

John 10:1-29 – Study Leader's Questions

1. *What does Jesus teach about the life He gives? What words are used to describe it?*
2. *Why does Jesus give us this life? What does 'never' mean?*
3. *Who can snatch us out of the hand of God? What does ['no man'] mean? Can we 'jump' out of God's hand?*
4. *Is it possible for any true believer to be finally lost?*
5. *What are the grounds for believing that we are safe in God's hands?*
6. *What scriptures would you use to show your understanding of Christian assurance?*
7. *How could this doctrine be abused?*
8. *What are we being kept by God for?*
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John 10:1-29 – Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's works *Eternal Security*, *The Big Flap* and *The Book of John* pp 316-340 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1234, 1403-1405, 1601, 1633 for detailed comments and additional information.

See also earlier studies www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/version-comparison.php *I AM, John 10:1-10, 11-18.*

1. *What does Jesus teach about the life He gives? What words are used to describe it?*

- It is given *for a purpose*. **"I am come that they might have life"** John 10:10. **"Life"** will not be had through **"vain...man's religion"** impure and defiled, James 1:26-27, Catholicism, Islam, **"science falsely so called"** 1 Timothy 6:20, Evolution, **"Philosophy and vain deceit"** Colossians 2:8 with its **"evil fruit"** Matthew 7:17, Marxism. See *Question 6*.
- It is given *in abundance*. **"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"** John 10:10. **"...all things are yours"** 1 Corinthians 3:21 as needed. Note that for the persecuted **"it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you"** 2 Thessalonians 1:6. He will, abundantly.
- It is given *by sacrifice*. **"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep...I lay down my life for the sheep"** John 10:11, 15.
- It is given *freely, but once*. **"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again"** John 10:17. See Article XXXI, Articles of Religion of the Church of England mb-soft.com/believe/txc/thirtyni.htm *"the sacrifices of Masses, in the which it was commonly said that the priests did offer Christ for the quick and the dead to have remission of pain or guilt, were blasphemous fables and dangerous deceits."* See Revelation 1:18 **"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."**
- It is given *deliberately*. **"No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself"** John 10:18.
- It is given *by the power of God*. **"I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again"** John 10:18. Note 2 Corinthians 13:4 **"For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you."**
- It is given *in obedience to the directive will of God*. **"This commandment have I received of my Father"** John 10:18. **"...Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done"** Luke 22:42.

It is described as **"my life"** John 10:15, 17 i.e. **"the life of God"** Ephesians 4:18 and as **"eternal life"** John 10:28, which is **"an endless life"** Hebrews 7:16. It is also a *good* life, being the life of **"the good shepherd."**

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" John 10:11.

2. *Why does Jesus give us this life? What does 'never' mean?*

See *Question 1* with respect to the life given *in abundance* with respect to both quality and quantity.

The full answer to *Question 2, Part 1* is 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 4:10 with respect to the preferred will of God, namely **"good will toward men"** Luke 2:14 as a whole, not just a supposed 'elect' *"men on whom his favour rests"* 1978, 1984 NIVs or the gender-neutral *"those on whom his favour rests"* 2011 NIV. 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 4:10 read as follows.

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

“Never” where it is used in John 10:28 in the expression “*never perish*” is the opposite of mortal life that Moses describes in Psalm 90:10 and as James describes in James 4:14.

“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Peter describes the nature of “*never perish*” in 1 Peter 1:3-4. It is that which “*fadeth not away*” and is therefore in association with eternal or everlasting life, John 3:15, 16.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”

3. *Who can snatch us out of the hand of God? What does [‘no man’] mean? Can we ‘jump’ out of God’s hand?*

In addition to the promises of John 10:28, 29, the Pauline Epistles, the centre of explicitly New Testament Christian doctrine, reveal why no saved individual can either be plucked out of or ‘jump’ out of God’s hand.

The Christian is in effect *part* of God’s hand.

“Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?...What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” 1 Corinthians 6:15, 19.

“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular” 1 Corinthians 12:27.

See also the following references that show that adoption, which can never become un-adoption, sanctification and sealing by the Spirit of God are among “*things that accompany salvation*” Hebrews 6:9 i.e. the saved person today can never become unsaved. He is going home to heaven whether he wants to or not. See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians* p 555.

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” Romans 8:15.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. That is, “*which temple ye are*” in perpetuity, even if the man was to suffer “*the destruction of the flesh*” 1 Corinthians 5:5.

