

Eternal Security

We have been examining the Bible teaching about salvation and have covered the price paid for sin and how we have to repent and respond to Christ's offer of salvation. An information based faith that we whole-heartedly respond to yields salvation. There are certain aspects about salvation that are critical and require *accurate* Biblical information. You must be able to trust the Bible as the source of your information. You must believe that Jesus Christ is the perfect son of the God Who became man that He might present Himself as the sacrifice for you and your sin. You must believe that Jesus died shedding His blood as the payment for you and your sin. You must believe that He substituted Himself for you so that the wrath of the Father might fall on Him instead of you. You can get saved *implicitly* believing unto eternal life without having an explicit, spelled-out, definition of eternal security. But, to be saved, you absolutely *have* to make sure you understood you would be secure eternally in Christ when you asked Him to save you. You must believe that when you ask Him to save you, you are saved forever with a salvation that cannot be undone.

The problem that many people encounter is that when they got saved they might not have had that spelled out to them. They came to the point where they had that spiritual awakening and knew they were hopeless sinners before God and turned their lives over to Him. They knew that Jesus had paid for them. They surrendered themselves completely to God and His grace and mercy. In all of of this description of their salvation experience they knew they belonged to God, but even though I did not use the words *eternally secure*, everything I said is a spelled out *description* of being eternally secure. The problem that they run into, perhaps even years later, is not their salvation *experience*, but their ability to *describe it logically*.

When it comes to salvation, all of the critical teachings are pretty well accepted

by intuition – except for eternal security. To my best recollection, when I present the Gospel to someone the vast majority of people are surprised by the whole idea of eternal security. With a good understanding of what the Bible says about eternal security, the Gospel is very logical. Without a good Biblical understanding of eternal security, there are some who stay lost because they think they are on a pray-and-pay-as-you-go plan. Those who *do* have a salvation experience, but have not had eternal security actually defined, they run the risk of having doubts about their whole spirituality later on. If you have the *wrong* understanding, there is no real salvation. The right understanding of eternal security, whether you know it by definition or *only* by experience, is a most critical part of being saved.

1. Salvation insecurity and manipulation -

The Council of Trent (1545–1563) was the Roman Catholic Church's official response to the Protestant Reformation. It explicitly rejected the doctrines of assurance of salvation and eternal security (or "once saved, always saved") as taught by Reformers. Assurance of salvation was seen not only as a theological error but as a dangerous sin of presumption.

The council decreed, "If anyone says that he will for certain, with an absolute and infallible certainty, have that great gift of perseverance unto the end – **unless he has learned this by special revelation** – let him be anathema." Their decree claimed that unless you had a voice from heaven said that you had a confirmed place in heaven then you were being presumptuous, impertinent, and prideful.

The council claimed that no one can be sure of final salvation, because they thought salvation could be lost if someone's sin was very serious. This amounted to denying the authority of God's Word that says one is saved only by his faith in Christ's sacrifice for them. They said that such belief is

presumptuous if not accompanied by doing penance as defined by the Church. This meant that personal effort and obedience to pay for sin was required to have any hope to achieve salvation.

When a church teaches that salvation can be lost at any moment due to a failure to meet a certain standard, it creates an atmosphere of perpetual uncertainty and fear. Instead of grounding the believer's assurance in the finished work of Christ, this view places the burden of maintaining salvation squarely on the individual's performance, emotions, or consistency. As a result, people are often left spiritually anxious, never quite sure if they've done enough, repented enough, or endured enough to still be saved. This spiritual insecurity makes them highly vulnerable to manipulation by voices of authority who claim to know what must be done to stay in God's good graces.

Having seen the danger and distortion caused by denying eternal security, let's now turn to the Scriptures themselves to see how clearly they affirm it.

2. Our salvation is eternally secure -

- Our life is eternal, not temporal.

