-67**) You'd better make sure you are listening to God, not to Satan, and not just to somebody who tells you what you want to hear and are willing to believe.

—-- *Gerald Cowan, Personal Periodicals Number 661, August 8, 2021*