“To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” Galatians 4:5-6.

“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will” Ephesians 1:5.

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory” Ephesians 1:13-14.

“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones” Ephesians 5:30.

The expression “*no man*” in John 10:29 is associated with the expression “*any man*” in John 10:28. Together the terms define the whole spread of men, one of whom is the Devil incarnate according to Revelation 13:18.

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”

Even though the Devil “the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority” Revelation 13:2 the Devil incarnate cannot or could not, according to John 10:28, separate from the Lord Jesus Christ any of the “*members of his body.*” That is why Romans 8:38-39 applies without reservation to “*the body of Christ.*”

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

4. *Is it possible for any true believer to be finally lost?*

With respect to the Christian, no. See *Question 3*. Passages that appear to teach otherwise e.g. Matthew 24:13, Hebrews 2:3*, 3:6, 14, 6:4, 11, 10:26, 27, doctrinally apply not to “*the body of Christ*” but to End Times saints “which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17 and “are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:12. See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 338-348, 413-413

*Saved individuals can through disobedience fail to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” Philippians 2:12 but not their salvation itself. Observe that it is “your own salvation.”

“*Rightly dividing the word of truth*” 2 Timothy 2:15 is necessary with respect to the above passages in order to avoid confusion.

5. *What are the grounds for believing that we are safe in God’s hands?*

The grounds are “*the scripture of truth*” Daniel 10:21. See *Questions 3, 4* especially with respect to “the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession” Ephesians 1:14.

Note also 1 Timothy 3:15 and John 17:17 with respect to Daniel 10:21.

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” Note that John 17:17 speaks explicitly of “thy truth” not “the truth” as in the 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs.

6. *What scriptures would you use to show your understanding of Christian assurance?*

1 John 5:11-13 are basic with respect to assurance of salvation with respect to anyone who has received the Lord Jesus Christ by faith according to John 1:12, 6:37. (John 1:12, 6:37 were key to this writer’s salvation.) Note that writing at the end of the apostolic age, John had the whole of the Pauline Epistles available to him with the revelation of eternal security for the Christian believer.

1 John 5:11-13 should be memorised.

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

See this writer's full consideration of 1 John 5:6-13 in *Assurance of Salvation* www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php especially with respect to John's three triads of witnesses to the Person of the Saviour that defeat the Devil's single triad of witnesses against the Person of the Saviour because "***a threefold cord is not quickly broken***" Ecclesiastes 4:12. See the following extract.

Three Threefold Cords of Witnesses

1 John 5:6-10 give a total of nine witnesses to the Person of the Saviour as "***God...manifest in the flesh,***" in 3 sets of 3 or 3 triads of witnesses.

- The Heavenly Triad, "***the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one***" 1 John 5:7.
- The earthly triad, "***the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one***" 1 John 5:6, 8.
- The testimonial triad, "***The witness of men,***" "***He that...hath the witness in himself***" or the witness in men, "***The record that God gave of his Son***" or God's witness written down by men, as preserved in the 1611 Authorized King James Holy Bible that is "***all scripture***" that "***is given by inspiration of God***" 2 Timothy 3:16.

These triads are a "***threefold cord***" of witnesses, as in Ecclesiastes 4:12.

"And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Bringing [the] false witnesses about the Lord Jesus Christ together, they represent the Devil's triad of witnesses against the Person of the Saviour.

- "***Vain...man's religion***" impure and defiled, James 1:26-27, Catholicism, Islam.
- "***Science falsely so called***" 1 Timothy 6:20, Evolution.
- "***Philosophy and vain deceit***" Colossians 2:8 with its "***evil fruit***" Matthew 7:17, Marxism.

Therefore, together John's threefold triads of witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ as the God-man defeat the Devil's single triad of witnesses against the Person of the Saviour.

7. *How could this doctrine be abused?*

- The doctrine could be *denied*. See *Question 6* and 1 John 5:6-13 in *Assurance of Salvation* www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php where assurance of salvation is denied by "***Vain...man's religion***" impure and defiled, James 1:26-27, Catholicism, Islam.
- The doctrine could be *overemphasised*. It could be overemphasised at the expense of scripture as it has been by "***many, which corrupt the word of God***" 2 Corinthians 2:17 if the scripture is thought to contradict the doctrine where it doesn't.

