

**Public Debate January 10-11, 2003, Between
John T. Polk II (Church of Christ) & Jerry King (Baptist)
Propositions And Places For The Debate Are As Follows:**

**Proposition #1
7 PM, January 10, 2003,
Trenton Church of Christ, 1714 College St, Trenton, TN**

RESOLVED: The Scriptures teach that a child of God, one who has been saved by the blood of Christ, can sin so as to be finally lost.

AFFIRM: _____ **DENY:** _____
John T. Polk II **Jerry King**

**Proposition #2
7 PM, January 11, 2003,
True Gospel Baptist Church, 700 Greenwood St, Union City, TN**

RESOLVED: The Scriptures teach that water baptism of the penitent believers is not for the remission of (his or her) past sins.

AFFIRM: _____ **DENY:** _____
Jerry King **John T. Polk II**

Rules For Public Debate January 10-11, 2003

1. Each debater will open his 1st speech with 3 minutes not charged to his speech time.
2. Each proposition will be carried for one (1) night.
3. Each evening's debate will consist of one 20-minute speech by each side followed by a 10-minute intermission; then another 20-minute speech by each side followed by a 10-minute intermission; then a 40-minute Question & Answer with questions from the audience.
4. A speaker may ask his opponent up to 3 questions, according to the time restraints.
5. During the Question & Answer session, audience members may ask questions from the floor with the stipulation that **the first and third questions will first be addressed to the Affirmative speaker** for the evening. After his reply of no more than 5 minutes, the opponent will be given up to 5 minutes to reply to the same question. **The second and fourth questions from the audience will first be addressed to the Negative speaker** for the evening with the same pattern to be followed as above.
6. Each speaker shall be responsible for his own video and/audio taping of the proceedings, with the understanding that this may be shared with each other to ensure each a usable copy.
7. There shall be no printed material pertaining to the debate subjects made available to the audience by either side.
8. There shall be no demonstrations (such as heckling or other willful disruptions) tolerated from the audience at any time.
9. A point of order may be called by a moderator or speaker for a breach of these rules, and the present speaker's time will be halted until the point of order is settled.

(It was a Gentlemen's agreement that both speakers would rely upon the King James Version of the Bible)

Polk's 1st Affirmative Notes

I. INTRODUCTION Comments

A. Defining the Proposition

RESOLVED: The Scriptures teach that a child of God, one who has been saved by the blood of Christ, can sin so as to be finally lost.

- "Scriptures" = 66 inspired books of the Old and New Testaments
- "teach" = impart knowledge by direct statements or Scriptural conclusions
- "child of God" = as defined in the proposition, "saved by the blood of Christ" and therefore one who has changed spiritual state from darkness to light (**Colossians 1:13**)
- "can" = the possibility exists
- "so sin" = transgress God's Law, practice unrighteousness
- "finally lost" = eternally condemned in Hell

B. Defining The Tasks

I am in complete affirmation of this proposition, believing this is precisely what the Scriptures teach. Jerry King has signed to negate this proposition, believing that I am in error on this doctrine.

His duty as the Negative in this discussion of the evening, will be to first, deal with my arguments and prove they are not what the Scriptures teach; and second, to present some argument that he feels sustains his opposite belief.

- He must NOT simply try to prove his case, for I am in the affirmative tonight, and he signed his commitment to be in the negative;
- He must NOT array Scripture against Scripture, for that is the work of the infidel and agnostic, and I firmly believe that the Bible does not contradict itself;
- He must NOT deal with other subjects which may be of interest but are of no value to understanding the proposition this evening;
- He must NOT mis-use this opportunity and abuse your sincere interest in this subject by "testifying or witnessing" to his Baptist Church, for the signed statement is over what "the Scriptures teach."

C. CHART: WHAT IS THE ISSUE BETWEEN US

WE ARE NOT DISCUSSING:

- Whether the Church of Christ OR the Baptist Church is right;
- Any other doctrine of either church than "once-saved-always-saved;"
- What God can do. The Negative cannot produce passages dealing with what God does in Heaven, and ignore the passages I produce which speak of man's God-given duties to remain faithful;

WE DO NOT HAVE AN ISSUE OVER:

- Whether a child of God, Believer, Faithful, Disciple, etc. shall be saved;
- Whether faith saves; a person is saved by his/her own righteousness;
- Whether Christians may now "have eternal life" in some sense.

CF 1 John 1:1-3: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, **of the Word of life;** **2** (For **the life was manifested,** and we have seen it, and bear witness, and **shew unto you that eternal life,** which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) **3** That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, **that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."**

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US IS THAT:

I maintain, however, that it is a conditional promise of God that will be ultimately realized.

1 John 2:24-25: "Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. **If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life."**

Jerry King's doctrine gives all of eternal life unconditionally to the Believer at the split second of faith, and that there is nothing that can be done to affect that!

