



Once Saved, Always Saved?

Paul's instruction to the Corinthians brings to mind the denominational "once saved, always saved" idea. It is not hard to see why this doctrine is so popular among religious people today. First, it is a comfortable idea. To think that I can have salvation and live however I want is an incredibly comforting thought. Second, because the idea is comfortable, it is very easy to teach! It is much easier to tell

people they're automatically saved than it is to instruct them to change their lives. Finally, this idea is popular because it creates a do-it-your-own-way religion. There is no need for any real standard in the "once saved, always saved" system, because the way we live our lives does not matter.

The Corinthians had been deceived. Instead of removing the one who had engaged in immorality, they treated him as if his situation had not changed. If we're not careful, we can be deceived into believing this lie as well. God demands conformity to His commandments (cf. Matthew 7:21-23, 24-27; 28:29-30). The danger of falling away is real (cf. Acts 8:16, 21-22). Brethren, regardless of what the world teaches, don't be deceived! **"The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God."**

With this in mind, should we not conform our lives to the will of God? Jesus said, **"The gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it"** (Matthew 7:14). He described it this way for a reason. The life we are called to live is not easy, but it is worth it.



4700 Andrews Ave.
Amarillo TX 79106
806-352-2809
www.olsenpark.com

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ISSUE

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BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

April 20,
2014

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow



Don't Be Deceived: "The Unrighteous Will Not Inherit the Kingdom of God"

By Andrew Dow

In a recent article we looked at the danger of being deceived. We noted that (1) deception has been a problem since man first sinned, (2) deception ultimately comes from Satan, the father of lies, and (3) the Christian must be careful not to be deceived. This third point can be proved simply by noting how frequently inspired authors wrote, **"Do not be deceive"** (1 Corinthians 6:9; 15:33; Galatians 6:7; James 1:16; cf. Luke 21:8). Such phrases are used to emphasize the point being made. The statements surrounding these warnings are important because, while they are simple, they are often distorted by Satan. Therefore, it would be wise for us to give special attention to such passages. In the coming weeks it will be our goal to examine these simple, yet important statements which the Holy Spirit revealed.

Let's begin with an examination of 1 Corinthians 6:9-11: **"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the**

kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God” (NASB).

Context of Passage

The book of 1 Corinthians easily divides itself into two main sections: Paul’s response to some things he had heard concerning the Corinthians (chapters 1-6), and his response to a letter he received from the Corinthians (chapters 7-16). 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 falls in the first portion



of the book, and therefore is a part of Paul’s response to what he had heard concerning the church at Corinth.

Paul begins a thought by writing, **“It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife”** (1 Corinthians 5:1). Earlier in the epistle, Paul mentions a report he had heard from **“Chloe’s people”** (1 Corinthians 1:11). It is possible that this is also where he heard of the immorality among them, although that conclusion is not necessary. It is clear that somewhere along the way Paul heard of the sexual immorality in the church at Corinth and he recognized it needed to be addressed.

Paul points out that the immoral person should have been removed from the church (1 Corinthians 5:2). He emphasizes this point by saying, **“For I, on my part, though absent in body... have already judged him who has so committed this”** (1 Corinthians 5:3). Paul expected these Christians to judge the sinner and remove him from their midst. **“I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person... Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves”** (1 Corinthians 5:11-13).

Chapter six creates an unfortunate break in Paul’s argument. Paul continues addressing the same issue: the Corinthians’ inability to judge among themselves. Paul asks, **“Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will**

be able to decide between his brethren...?” (1 Corinthians 6:5). The Corinthians should have been wise enough to make a judgment. They should have recognized the wickedness of immorality and dealt with it appropriately.

A Closer Look At The Text

While addressing the issue of immorality in the church, and the Corinthians’ lack of responsibility in handling the situation, Paul asks a rhetorical question: **“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?”** (1 Corinthians 6:9a). Paul is implying that they should know! When Paul writes, **“Do not be deceived”** (1 Corinthians 6:9b), you can sense a strong use of sarcasm. Paul should not have to remind them of this! By not judging the immoral man, the Corinthians were accepting his sin. Paul has to step in and say, “Seriously? Who has deceived you into thinking this immoral man is alright with the Lord?”

Paul then provides a list: **“Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God”** (1 Corinthians 6:9b-10). It’s important to understand when we encounter lists in the Bible that they are rarely complete lists. For instance, Paul concludes the works of the flesh by saying, **“and things like these”** (Galatians 5:21). Therefore, Paul is not providing the complete list of those who will not

inherit the kingdom of God, rather he gives us a representative list. In fact, Paul specifically included sins with which the Corinthians had previously struggled (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:11).

“Such were some of you,” Paul writes, **“but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God”** (1 Corinthians 6:11). The Corinthians, like all who have come out from the world and into Christ, had sinful backgrounds. However, they were no longer who they used to be; they had changed! Paul’s point is simple: Change is required to inherit the kingdom of God. Since the immoral man had not changed, they should have judged him to be in sin and taken appropriate disciplinary action.