Note Romans 8:1. The clause "***who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit***" is omitted by the RV, Nestle's 21st Edition, 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs, NKJV f.n., JB, NJB, NWT. The DR omits "***but after the spirit.***"

Dr Ruckman in *The New ASV – Satan's Masterpiece* p 68 states that the words are found in all four families of manuscripts and in the majority of uncials and cursives. See also Dr Moorman's detailed listing of manuscript witnesses in favour of the clause in *Early Manuscripts and The Authorized Version – A Closer Look!* p 118. Dr Moorman shows that the witnesses against the clause are considerably in the minority and led by the usual suspects such as Codices Aleph (subsequently corrected *in favour of the clause*), B, C, D (subsequently corrected *in favour of the clause*). Rome and Watchtower clearly followed the corrupt sources.

The Bibles of the 16th century English Protestant Reformation, Tyndale, Coverdale, Great, Bishops', Geneva all contain the clause in agreement with the AV1611, as does Berry's Edition of Stephanus's 1550 Received Text and the Farstad-Hodges 'Majority' Text. Wycliffe, like the DR, has the first part of the clause ***"who walk not after the flesh."***

See also Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 275-278 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1495.

The historical reason for cutting out the clause was the notion that it had been 'interpolated' i.e. borrowed from Romans 8:4 ***"who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*** However, modern fundamentalist editors no doubt rejected the clause because it appears to go against assurance of salvation *but the clause is not referring to eternal condemnation in violation of assurance of salvation for the Christian.*

As Dr Ruckman points out:

They forgot Romans 14:23 ***"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."***

They forgot 1 Corinthians 11:29-30. ***"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."***

Fundamentalist i.e. NIV*-based churches typically have numerous sick and ailing members. This is partly because such churches often have a disproportionate number of elderly members. However, communion is customarily taken at these churches with leavened bread, which is contrary to scripture according to 1 Corinthians 5:8 ***"Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."*** That fundamentalist violation of scripture could, in this writer's view, account in considerable part for the noticeable level of sickness among fundamentalist church members insofar as ***"God is no respecter of persons"*** Acts 10:34.

*The 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs omit ***"unworthily."***

Moreover:

Self-centred ambition in a Christian incurs condemnation *which is not eternal condemnation but exposure as being unfit for the office of bishop or pastor* where Paul states that the candidate is to be ***"Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil"*** 1 Timothy 3:6.

Persistent false teaching by a Christian incurs condemnation *which is not eternal condemnation but censure by those "sound in the faith"* Titus 1:13 and in turn forfeiting of God's blessing.

"A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself" Titus 3:10-11.

Note Paul's censure of Hymenaeus for false teaching about the resurrection 1 Timothy 1:19, 20, 2 Timothy 2:17, 18. He got worked over by the Devil, which is surely a forfeiting of God's blessing. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php *Nehe-miah 13, Question 4.*