I maintain that, God promises eternal life conditionally, and that while on earth, the believer can lost his/her belief and change the destiny of the soul in eternity.

AFFIRMATIVE CHART #1

THE BIBLE SAYS "IF" ("If" Is A Conditional Word)

I John's "If's"

1John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

1John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

1John 2:24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

1John 2:29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him. {ye know that every: or, know ye etc.} {is born: Gr. has been born}

1John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

1John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

1John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, [then] have we confidence toward God.

1John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

1John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

1John 5:9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

1John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: {in: or, concerning}

1John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1John 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin [which is] not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

IF SALVATION IS CERTAIN ON EARTH, WHY WOULD GOD HAVE STRESSED "IF"?

AFFIRMATIVE CHART #2A

**Who Says A Child Of God Can
So Sin As To Be Finally Lost?**

Jesus

Luke 8:13- "They on the rock are they, which, when they **hear, receive the word** with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while believe**, and in time of temptation **fall away.**"

Prophets

Ezekiel 18:24 "But when **the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity**, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: **in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.**"

Apostles

Paul

Romans 8:12-13: "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. **13** For **if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die:** but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

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

Peter

2 Peter 3:17: "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness."

James

James 2:8-9: "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."

John

1 John 2:1-2: "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 5:16: "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."

Jude

Jude 4: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

AFFIRMATIVE CHART #2B

**WHO SAYS A CHILD OF GOD CAN
NOT SO SIN AS TO BE FINALLY LOST?**

DEVIL

GENESIS 3:4

JOHN 8:44

2 CORINTHIANS 11:3

CARNAL JEWS

JEREMIAH 7:8-10

WORLDLY CHRISTIAN

I CORINTHIANS 3:1-4

NICOLAITANES REVELATION 2:6, 15

ROMANS 6:1-2

JERRY KING'S DOCTRINE

AFFIRMATIVE CHART #3

Jesus' Deity Speaks Of Future As Present

John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son **hath** everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

John 6:47 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me **hath** everlasting life."

John 6:54 "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **hath** eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

[Question: Did Those Who Believed In Jesus Before He Was Crucified Receive Eternal Life Without His Cross?]

The past tense is used by Jesus of future events, to emphasize the certainty of their outcome. Consider the following examples:

When Were "All Things" Put Under Jesus?

"The Father loveth the Son, and **hath given all things into his hand.**"

(John 3:35).

- But the writer to the Hebrews explicitly states, "**But now we see not yet all things put under him.**" **(Hebrews 2:8).**
- "For he hath put all things under his feet. But **when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.**" **(1 Corinthians 15:27)**

When Did Jesus "Finish" His Work On Earth?

"I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

(John 17:4).

- But Jesus **had yet to die** "for our sins according to the Scriptures." **(1 Corinthians 15:3).**

It Denies Jesus' Deity To Make "Everlasting Life" Present In Passages Like These, As King's Doctrine Does!

AFFIRMATIVE CHART #4

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL'S APOSTASY & LESSON FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY

Psalm 106:7-26

v. 7-11

God saved them "through the depths of the Red Sea"

v. 12

They believed His words

v. 13-22

"They soon forgot His works" and sinned

v. 23

"Therefore He said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest He should destroy them." Cf v. 26

v. 24

"They believed not His word"

I Corinthians 10:1-12

v. 1-4

"all" baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the Sea

Hebrews 11:29

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea"

v. 6-10

lusted after evil things, fornication, tempt Christ, murmuring

v. 5

with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness

v. 11-12

"written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come"

Hebrews 3:7-15

7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 **Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation,** in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, **They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.** 11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 **Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.** 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; **lest any of you be hardened** through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 **For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;** 15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

AFFIRMATIVE CHART #5

CHRISTIANS MAY SHRINK TO DAMNATION

Hebrews 10:36-39: "For ye have need of patience, that, **after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.**

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. **38 Now the just shall live by faith:** but if **any man** draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. **39** But **we are not of them who draw back unto perdition;** but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

"Perdition" [Greek, *ἀπωλεία*] "consists in the loss of eternal life, eternal misery" (*Thayer's Greek Lexicon*, p. 71) and is in:

2 Peter 3:7 "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and **perdition** of ungodly men."

2 Peter 3:16 "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own **destruction.**"

What Sin(s) Can A Child Of God Commit And Be Saved?

1. Calling a brother "Thou fool"?

Matthew 5:22 "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with **his brother** without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall **say to his brother**, "Raca," shall be in danger of the council: but **whosoever shall say, "Thou fool," shall be in danger of hell fire."**

2. Defiling practices?

Matthew 15:19 "For out of the heart proceed **evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:** **these are the things which defile a man:** but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man."

