

UNTO THE END

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“BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL
BE SAVED” (MTH. 24:13)

The Judas Argument

By Bro. Jim

One of the biggest lies in the church today is that once a person is born again, no matter what, he cannot lose his salvation. This is the so called “Eternal Security” doctrine and it is a doctrine of devils, pure and simple, **“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 Tim. 4:1).** The whole aim of this doctrine is to get a Christian comfortable and at ease in his walk. Once a Christian is at ease, he will be in sin. This is why we are commanded to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” Phil. 2:12 and to “earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints” Jude 1:3 and again, “labor to enter into your rest” Heb. 4:11. These three passages alone, and there are numerous others like them, clearly show that the Christian walk is a walk of labor and self-denial which is at the polar end of the spectrum from being “at ease”; which the eternal security doctrine lends itself too. Really, if you think that no matter what you do, you will make it into heaven once you are born again, then what’s the point in doing anything? The answer to this is simple: there isn’t a point to do anything at all as humans, in the natural, always take the path of least resistance. But the Christian walk is not the path of least resistance; it’s a difficult road to go which is why Jesus said that before you decide to follow Him, you better count the cost, because it will cost you dearly (Lk. 14:26-33). Anybody who is not willing to

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forsake all to follow Him is not worthy of Him (Mth. 10:37-38). Did not the Apostle Paul echo this same thing when he said, “I count all things but dung that I may win Christ” Phil 3:8?! This coming from a BORN AGAIN believer! That is denial, sacrifice, and working out salvation with fear and trembling right there. Now, I’ve briefly spoken about eternal security doctrine to set up the topic in this particular edition of Unto the End: The Judas Argument. The Apostle Judas, as is well known, killed himself. This presents a serious problem for eternal security folk and is such a dramatic event it cannot be ignored. Since it cannot be ignored most people that believe in eternal security say that Judas didn’t really lose his salvation because he was never saved to begin with. Just the other day I heard it said that not only was he not saved, but he was really a False Apostle, deceiving everybody but Jesus Christ alone. What an amazing thing to say and believe. What lengths people go through to twist scriptures to meet their own doctrine! Let’s use the Word of God and see if Judas was saved and if he was a true or false Apostle. It is my hope that upon conclusion of this article you will see that Judas was an Apostle of the Lamb and that he truly fell away. Sad, but simple truth and it also doubles as a warning to everybody else. Let’s now turn to scriptures and get a picture of Judas.

“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.” Mth. 10:1-4.

So we can see a few things in this passage: Judas was a disciple (vs. 1), he was given power against unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal all manner of sickness and disease (vs.1) and that he was one of the twelve apostles (vs. 2). Let’s add a couple scriptures with this in mind.

Judas was given power over unclean spirits and to lay hands on the sick for healing (Mth. 10:1):

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” Mk. 16:17-18.

Judas was called an apostle, one of the twelve:

**“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”
1Cor. 12:28.**

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Eph. 4:11-12.

Do you see this? Go back and read this again. The BIBLE SAYS Judas Iscariot was a disciple, had power over devils and to heal the sick, WHICH JESUS GRANTED HIM, not the devil, and was AN APOSTLE. IT NEVER says he was a FALSE APOSTLE but rather an apostle. I will publically apologize for being wrong if anybody can show me ONE passage that says Judas Iscariot was a false apostle. Further, putting two and two together: one is called a disciple IF they do what Jesus commands; born again believers are given power over unclean spirits and to lay hands on the sick FROM GOD, an apostle is a GIFT of GOD given to those IN THE BODY. You have to be IN the body to be an apostle. Just like there is no such thing as a pastor who is unsaved or an evangelist who is an unbeliever. Pastors, prophets, evangelist, etc. are Christians. These things are gifts given to THE CHURCH, i.e. born again believers or those that are IN THE BODY. Apostle is a gift, just like pastor, evangelist, etc. You HAVE to be IN THE BODY of CHRIST to be an apostle. Judas Iscariot was called an apostle; Judas Iscariot was called a disciple; Judas Iscariot was given power from Jesus Christ (signs of a believer Mk. 16:16) to cast out devils and heal the sick. How do you get in any of this that Judas wasn’t really “saved”?! How do you get in any of this that Judas was a false apostle?! Don’t ADD TO THE SCRIPTURES, wrestling them to your own destruction (which also tells you, that you can fall away)!!!! Just receive the simplicity of the gospel of Christ. Amen. Let us continue.

“And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.” Mth. 13:10-11.

