

It's A **BOTH/AND** Thing

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Eternal security for those enduring in their
God-given, new-birth faith – ABSOLUTELY!

Apostasy (falling away from the faith) – ABSOLUTELY!

The two Bible FACTS above do not represent a contradiction. In fact, the full Counsel of God's Word explicitly teaches these appeals. It is indeed a **both / and** reality. How dare we place our trust in human opinion (e.g., non-biblical theological appeals, denominational appeals & rational judgments) above God's revelation to man! Followers of Christ need to better heed Proverbs 3:5-8.

This *putting of man's opinion(s) above God's Word* took place just recently when I attended a local church for a ministry project. Let me tell parts of the story:

A Sunday School (SS) teacher, in affirming the **eternal security** of the believer & the Reformation tenet, "**by faith alone**," went on to address (in the SS hour) what he deems to be *problem texts* in light of his theological position. He said *watch out for those who misinterpret Philippians 2:12's "work out your own salvation" as a result of a system they bring to Scripture*. He said this failing to realize that HE was actually doing what he counsels against: Interpret the Word in light of the theological system to which one is absolutely committed. It didn't stop there.

He went on to refer to Matthew 25 (selected verses in the account of the Parable of the Talents), saying all three servants represent saved individuals. He did so due to his non-biblical position, namely, all who make a profession of faith in Christ are saved ... so of course the servants are saved – even the third one who buried his talent in the ground. SAD. This teacher (*Sidebar: a word of warning for those of us who teach: James 3:1!*) needs to discern HE is the one who imposes a foreign idea into the texts he was using. (These two passages are seen as 'problem texts' due to this: they appear to be teaching contrary, in this case, to his held position.)

Our suggestion to this teacher: DON'T make a similar mistake some of the spiritual leaders made in Jesus' day. See Mark 7 & Matthew 15 for details. (These religious

authorities elevated their **traditions** above God's Word. Jesus rebuked them on this. We do so as well on the basis of the authority of God's precious Word.)

So what might be a principle or application from all this?

We call God's people in Jesus Christ to honor the FULL COUNSEL of God's Word on all matters addressed therein. By way of examples, we exhort God's people in Jesus Christ to ...

Honor the Philippians 2:12, 13 passage as it's written in its context ;

Honor the Matthew 25 Parable of the Talents by letting the text say what it says – verses 28 – 30 included (without offering an interpretive explanation which denies the actual content of the whole parable) ;

Honor Proverbs 3:5, 6 and allow the Word of God to speak for itself ;

Honor the eschatological Truths in Scripture without **adding things** it does not teach ;

Honor the FULL COUNSEL of God above denominational distinctives ;

Honor explicit Bible teaching (acknowledging various *genre* dynamics) even when the whole seems to present a contradiction when two or more aspects of a particular topic are considered.

Etc., etc. [Visit our web sites for related appeals: www.FinalTrumpet.online]

Other pertinent articles on this matter provide further clarification on the above.

~ Our Authority www.TruthFoundations.org/1cid10.pdf

~ Theological Issues www.TruthFoundations.org/1cio32.pdf

~ The Coming Mark www.TruthFoundations.org/CBlogF2026.pdf

~ Our FAQ #36 www.FinalTrumpet.online/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/CB6B26.pdf

~ Faith & Works www.FinalTrumpet.online/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Faith-And-Works-Appeals.pdf

We hope God is honored in this appeal as we seek to help the Church better discern how crucial it is to rightly handle His Word by letting it say what it actually says.