3. Works of the flesh?

Galatians 5:19-21

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:** of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, **that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."**

***But, How Can Anyone Be Saved
Who Is In Hell Fire, Defiled,
Not In The Kingdom Of God?***

If The World Is Lost For Unbelief John 3:18;

And Christians Are Saved For Belief Mark 16:16;

Does King Preach Purgatory For Sinning Christians?

**If King's Doctrine Is What Is Taught In I John 3:9
He Will Sustain It With Damning Consequences!**

I. He Must Say: "God disciplines/punishes the child of God on earth, but not forever in Hell."

Then A Child Of God Can Walk In Darkness On Earth But Not Forever

1 John 1:6: "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, **we lie, and do not the truth.**"

**II. OR He Must Say: "It is impossible for a child of God to sin."
*Then The Child Of God Is A Liar!***

1 John 1:8: "If we say that we have no sin, **we deceive ourselves,** and the **truth is not in us.**"

III. OR He Must Say: "The child of God (spirit) cannot sin, but the body (flesh) does."

Then The Spirit Cannot Confess Christ Or Sin!

1 John 1:9: "If **we confess our sins,** he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to **cleans us from all unrighteousness.**"

IV. OR He Must Say: "God does not count a child of God's sins."

Then God Is A Liar!

1 John 1:10: "If we say that we have not sinned, **we make him a liar,** and **his word is not in us.**"

1 John 3:9 CANNOT TEACH THAT ONCE A PERSON BECOMES A "CHILD OF GOD," THERE IS NO SIN IN HIS/HER LIFE ON EARTH, EVER, AGAIN (A.K.A. "ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED"), FOR THEN IT CONTRADICTS 1 JOHN 1!

1 John 3:6-10: "[1] **Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not:** whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. [2] **He that committeth sin is of the devil;** for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. [3] **Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin;** for His seed remaineth in him: and [4] **he cannot sin, because he is born of God.** In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: [5] **whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,** neither he that loveth not his brother."

NOTE: [1] present, constant action of abiding (**verse 6** says the same as **verse 9**); [2] present, constant action of sinning; [3] a "child of God" does not choose to commit sin inconsistent with the "seed" (a.k.a. God's Word) in him/her; [4] "cannot" continuously commit sin "because" (for the reason) it is inconsistent with being "a child of God;" [5] present, constant action of righteousness

ETERNAL LIFE CANNOT BE FULLY CLAIMED "ON EARTH"

I. Eternal Life Is A Promise

1 John 2:25: "And this is **the promise** that He hath promised us, even **eternal life**"

II. Eternal Life Is A Hope

Titus 1:1-2: "Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began"

Titus 3:7 "That being justified by His grace, we should be made **heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**"

III. Hope Has Not Been Seen Or Completely Realized

Romans 8:24-25: "For we are saved by hope: but **hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25** But **if we hope** for that we see not, **then do we with patience wait for it.**"

IV. Christian Armor Includes A Helmet Of Hope

Ephesians 6:17: "And take the **helmet of salvation**"

1 Thessalonians 5:8: "For a **helmet the hope of salvation**"

V. Eternal Life Is Ultimately A Future Experience

Rom. 13:11: ". . . for now is our salvation nearer **than when we believed.**"

How can it be "nearer" if we already have it?

Heb. 1:14: "Angels are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for **them who shall be heirs of salvation.**"

An heir does not presently possess the inheritance.

1 Peter 1:4-5: "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you,**

5 Who are kept by the power of God **through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**"

A Christian's inheritance is "in heaven" NOT on earth.

Jesus' Parable Of The Sower Teaches That Believers Can "Fall Away"

Matthew 13:20-21: "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is **he that heareth the word**, and anon with joy **receiveth it**; **21** Yet hath he not root in himself, but **dureth for a while**: for when **tribulation or persecution** ariseth because of the word, by and by he is **offended.**"

Mark 4:16-17: "And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when **they have heard the word**, immediately **receive it** with gladness; **17** And have no root in themselves, and so **endure but for a time**: afterward, when **affliction or persecution** ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are **offended.**"

Luke 8:13: "They on the rock are they, which, when **they hear, receive the word** with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while believe**, and **in time of temptation fall away.**"

"Fall away" [Greek, ἀφίσταμι] is also used in:

1 Timothy 4:1: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall **depart from** the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils"

1 Timothy 6:5: "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such **withdraw** thyself."

NEGATIVE CHART #5

***If Eternal Salvation Occurs With "Instant Faith,"
Then King Must Account For These Scriptures:***

- 1. Mark 10:30:** "But **he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time**, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; **and in the world to come eternal life.**"
- 2. Romans 6:22:** "But **now being made free from sin**, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, **and the end everlasting life.**"
- 3. 1 Timothy 4:8:** "godliness is profitable unto all things, **having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.**"