Notice the demarcation here between “us and them”. The disciples came to Jesus (Judas was in this company) and asked him why He spoke to the crowd or multitude in parables. Jesus answered that he spoke to THEM (multitude) in parables but unto YOU (disciples, including Judas) he spoke plainly because unto the DISCIPLES, INCLUDING JUDAS WHO WAS THERE it was given to know the mysteries of God. Was Jesus lying here? If Judas was false, if he was not really saved, then Jesus lied. He would have looked at the 12 here and said it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. But he would have been thinking, “well, except you Judas, but eh, I don’t want to give away your secret to the group”. Do you think Jesus really had some thought like this? If so, he LIED. God cannot lie. Jesus looked at the 12 apostles (callings of God for those that are IN THE BODY, i.e. SAVED) and told them, (including JUDAS) unto YOU it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God. Unto THEM (multitude) it is NOT. Judas was not part of the “THEM” or multitude. He was part of the YOU, or disciples, apostles. Do you see “false apostle” in all this? Do you get that Judas was just fooling everyone? Do you get that he was really just an unbeliever hiding in the midst? God have mercy if you do, because you cannot get that from this passage. Amen.

“And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.” Ac.1:15-17. (Emphasis mine)

“And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” Ac. 1:24-25. (Emphasis mine)

In this set of passages the Apostles were trying to fill Judas’ shoes. Now, for the record they were not called to do this as God had told them only to “tarry in Jerusalem until the promise comes” (Lk. 24:49). For the record God didn’t pick Matthias as the twelfth apostle, despite the lot falling on him. Men do not “pick” a couple of men and ask God to “choose between them” for placement in the body of Christ. God does the calling, God does the placing (1 Cor. 12:28). God picked Paul to take Judas’ place as the twelfth apostle, but that is for another time. The point is, Peter and the other apostles knew there were to be twelve apostles and knew Judas was gone and so something was amiss. Notice the language used to describe Judas here. It says he was “numbered with us”; “had obtained part of this ministry”; and “fell by transgression”. You have to be somewhere to “fall” from that place. You have to be on a cliff before you can fall from the cliff. You have to be on top of a table before you can fall from the table. In Revelation God tells the BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS IN LAODICEA that they are lukewarm and if they don’t repent he will SPEW THEM OUT OF HIS MOUTH. You have to be IN Christ before you can be SPEWED OUT OF Christ. Judas fell. He was saved and fell. It just cannot be made any clearer than this folks. Amen.

Let's take another passage that people have troubles with and look at it for clarification:

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“Jesus answered them, have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being of one of the twelve.” Jn. 6:70-71.

First of all note that it clearly says Judas was ONE OF THE TWELVE, which is in line with all we have looked at so far. Secondly, notice Jesus says he chose each of the twelve, Judas being ONE OF THEM. As for Jesus saying he was a “devil”, it's simple: God knows what you are going to do before you do it. It's like God has already seen the movie. Not that God caused it to happen, for He wills all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). But that He knows the end from the beginning and declares it (Isa. 46:10); the testimony of Jesus Christ is the Spirit of prophecy, (Rev. 19:10). This is the same as when it declared that God hated Esau before he was ever born (Ro. 9:13). God knew what Esau would do (sell his birthright) before he did it and so, knowing what would happen, declared that He hated Esau before Esau EVER did it. Not that God caused Esau to sell his birthright, but that He knew Esau would sell it one day, and so, God, knowing the end from the beginning, declared that He hated Esau before Esau was ever born. The same thing is going on here with Judas in regards to Jesus' declaration about him. Just because Jesus, knowing the end from the beginning, knows that Judas sells him out and even calls him a devil doesn't mean or imply in any way that Judas was a false Apostle. Men of God have and can sin; it is possible as long as you are in this fleshly tabernacle. Let's take for King David for an example. Here was a man God referred to as a man after God's own heart. Here was a man that was filled with the Spirit of God. Here was a man that walked in faith, that loved God, and that obeyed His commands. David was also a prophet of God. We also know David committed adultery and had Uriah, (Bathsheba's husband) killed (read 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12). So David did unrighteousness; he sinned. But he was still a man after God's own heart and a prophet of God. His sins didn't negate his calling. He confessed his sins and also paid for them to be sure but the point is he was a prophet and man of God. His sins didn't mean he was a false prophet or false man of God if you will. The same goes for Judas. He sinned. He was also an Apostle. Unlike David however, he didn't repent with Godly sorrow and ended up tragically killing himself as a result (similar to King Saul). It's just that simple folks. Amen.

In conclusion we have seen that THE BIBLE says that Judas Iscariot was a disciple, that he was given power to cast out devils and heal the sick by Jesus Christ Himself, that he was in the body as an apostle, that it was given unto him and the other disciples to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, that he had taken part in that ministry and was numbered with the other apostles, and that he FELL. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and sounds like a duck, guess what, it's a duck. It NEVER EVER EVER says he was a false apostle; never says that he duped everyone but Jesus; never says that he was “never saved” etc. That type of talk is psychobabble mish-mash nonsense made up by those that just really don't want to believe you can lose your salvation. Judas Iscariot was saved. Judas Iscariot fell. Judas Iscariot “lost his salvation” just like King Saul, just like Esau, etc. I pray you receive this SIMPLE truth which can make you wise unto salvation. Amen and Amen.

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