

But it may be asked, is it possible to lose this great blessing? Certainly not, if Christ be risen, and if you keep in memory what the Apostle preached. But how can you forget such glad tidings? If you become self-occupied, with your eyes off Christ, listen to false teachers who are without scriptural assurance for themselves; or become worldly, or careless in your walk, neglecting the word of God and prayer, you will lose the joy of salvation (and so you ought, and it is a mercy that it is so); but God never takes back His gifts (see Rom. xi, 29), nor can the believer ever perish, "Because I live," says Christ, "ye shall live also" (John xiv, 19, also Rom. v, 9, 10); and no one is able to pluck the believer out of the hands of the Son and of the Father, for both the Father and the Son are pledged for their safety. See John x, 27-30. Remember David said, "Restore unto me the *joy* of Thy salvation" (Ps. li, 12). He did not say restore to me Thy salvation, it was the joy of it only that he had lost. But having lost the joy of salvation, which is likely to be the case, if you are not watchful and holy (see 1 Peter i, 13 to end), you must confess your sins as David did (xxxii, 5), and "if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We are not to sin, we need not, if there is watchfulness and care, but if we should sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins." See 1 John ii, 1-2. The erring child knows of the Advocate, returns to the Father in confession, and is restored to happy fellowship

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