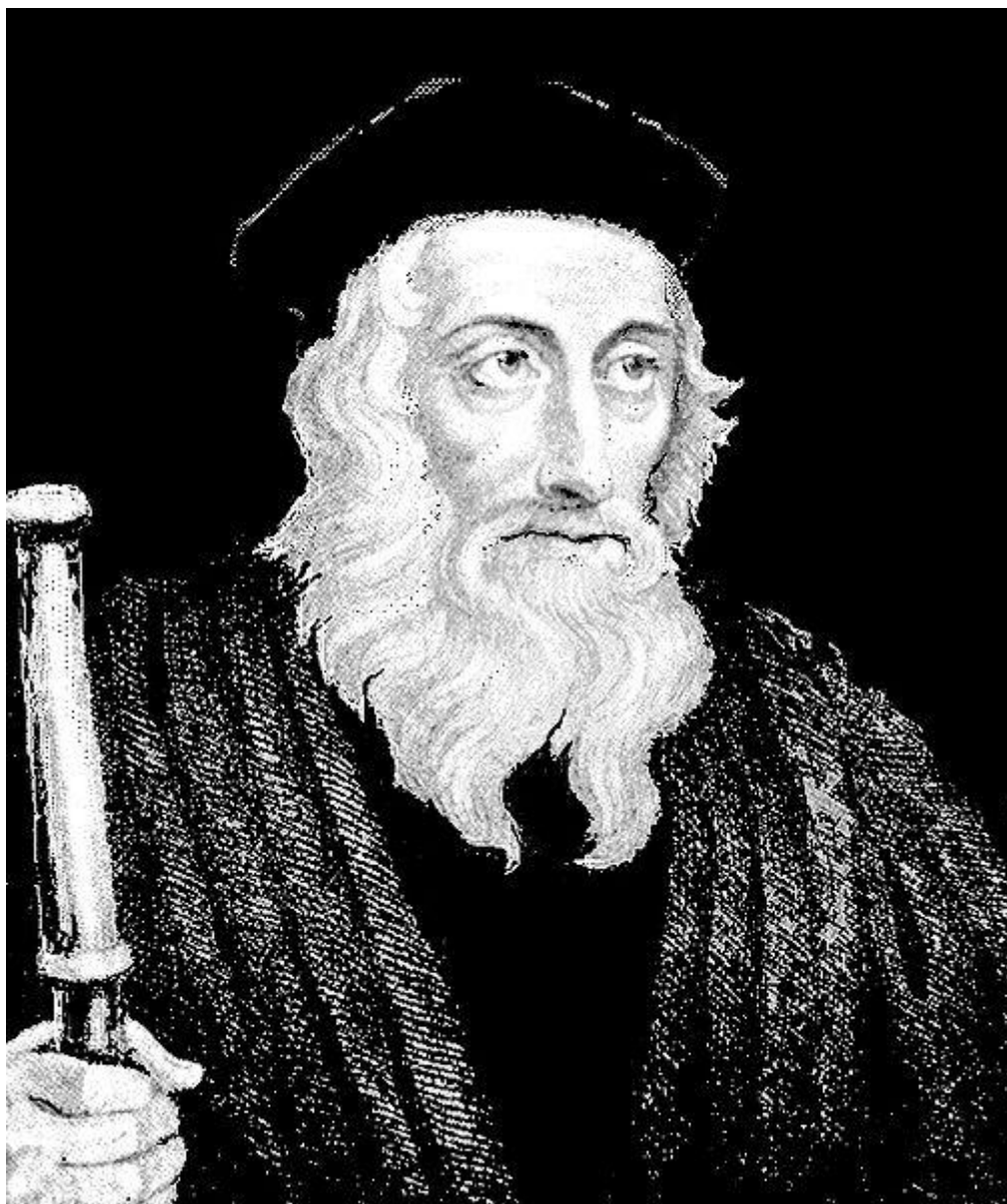
The above three examples show that the clause ***"who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"*** rightly belongs in Romans 8:1 and that ***"sound doctrine"*** 1 Timothy 1:10, 2 Timothy 4:3, Titus 1:9, 2:1 like assurance of salvation for the Christian should never be over-emphasised at the expense of scripture, 2 Corinthians 2:17.

Note also Acts 3:19 ***"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"***

Neither cultists; JB, NJB, NWT, Greek editors; Nestle's 21st Edition, Berry's Edition of Stephanus's 1550 Received Text and the Farstad-Hodges 'Majority' Text nor professing evangelical fundamentalists; RV, 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs, NKJV understood the verse because it appears to speak of a postponed salvation. They all changed it to read "*that times of refreshing may come from the Lord*" 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs or similar, the NKJV has "*so that.*" The professing evangelical fundamentalists no doubt perceived the AV1611 reading as contradicting the doctrine of assurance of salvation or eternal security.

The Bibles of the 16th century English Protestant Reformation, Tyndale, Coverdale, Great, Bishops', Geneva all read with the AV1611, *as does Wycliffe's 1385 Edition*. Note the following analysis.

Acts 3:19 and John Wycliffe 1320-1364, Friend of Israel



John Wycliffe 1320-1364, Friend of Israel, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wycliffe

Compare Wycliffe's 1385 Edition to the 1395 Edition for Acts 3:19.

See www.biblesofthepast.com/ [2015 update: site no longer in operation].

Wycliffe's 1385 Edition reads:

*"Therfor be ye repentaunt, and be ye conuertid, that youre synnes be don awei, **whanne** the tymes of refresching schulen [shall] come from the siyt [sight] of the Lord."*

Wycliffe's 1395 Edition reads:

*"Therfor be ye repentaunt, and be ye conuertid, that youre synnes be don awei, **that whanne** the tymes of refresching schulen [shall] come from the siyt [sight] of the Lord."*

The 1395 reading corresponds to the 1582 Jesuit-Rheims and 1749-1752 Douay-Rheims readings. See also:

www.studylight.org/ and www.hailandfire.com/1582RheimsTestament/index.shtml.

