

**This is
the
Temple
of the
Lord**



The Jews' false confidence

- The historical context of Jeremiah's prophetic work
- The message of Jeremiah 7:1-15 – Common belief of Jews: God will not abandon His house!
- 2,600 years later, could we be doing the same thing?



This is the **baptism** of the Lord

- We should believe in the necessity of baptism for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38)
- In this, we challenge and reject the teaching of the majority of churches today
- But it is not enough to get it right on one doctrinal point
- We cannot forget other things because we correctly understand and teach one point of doctrine

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This is the Lord's **day**

- We understand that the sabbath was part of the covenant with Israel (Exodus 31:16-17)
- We recognize NT teaching about the importance of the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2)
- Christians should assemble to worship and edify (Hebrews 10:25)
- But do we measure faithfulness primarily on the basis of regular “attendance”?

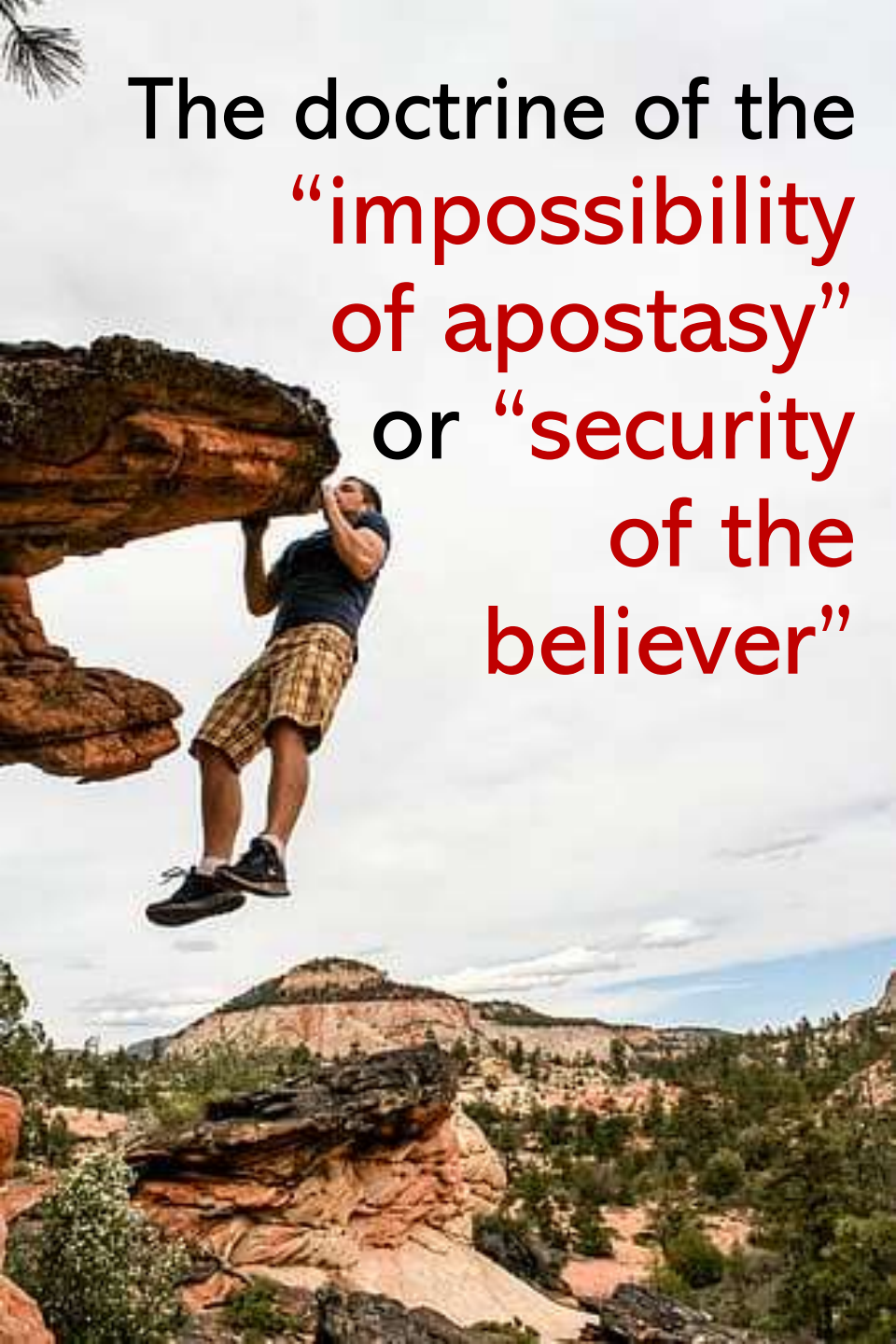
This is the Lord's **supper**

- Jesus gave an example and instituted the Lord's supper as a memorial to be continued (accounts in the Synoptics)
- Paul taught about the importance of coming together and participating respectfully (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
- Early Christians followed such instructions (Acts 20:7)
- How many will defend themselves in the final day by saying, "But I took the Lord's supper every Sunday"?

