

SHALL I EVER LOSE THE FAVOR OF GOD ?

IF God receives sinners to what does He receive them? Is it a complete salvation they obtain, or are there conditions still to be met before the final goal is reached, and there is complete security? On what, in short, does the *ultimate* salvation of the believer rest? This is a question which evidently needs answering before the soul can be completely satisfied and at peace. It is one thing to be now in the favor of God, and it is another thing to know I can never lose it. And the more I look at myself, the more I must be in dread of losing it.

Moreover, there are those who will allow of a free *present* salvation, who will not allow of one that gives security absolutely for the future. With them the *sinner* may be saved without works; but the *saint* may not. The legalism shut out at one entrance gains admittance at another, and the result in either case is the same. Self-sufficiency is built up; self-distrust brought to despair; the work of Christ is practically displaced from its office of satisfying the soul, and the grace of God effectually denied.

The scripture speaks as decisively on this point as on any other. On justification by the blood of Christ it builds the most confident assurance as to the future. It tells us that inasmuch as, "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. MUCH MORE then, *being now justified by His blood*, WE SHALL BE SAVED from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, MUCH MORE, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."