“Be Penitent therefore & conuert, that your sinnes may be put out. **that, vwhen** the times shal come of refreshing by the sight of our Lord, and he shal send him that hath been preached vnto you Iesvs Christ” Acts 3:19-20.

“Be penitent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. **That when** the times of refreshment shall come from the presence of the Lord, and he shall send him who hath been preached unto you, Jesus Christ” Acts 3:19-20.

The 1395 Wycliffe and 1582 Jesuit-Rheims, 1749-1752 Douay-Rheims readings show a progression from the wrongful insertion of the word “that” to decoupling “your sins may be blotted out” from the conditional word “when” as in the AV1611 and in all its faithful precursors of the 16th century English Protestant Reformation.

The next step appears to have been to remove the word “when” entirely from the text, 1881 RV, then re-couple the readings to give the modern wording that for the fundamentalist editors would satisfy their perception of the doctrine of assurance of salvation but which is a wrongful overemphasis of that doctrine.

The modern editors don’t understand that Acts 3:19 refers to Israel’s national salvation at the Second Advent. See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Book of Acts* pp 149-154 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1434, noting the following references.

“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? shall a nation be brought forth at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children” Isaiah 66:8.

“For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; upon one stone are seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day” Zechariah 3:9.

Once again “**rightly dividing the word of truth**” 2 Timothy 2:15 is necessary in order to avoid confusion and doctrinal error.

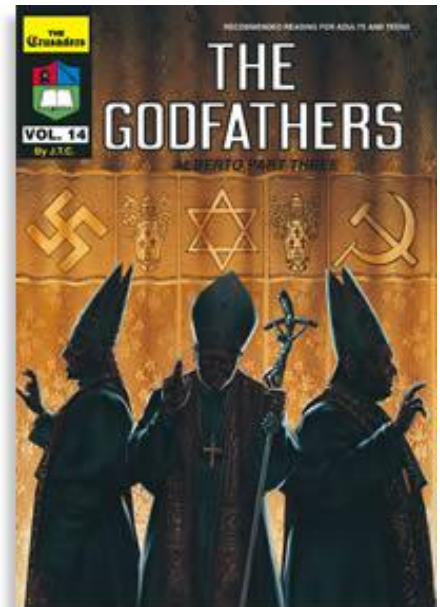
The change leading to that error, i.e. the wrongful insertion of “that” into Wycliffe’s 1395 Edition, would have been wrought by editors forced to change Wycliffe’s text in favour of Rome i.e. John Purvey and Nicholas Hereford. See the study *Wycliffe VS Cloud* by Gail Riplinger www.avpublications.com/avnew/downloads/PDF/WycliffVScloud.pdf.

Rome has always opposed Israel and would resist any notion of particular “**times of refreshing**” for Israel, with no hesitation at Bible corruption 2 Corinthians 2:17 for that purpose.

See www.chick.com/catalog/comics/0114.asp *The Godfathers*.

The 1395 change to Acts 3:19 in Wycliffe’s Bible was slight, only the insertion of one word but “**A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump**” Galatians 5:9.

- The doctrine could be brought into disrepute. It could be brought into disrepute by an individual’s refusal to “**live godly in Christ Jesus**” 2 Timothy 3:12 on the basis that he will get to heaven regardless of how he lives. Paul rebuked the Corinthians for their ungodliness in that respect and warned them of loss of reward at “**the judgment seat of Christ**” Romans 14:10.



Israel’s Worst Enemy

“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?...For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire” 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

Paul repeatedly enjoined Christians to holy living and he warned of the consequences of unholy living, eternal security notwithstanding.

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness” 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7.

See also Romans 6:19, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Ephesians 4:24, 1 Thessalonians 3:13.

Dr Ruckman in his commentary *The Book of Job* pp 246-247 describes a saved young man who had refused to **“live godly in Christ Jesus.”** Dr Ruckman visited this young man in hospital after he had almost been cut in two by being trapped between two box cars while working in a railway yard. He promised Doc he would live right after he got out of hospital and Doc believed him, justifiably it is hoped.

“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth” Hebrews 12:6.

8. *What are we being kept by God for?*

See *Question 2* and 1 Peter 1:3-5.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

The Christian’s **“lively hope”** and **“salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”** is the resurrection body that he receives when the Lord comes back 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 **“when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality”** 1 Corinthians 15:54.