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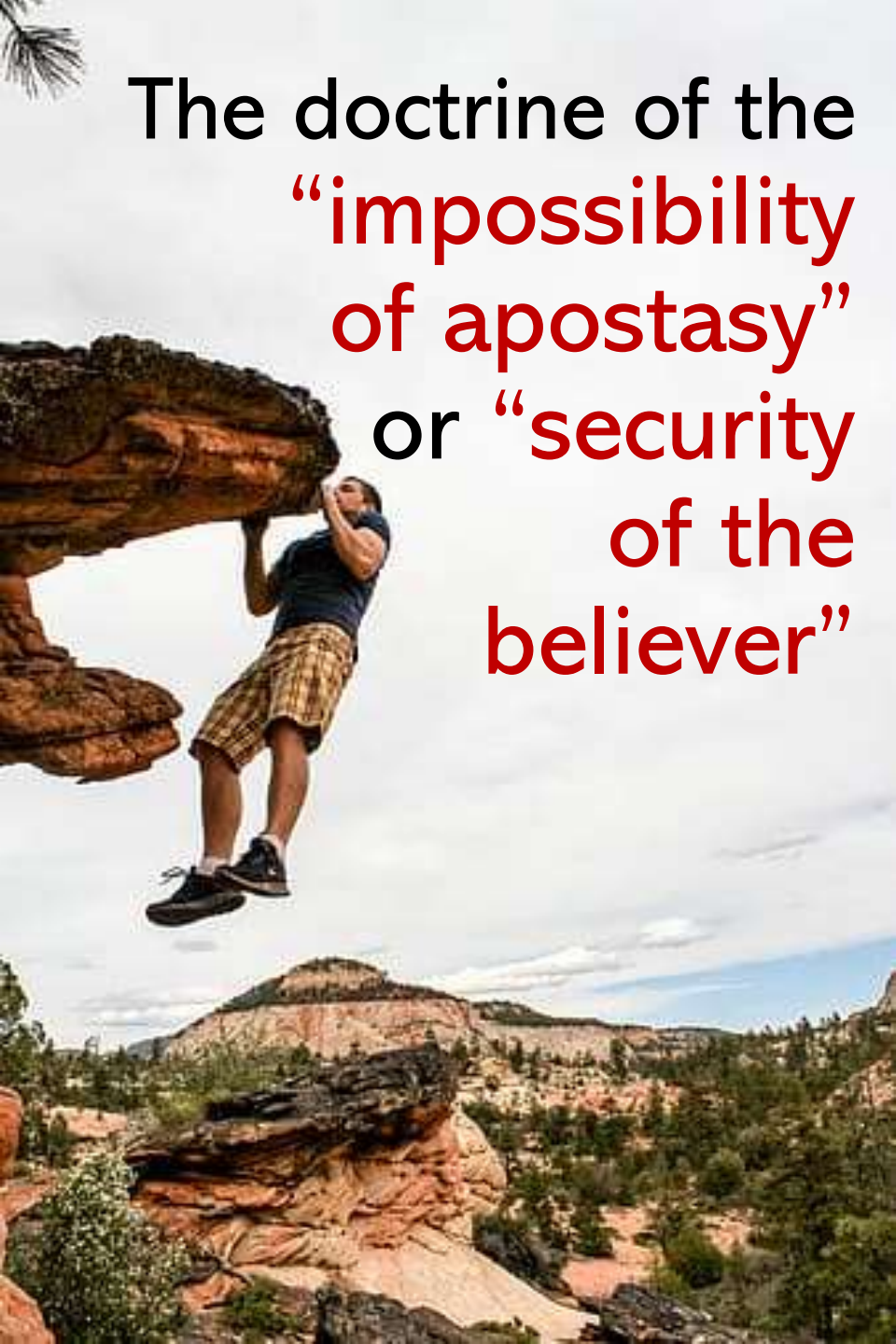


Illustration: Brazilian voting law

A photograph of a man in a blue t-shirt and plaid shorts hanging from a large, overhanging rock formation. He is suspended in the air, with his feet just above the ground. The background shows a vast, rocky canyon landscape under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

The doctrine of the
“impossibility
of apostasy”
or “security
of the
believer”

- Maybe the most pernicious form of this defense in our time
- A fundamental part of Calvinism
- “Once saved, always saved”
- A weapon that Satan uses well!




The doctrine of the
“impossibility
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believer”

- We must examine what the Bible teaches
- NT is full of passages that speak of the need for faithfulness in the face of temptation and persecution
- Let’s look at four texts that show that the Christian must remain faithful to receive eternal life

The real possibility of apostasy

Follow and live! (John 10:25-30)

- Text used to “prove” that a Christian cannot fall from grace
- It actually shows that our salvation depends on continued faithful obedience
- A triple promise (10:28)
 - I give them eternal life
 - They shall never perish
 - Cannot be snatched away



With a double condition (10:27):

- They hear His voice
- They follow Him

The real possibility of apostasy

Stand fast in liberty (Galatians 5:1-4)

- Letter written primarily to combat judaizers
- Warns us of risk of returning to sin and abandoning the liberty found only in Christ
- Paul showed that salvation is attained without the Law
- He now says that a return to that system separates one from Christ and His grace
- Caution: the real danger of returning to sin

The real possibility of apostasy

Persevere to Receive the Promise (Hebrews 10:19-39; 12:1)

- Letter directed to Christians (10:19,26,32,35)
- Encourages growth in faith, avoiding any return to sin
 - 10:23
 - 10:26-27
 - 10:35
 - 10:39
 - 12:1

The real possibility of apostasy

Be Diligent in the Way of Righteousness (2 Peter 2:15-22; 3:13-18)

- Letter written to encourage the faithful to resist Satan's attacks
- He warns of false teachers who seek to attract us back into sin (2:15-18)
- Those who return after having escaped are worse off than before knowing the Truth (2:20-22; Proverbs 26:11)
- Peter reminds us of the reward and urges us not to abandon our firmness (3:14-18)

Caution!

- We must be careful not to be fooled by the comforting but false doctrine of the impossibility of apostasy
- The Lord left a warning (1 Peter 5:8)
- ...and a promise (Revelation 2:7; 3:5)

