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Brief answers to people that object to aspects of the gospel I proclaim.

I declare that the gospel includes a demand for continuation that may be stated with the following underlined words: Those who believe and continue to believe into Jesus will be raised from the dead and glorified with Him.

My question to anyone who might object to the underlined words: Are you saying that if someone falls away and remains in that condition, he will still be glorified with Jesus? (In other words, if someone apostatizes and remains in that condition, you insist that he will still be raised and glorified with Jesus?)

[*The Bible clearly teaches that those who apostatize and remain in that condition will perish.*]

Objection: Tom, it seems like your gospel message is conditional based upon the performance of the believer. Isn't this a works-based salvation?

Answer: I do indeed teach that salvation is conditional because [the New Testament declares this](#). However, I adamantly condemn any doctrine that teaches people can earn a right standing with God through works of law. Any such teaching is a slap in Jesus' face. He is the One and only One who made salvation possible through His sacrificial death on the cross. But the operative word here is "earn." The attempt to earn a right standing with God is antichrist (and common to all man-made religions). But works of faith please God. These are works that are done not to earn a right standing with God. Rather, they are done out of love and appreciation to the God they love because they REALLY BELIEVE the gospel promises. Because they believe, they indeed strive to please the God they love with thankful hearts.

Objection: Tom, what about the eternal security of the believer? How is a Christian supposed to have assurance of salvation?

Answer: I suggest that these terms ("eternal security" and "assurance of salvation") are ambiguous and need to be defined. For example, what do you mean by "salvation?"¹ And please note that the term "eternal security" is not found in the Bible. It is a term created by humans that may have some basis in truth, but might not, depending on how it is defined. I believe that the only verse in the New Testament that seems to address this idea of "security" with a word that conveys "security," is Luke 21:19 where Jesus said, "By your endurance, secure your souls." While the Bible does teach that those who are predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son will be called, justified and glorified (Romans 8:30), it also teaches that only those who endure (the mistreatment and sufferings) to the end will be saved. Indeed, our faith is proven real if we endure and continue to endure. Since over 8% of the New Testament verses contain warnings to believers about the consequences of falling away, we should pay attention to them and TAKE HEED, lest we fall away. This is part of the gospel that is intended by God to spur believers on toward their ultimate salvation. And because that ultimate salvation is clearly conditional based upon our steadfast endurance firm to the end, the common teaching (that believers can know beyond a shadow of a doubt right now that they will be in heaven) is obviously in conflict with the New Testament. Now a person who is living by faith with a life that is increasingly full of spiritual fruitfulness can possess a strong hope of glory. (See Colossians 1:27.) But someone who merely assents to the truths of the gospel without such a life has no basis for such hope. Therefore, anyone who tells such a person that they can know for sure that they will be in heaven is leading that poor soul astray. To see what the New Testament says [what we can know beyond a shadow of a doubt, click this link](#).

¹ Usually, the New Testament writers were talking about the salvation that takes place when Jesus comes back. (A simple word study on the Greek word soteria will confirm this.) But today, most Christians associate it with something that took place in our past (conversion).