

**Church of Christ**  
 3221 E. Hebron Lane  
 Shepherdsville, KY  
 40165-8959

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The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD is clothed,  
 He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established,  
 so that it cannot be moved. Your throne is established from of old;  
 You are from everlasting

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, The floods have lifted up their  
 voice; The floods lift up their waves. The LORD on high is mightier  
 Than the noise of many waters, Than the mighty waves of the sea.

Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O  
 LORD, forever.

- Psalm 93

**Assemblies**

Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening 5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

**Elders**

Tom Brown 502-921-2778  
 Laymon Byers 502-957-3627  
 John Smith 502-231-5341

**Evangelists**

Ron Halbrook 502-955-1748  
 halbrook@insightbb.com  
 Steven F. Deaton 502-543-9686  
 sfdeaton@insightbb.com

**Phone: 502-957-5115**

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# Hebron Herald

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## Faithfulness Is Indispensable

A common theory among many denominations is that once you are saved, you are always saved. Many also believe that a generally good life is enough to go to heaven; sort of if the good outweighs the bad then heaven will be your home. Both of these concepts are false and leading people to hell.

Partial fidelity is not accepted in most areas of our lives. If a wife told her husband she would be faithful most of the time, would he be happy? Could she make her case by pointing out that she is in their bed 250 nights of the year, but in other men's only 115? The "good" would outweigh the "bad." Would the husband accept the argument, once married always married?

What about an employer? Can an employee claim once employed always employed? Would the boss be happy if the worker showed up most of the time? Are we to believe that "once hired never fired" regardless of work ethic, performance, behavior, or attitude, would be permitted or work?

You get the point—and so do people who believe in once saved always saved. Yet, they lose their reasoning ability when it comes to their souls. They cannot understand that God expects faithfulness and will not tolerate "cheating" on Him.

Peter said, "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure" (2 Pet. 1:10). He said this after admonishing Christians to grow (2 Pet. 1:5-7). The child of God who has heard the word, believed, confessed Jesus as Christ, repented of sins, and been baptized has just begun service to God; it is not completed the moment it begins.

The indisputable fact of indispensable faithfulness is seen in the make up of the New Testament. There are four books that primarily establish faith in Christ. The writings

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that follow these, Acts through Revelation, are directed at Christians for the purpose of keeping them on tract in the service to God. If salvation is secured and cannot be lost after becoming a Christian, then why did the Holy Spirit invest so much into producing the Acts, the epistles, and the Apocalypse?

Further, if we are saved never to fall, why are the repeated admonitions and warnings about falling? Paul said, “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12). Referring to Israel’s unfaithfulness, the Hebrew writer said, “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience” (Heb. 4:11). In fact, Israel is a great illustration. God sent them a deliverer in the person of Moses. He persuaded them to leave their bondage. They were baptized in crossing the Red Sea, coming under the leadership of Moses and breaking away from Pharaoh. There saw the “salvation of the Lord” (Ex. 14:13). They rejoiced on the other side of the sea (Ex. 15). Yet, they still had to cross a desert to get to the Promised Land. They had to labor and fight to enter it. Some did not enter because of their unfaithfulness to the Lord. So, too, we must realize that milk and honey will only come after we cross the desert of life.

Finally, there were those who had fallen from grace in the New Testament. Simon was in sin and separated from God after becoming a Christian (Acts 8:18-24). Some of the Galatians were severed from Christ (Gal. 5:1-4). And, Peter addressed those who had escaped corruption only to return to it, ending up worse than they started (2 Pet. 2:18-22).

If all of this is not enough to convince a person that faithfulness is indispensable then there may be hope for them, but not by being a Christian. Rather, their hope will rest on the fact that God will not hold the mentally deficient accountable on the Day of Judgment. The truth is plain about it, let us accept it and teach it.

- Steven F. Deaton

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And let us not grow weary while doing good,  
for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

- Gal. 6:9

## Sexually Deviant Sheep

The magazine *The Week* reported in its February 2, 2007 issue that researchers found five to eight percent of male sheep to be homosexual for biological reasons. Homosexuals initially welcomed the news, but then retreated when they found out the scientists found a way to convert the deviant rams. They increased the testosterone levels in the sheep. “Fearing similar techniques being used on humans, gay activists have spoken out. Sheep, said Martina Navratilova, have ‘a right’ to be gay.” How ridiculous is this?

God does not create homosexuals. It is a learned, deviant behavior. Just as He made Adam for Eve, and Eve for Adam, so has He made all men and women. If we accept the premise that men and women are born with a homosexual gene, then there is only one place to put the blame—God. Would He make men sinners (Rom. 1:26, 27)?

The truth is men and women go astray. Whether it is something in their childhood that warped their thinking, or simply a progression in perversion, they become homosexuals. They make their choices just like an adulterer, murderer, or drunkard. All of these sins are listed together by inspiration in 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10. Paul then states that some of the Corinthians “were” adulterers, homosexuals, etc. This means they were no longer homosexuals and adulterers. If homosexuality is genetic, then merely ceasing the behavior would not change the fact they are homosexual. A man is still a man though he may have a sex-change operation. Why? He is genetically a man; once a man always a man. Why would the same not be true of a homosexual?

For too long our society, including some Christians, have accepted the opinions of humanistic scientists. We need to quit blaming sin on “disease” and “genetics.” Alcoholics are sinners because they choose to drink. Gamblers are idolaters because they choose to covet. Homosexuals are deviant because they choose to practice perversion. And, just as they chose to enter into sin, they can choose to leave it. It may be difficult to break the habit or kick the addiction (mental or physical), however they can do it. If not, then God’s Word is meaningless when it says to renew your mind (Eph. 4:17-24).

- Steven F. Deaton