Our assurance starts with understanding that the life God gives us is *eternal*. It is not temporary life that we lose and gain and lose and gain depending on *our* behavior. It is secured through *Christ's* behavior on the cross and the resurrection.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* **eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 3:16,36 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have **everlasting life**.
36 He that believeth on the Son **hath** everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not

see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

- The sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice

The sacrifices of the Old Testament were insufficient in contrast to the sufficiency of what Christ offered. Paul explained that the priests of the Temple could only offer a temporary sanctification, which is why they had to often make sacrifices. They, too, were actually eternally secure, not by their Temple sacrifices, but their faith in the perfect sacrifice of the Messiah who was coming. Jesus, that perfect sacrifice, only had to offer Himself *once* since the sanctification He offered lasted forever.

Heb 10:10-14 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all*.

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

In John 19:30, the last words of Christ on the cross were, "It is finished" and He bowed His head and gave up the ghost. The word *finished* in Greek indicates that *His* sacrifice was done *once* and *for all time*.

- God's grace is greater than our sin.

Rom 5:20-21 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto

eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

- God holds us and keeps our commitment for us.

John 10:28-29 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. 29My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

2Tim 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that **he** is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. [**God keeps our salvation for us.**]

Eternal security is not only Biblical—it is essential. Without it, the entire doctrine of salvation begins to unravel.

3. No salvation without eternal security -

Although someone remains lost if he does not have the correct understanding of *any* of the critical aspects of salvation, a faulty understanding of our security in Christ will undermine *all* of the other critical doctrines.

- Without eternal security, we are left to trust in ourselves and not Christ.

Paul wrote to the Galatians because there were Judaizers who tried to get believers to maintain the sacrifices of the Law to *stay* saved. In Galatians 3, Paul explains that since works did not save us to begin with then our works do not keep us saved.

Gal 3:1-5 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before

whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

2This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

3Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

4Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain.

5He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Salvation is not a function of works. If my salvation is in jeopardy because of my sin, then my ultimate salvation depends on my ability to stay out of sin. If Christ cannot completely save then we are ultimately trusting in ourselves and our ability to stay on good behavior. The work of Christ is called is then called into question.

- The power of the blood of Christ

The power of the blood of Christ becomes insufficient if we can lose our salvation.

1Pet 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

19But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Heb 9:12-14 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

13For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the

flesh:

14How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The blood of bulls and goats was not sufficient, but the blood of Christ is.

- Grace becomes irrelevant.

Grace is no more grace if Christ and His blood are insufficient. God's grace becomes irrelevant. There is no point to singing *Amazing Grace*. Instead of singing,

Instead of
singing,

We would have
to sing,

Amazing grace,
how sweet the
sound

Amazing grace,
how frail the
sound,

That saved a
wretch like me.

That saved —
until I fail.

I once was lost
but now am
found,

My hold is
weak, and sin
might drown

Was blind but
now I see.

What mercy did
unveil.

If His blood was insufficient to pay for our sins, then we must rely on the goodness of our works to make the difference.

Rom 4:1-5 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

2For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.

3For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

4Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth

the ungodly, **his faith** is counted for righteousness.

If any of our salvation is dependent on us and our works to keep out of sin then God would *owe* us salvation. Grace itself means *undeserved* favor. No one can *deserve* to get to heaven. We all can only *deserve* to go to hell.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The Bible is clear, to the person who does *not* work, to the person who instead believe on him, God, who justifies, or makes righteous, the ungodly (that's us), his *faith* is counted for righteousness.

- The power of Christ is diminished.

If Christ does not save to the uttermost, He is weak and not divine. Grace is no more grace, His blood is insufficient, and we are still lost in our sins. If the infinite blood of the infinite God cannot make us infinitely saved, then we have no hope.

Heb 7:24-27 But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

26For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

27Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

4. Eternally secure we are free to serve -

We are secure in Christ forever with no fear of maintaining our salvation, but there is a prerequisite. The assumption is that there was a repentant heart, that we were not merely saying a little prayer so that we could be free to sin as much as we want. With a repentant heart we have turned to Christ to join Him in His work.

Eph 1:6-7 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Gal 5:1-6 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. **[f works and keeping laws]**

2Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, **[this is reference to the law]** Christ shall profit you nothing.

3For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

5For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

You do not have to worry whether your works are keeping you acceptable. Jesus blood has *made* you acceptable. Eternal security makes a difference in your joy and confidence. We are free to serve Him out of love, not out of fear. There is no manipulation because you are not doing enough to make God love you.