The Christian’s **“inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you”** includes his new home, which is one of the Lord’s **“many mansions”** John 14:2 (not bedsits or **“rooms”** 1978, 1984 NIV or large bed-space or **“plenty of room”** 2011 NIV) in **“the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”** Revelation 21:2 where **“there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life”** Revelation 21:2-27.

The Christian’s inheritance is also that of kingship and service with New Jerusalem as GHQ according to Revelation 22:3-5 **“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”**

The Lord's kingdom will never end and the universe must be inhabited by *righteousness*.

“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” Isaiah 9:7.

“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else” Isaiah 45:18. “The heavens” are to be inhabited just as “the earth” is.

“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” Luke 1:32-33.

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” 2 Peter 3:13. That is **“they which are written in the Lamb's book of life”** and their descendents for whom the Christian, being **“in the resurrection...as the angels of God in heaven”** Matthew 22:30, is among the **“ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation”** Hebrews 1:14.

The ministry will very likely include transportation of **“heirs of salvation”** to their abodes in the **“new heavens.”** Angels or those **“as the angels of God in heaven”** each of whom could be described as **“A man of God”** and **“an angel of God”** Judges 13:6, see also Hebrews 13:2, Revelation 21:17 are to be the only kind of men who can travel unhindered throughout the physical and spiritual realms, which is why the rebellious ones must be chained, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6.

“For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground” Judges 13:20.

“And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth” 1 Samuel 28:13. These gods, or angels*, are present because they are bringing the soul of Samuel, 1 Samuel 28:14, who is an Old Testament saint but not one of those **“as the angels of God in heaven.”**

*Note the expressions **“the holy angels”** Matthew 25:31, Mark 8:38, Luke 9:26, Revelation 14:10 and **“the holy gods”** Daniel 4:8, 9, 18, 5:11 i.e. **“angels”** are **“gods.”**

In sum, the Christian is kept for immortality, regality complete with a palace i.e. mansion and eternal ministry to **“them who shall be heirs of salvation,”** which would appear to include helping them set up house in eternity.

See Dr Ruckman's commentaries *The Book of Matthew* pp 467-471, *The Books of First and Second Corinthians* pp 337-357, *The Books of First and Second Thessalonians and Philemon* pp 68-81, *The Book of Hebrews* pp 27-29, *The Books of the General Epistles Volume 1* pp 174-186, 460-467, *Bible Study Charts & Outlines* pp 9-10, *The Book of Revelation* pp 560-566, 570-577, 582-597 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 464, 926, 1330, 1380, 1599, 1623, 1668-1669.

9. What does the doctrine of assurance help us with today?

The following ***“things of the Spirit of God”*** 1 Corinthians 2:12 will become more real.

- ***“Comfort of the Holy Ghost”***

“Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied” Acts 9:31.

- ***“Fruit unto holiness”***

“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life” Romans 6:22.

- ***“An holy calling”***

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began” 2 Timothy 1:9.

- ***“Patience of hope”***

“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father” 1 Thessalonians 1:3.

- ***“Peace with God”***

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 5:1.

- ***“A sound mind”***

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” 2 Timothy 1:7.

- ***“All spiritual blessings”***

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” Ephesians 1:3.

- ***“Stedfastness of...faith”***

“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ” Colossians 2:5.

In sum, as Paul states:

“...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” 2 Timothy 1:12.

See again earlier studies www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/version-comparison.php I AM, John 10:1-10, 11-18 and note the NIV is deficient in:

1. John 10:1, 7. The NIV omits the equivalent of half of the expression ***“Verily, verily”*** thereby weakening the emphasis of the Lord’s words that follow.
2. John 10:1, 2, 7, 9. The NIV changes ***“door”*** to ***“gate”*** and breaks the all-important cross reference from John 10:1, 2 to Revelation 3:8, 4:1, which read ***“door”*** in the NIV. The NIV’s alteration of ***“door”*** to ***“gate”*** in John 10:7, 9 breaks or weakens the cross references to Romans 8:32-39, 1 Corinthians 15:57, Revelation 1:8, 11, 18. Note that ‘the Greek’ for ***“door(s)”*** is *thura* and is translated 39 times as ***“door(s)”*** and only once as ***“gate”*** in Acts 3:2, so ***“door(s)”*** is clearly the primary meaning of the word *thura* Biblically. Note also that Acts 12:13 distinguishes between ***“door”*** and ***“gate”*** with the expression ***“the door of the gate.”***

Though differing significantly in hundreds of readings, Nestle’s 21st Greek Edition and Ricker Berry’s Edition of Stephanus’s Received Greek Text both give ***“door”*** in John 10:1, 2, 7, 9 and *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* (Vine is no friend of the AV1611), although giving both ***“door”*** and ***“gate”*** as meanings of *thura*, does not question the use of ***“door”*** in John 10:1, 2, 7, 9.

