

# Denomination Gone Astray (Clip)

by Steve Gallagher

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*Steve Gallagher discusses how Calvinism has gone astray by neglecting the importance of meaningful repentance and inward obedience, leading to spiritual deterioration in the church.*

**Duration:** 6:38

**Scripture:** Matthew 7:21

**Topics:** "Calvinism", "Repentance"

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## Description

This sermon addresses the potential pitfalls of Calvinism, focusing on the concept of eternal security and the necessity of true repentance and life transformation in the Christian walk. It highlights the historical shift within the Calvinist tradition towards emphasizing assurance of salvation over genuine inward change, leading to spiritual deterioration in modern churches that lack a focus on repentance and obedience.

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## Transcript

You guys know, I believe, that we do our utmost here at Pure Life Ministries not to do anything that makes it a struggle for people of a different denominational background. You know, we just try our best to not cause disunity or anything. You know, whatever your denominational background, you're welcome here.

The truth that we are bringing forth, we just avoid those kinds of issues for the most part until it crosses these lines, and then I have to deal with it, and this is one of those things. Okay, so I'm going to call this the one pillar of Calvinism. All right, so I've got three avenues for this lie to make it into the church, and this is the first one I'm going to mention is the one pillar of Calvinism, and let me explain that.

I have spent the last 30 years studying the men of God from 100 years ago, 150 years ago, and I would say at least half of those men were of the Reformed tradition. Okay, so I have thoroughly enjoyed their teachings. There's something about godly Calvinists that I just love and am drawn to, and there's two of these pillars that kind of go hand in hand, and the first one is what I'm talking about that I love about them, is that they understand what a conversion looks like.

They have a, there's a long tradition in Calvinist circles of strong conversions, and their idea of a conversion is you are going one way, living for self-will, and you get arrested by the Holy Spirit of God. You fall on your face. You have complete repentance.

You renounce your past life of sin, of self-will, of pride, of doing your own thing. You totally turn away from that, and you go 180 the other direction. It doesn't mean that you're walking in perfection all of a sudden.

It means that there has been a revolution that has occurred inside you. Regeneration. Amen.

Okay, that's what I love. I love that. Now, along with that is their, what they have held is the, what do you call it, the belief in eternal security, and the way that they teach it in what I'm describing, I don't have a bit of a problem with that.

You know, I am good with that. I don't know exactly how all that works out. I'm not going to claim to have the final answers on that, but I can understand what they're saying, that if you've had that kind of conversion, you're never going to go back.

Sin will never be able to hold you. You will not stay in sin if you go off track or something. God's Spirit is inside you, and He will make sure you get back on track.

You know, I'm good with that. It's not exactly the way I tend to think, but I don't have a problem with that whatsoever. Eternal security, okay, praise the Lord.

If that's what you believe, absolutely, you know, it's good with me. But this has been corrupted. Let me read something that I wrote about the apostasy.

It's on the Eternal Weight website, and I'm going to call it the One Pillar of Calvinism. That's not what it's called on the website, and I'm kind of cutting into a thought here, okay? Just bear with me. Let me read this.

Part of this comes from a centuries old doctrinal system that went bad. It began as a solid offshoot of reformed theology, emphasizing the eternal security of a believer, and stressing the fact that true faith in Christ is always accompanied by true repentance. Heart-probing, sin-renouncing, life-transforming repentance.

All right, so the two go hand-in-hand. Over the years, the once saved, always saved doctrine was vigorously maintained and defended, while the emphasis on meaningful repentance and inward obedience was increasingly neglected. By the time Charles Spurgeon came along in the latter part of the 19th century, he lamented that his denomination was going downhill at breakneck speed, his words.

Today, the spiritual deterioration of this great movement is evident in thousands of postmodern churches that offer a form of Christianity which expects very little in the way of change. All the while assuring its members that their salvation is secure, guaranteed, and irrevocable. Are you understanding what I'm saying? Yeah, it started off good, right? Yeah, when you have a real conversion, repentance, you're going to live your life for God.

Okay, eternally secure. I'm with you on that. But little by little, the first part went away, and all that was left was that assurance, the blessed assurance we sing.

Yeah. Well, I'm telling you, this is one of the avenues that this lie has made its way into the church, that they've maintained the blessings of salvation, supposed salvation, and have done away with the obligations and requirements that are involved with the true conversion. Okay? So nothing against Calvinism, right? But here's where part of that whole movement has gone astray.

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