The doctrine of eternal security is not just a theological comfort—it is a spiritual catalyst. When we know that our salvation is secure in Christ, we are liberated from fear and released into love-driven obedience. We are not working to *stay* saved; we are working *because* we are saved. This changes everything.

Eternal security is often misunderstood or even slandered as a license to sin. But this misses the foundation entirely. True eternal security is rooted in a repentant heart that has turned away from self and toward Christ. It is not saying a magic prayer or signing a card. It is entrusting one's soul to the finished work of Jesus Christ and doing so with the intention of following Him.

Rom 6:1,2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

If a person uses the doctrine of eternal security as an excuse for lawlessness, they have misunderstood grace altogether. The person who is truly saved doesn't look for a loophole. They want fellowship with the Lord who loved them and gave Himself for them.

Imagine two sons: one unsure if his father will keep him if he misbehaves, and the other confident that nothing will break the father's love. Which one is more likely to grow, to love, to return home when he stumbles? Which one will walk with joy, freedom, and security? We're not working as spiritual day laborers, hoping to avoid being fired. We are sons and daughters, already accepted in the Beloved.

Gal 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Fear-driven religion may produce conformity, but it will never produce spiritual maturity. Love is a far greater

motivator than fear.

If you think your salvation depends on staying good enough, long enough, you will constantly look over your shoulder. No matter how good we could even be, it would never be good enough, anyway. You will be easy to manipulate, spiritually insecure, and possibly even resentful of the God you're trying so hard to please. But when you know that Jesus has fully paid the debt and fully secured your place, you stop performing *for* approval and start living *from* approval.

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

That liberty is not liberty to sin, but liberty to serve. To love God out of joy. To love others without fear. To give, pray, labor, and even suffer, not to earn your salvation, but because it is already yours. The doctrine of eternal security produces gratitude, not laziness. It fuels holiness, not compromise. It produces believers who say: "I don't obey to be accepted. I obey because I am accepted."

That is the power of the gospel. That is the beauty of eternal security. It is not the softening of grace, but the deepening of love. You don't hold onto Christ with all your might to stay saved. Instead, He holds you. Remember from 2Tim 1:12, it is God Who keeps your commitment. And knowing that, you are free, not to do nothing, but to do everything in the strength of joy.

Psa 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

If you've never trusted Christ to save you, the message today is simple, yet life-changing: salvation is eternal. When Jesus saves you, He does not loan you salvation. You don't hold onto Him with trembling fingers hoping to make it, you fall into His hands, and He holds you forever.

If you've been waiting until you're

"good enough" to come to God, you're missing the point entirely. You will never be good enough. But Jesus is. He died for your sin, He rose from the dead, and He offers eternal life, not temporary relief. If you're willing to turn to Him today with a repentant heart, He will not cast you out. He will keep you. Forever.

And to the believer: If you know Christ as your Savior, then you are held in the grip of His grace, forever. That's not a license to coast through life; it's a call to joyful service. You're not running a race to earn God's love. You're running with it already placed on you.

You are free, not to live for yourself, but to live for the One who saved you and keeps you. The burden of trying to be "good enough" is gone. Now, you walk in the liberty of grace, energized by gratitude, not guilt.

Christ didn't just save you *from* something. He saved you *for* something. Eternal security is not the end of your journey. It's the foundation for a fruitful life. So step forward today, not to re-secure what Christ already secured, but to say yes to the life He secured you for. Joyfully, confidently, and freely to serve the Lord with gladness.

1. Salvation insecurity and manipulation
2. Our salvation is eternally secure - Rom 6:23, John 3:16,36, Heb 10:10-14, Rom 5:20-21, John 10:28-29, 2Tim 1:12
3. No salvation without eternal security - Gal 3:1-5, 1Pet 1:18-19, Heb 9:12-14, Rom 4:1-5, John 3:18, Heb 7:24-27
4. Eternally secure we are free to serve - Eph 1:6-7, Rom 6:1,2, Gal 4:7, 5:1, Psa 100:2