“Door” is therefore clearly correct in John 10:1, 2, 7, 9 and ***“gate”*** is incorrect.

3. John 10:3. The NIV changes ***“porter”*** to ***“watchman”*** and breaks or weakens the cross references to 2 Chronicles 23:4, 19, Nehemiah 11:19, 12:25, 45.
4. John 10:4. The NIV omits the first use of the word ***“sheep”*** in this all-important passage about the Lord’s sheep. Nestle also omits the first use of the word ***“sheep”*** but Ricker Berry includes it.
5. John 10:6. The NIV changes ***“parable”*** to ***“figure of speech”*** and obscures the picture of the Rapture and the Second Advent that John 10:1-5 give. See comments under point 6, John 10:6.
6. John 10:11. Although both the 1611 Holy Bible and the NIV state ***“I lay down my life for the sheep”*** in John 10:15, 17, 18, the NIV’s alteration of ***“giveth”*** to ***“lays down”*** obscures the all-important cross references to John 3:16, 6:51, 10:28, 1 John 1:2. See comments under point 1, John 10:11.
7. John 10:14, 15. The NIV’s change from ***“...am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me...”*** to ***“my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me”*** is clearly blasphemous. No Christian can know the Lord Jesus Christ as the Father does, as John 1:18 makes clear.

“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

A Christian is ***“in Christ”*** 2 Corinthians 5:17 but he is never said to be so intimately associated with the Father that he is ***“in the bosom of the Father”*** whereby he knows the Lord as fully as the Father does.

Note also Paul’s statement in 1 Timothy 6:14-16 with respect to **“our Lord Jesus Christ...the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see.”**

However, the expression “*no man*” does *not* refer to the Persons of the Godhead, Who are *one* with each other and therefore share intimacy with each other in which *no-one else* participates, not even Christians.

“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one” 1 John 5:7.

No Christian is a member of “*the godhead*” Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9 and no Christian is *ever* said to be “*one*” with the Godhead, *even though* he is “*in Christ*.” Not being a member of the Godhead, the Christian *cannot* know Christ as the Father knows Him, even though the Christian’s lifelong purpose, even in eternity is to “*know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ*” John 17:3, Philippians 3:10.

For the source materials concerning the correct and corrupted readings for John 10:14, 15, see this author’s summary in ‘*O Biblios*’ – *The Book*, p 76.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/ ‘*O Biblios*’ – *The Book* p 55.

8. John 10:18. The NIV’s alteration of “*power*” to “*authority*” casts doubt on the Lord’s resurrection because the authority or entitlement to meet any challenge *does not guarantee that the challenge can be met*, especially one as daunting as “*rising from the dead*” Mark 9:10. Only the capacity or *power* to do so is sufficient for meeting the challenge.

The alteration also breaks the cross reference for the NIV to Romans 1:4, where the NIV does have the word “*power*.”

“And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”

Additional NIV Deficiencies for John 10:19-32:

9. John 10:18, 28, 29. The NIV changes “*No man...no man...no man*” to “*No-one...no-one...no-one*,” indicating a further drift to gender neutrality/equality. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php *Christian Belief, John 3v1-18* p 9. Note that all Bible corrupters/correctors/clarifiers use “*power*” that they have, temporarily, to make changes to the AV1611 when they do not have “*authority*” to do so according to Psalm 138:2 “*I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*”
10. John 10:20, 21. The NIV changes “*devil*” to “*demon*,” weakening the association with evil. See the embedded word in “*devil*.” In Greek culture, demons were not necessarily evil but according to unsaved Greek philosophers e.g. Plato, Socrates could give higher knowledge. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1269.
11. John 10:30, 32. John 10:30, 32 are not part of the study but have been included to show the NIV’s subtle attack on the intimacy between the First and Second Persons of the Godhead as set out in John 10:30 “*I and my Father are one.*” The NIV changes “*my Father*” to “*the Father*” in John 10:30, 32. The AV1611 has the expression “*the Father*” twice in John 10:15 as does the NIV but, as indicated, the NIV’s alterations in John 10:30, 32 weakens the scriptural testimony to the closeness of the Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.