

## The Truth about the "Once Saved – Always Saved" Doctrine Greg Gwin

Occasionally we find individuals who do not understand the full impact of the "once saved - always saved" doctrine which is taught in many denominations. If you have any doubt about what is meant, read this rather famous quote by Sam Morris, who was the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Stamford, Texas:

*We take the position that a Christian's sins do not damn his soul! The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul. . . All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer; and all the sins he may commit from idolatry to murder will not make his soul in any more danger. . . The way a man lives has nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul.*

(from *The Possibility of Apostasy*, by C. R. Nichol, pg. 74)

There you have it! Mr. Morris' statement is too plain to be misunderstood – once saved, there is absolutely nothing you can do that would result in the loss of your soul. But, the apostle Paul said he constantly exercised self-control "lest . . . I myself should be a castaway" (1 Cor. 9:27) Why should he bother, if this doctrine is true? Peter described Christians who would become "entangled" and "overcome" with the "pollutions of the world", and he said "the latter end is worse with them than the beginning" (I Pet. 2:20-22). Clearly then, "once saved - always saved" is a false doctrine that will cost men their souls.