

## Security

John 10:22-39

Some time ago, a couple visited our church. After talking to them I found out they had just moved into this area and someone had told them about Mountain Grove. After the service they waited to talk to me. After telling me how much they enjoyed the service, the husband asked, "Do you believe in, and preach the doctrine of eternal security?" I responded that I did, and he said, "I'm sorry, we won't be back, because we cannot attend any church that believes such a damnable doctrine." That is sad, because, I am convinced that when the doctrine of eternal security of the believer is properly understood, it brings a peace that comes from the heart of God.

What used to be called the doctrine of the "final perseverance of the saints," is now often referred to as "once saved, always saved," or "eternal security of the believer." Is this a biblical truth, or is it just some concoction of some deranged theological mind?

As we come to the end of our series on biblical doctrine, I want us to consider the doctrine of security. To begin our study we must, first of all, understand that our security is related to the kind of salvation that God has provided for sinners. Has God provided salvation, or has God provided a chance for salvation to those who accept Jesus Christ as a personal Savior? Then we must ask, Who is responsible for man's salvation? Does God do a saving work for men? Or do men contribute something to their own salvation? For it stands self-evident that, if God does the work, God will make no mistake and there will be no failure. If man contributes something to his own salvation, man may make mistakes and man may lose his salvation because he did not fulfill his obligation.

As we study the subject of security, we want to examine the Word of God to see what the bible teaches concerning the kind of salvation God provided, and the promise God makes to men who receive Christ as personal Savior. It will not be possible for us to go extensively into the great doctrine in this one session, but we will cover as much as we can in this one study.

Those who teach that a man can lose his salvation, or fall from grace, as they often refer to it, are not without Scriptures that, on the surface, seem to support their position. I want to take a little time to look at just a few of the scriptures which are used, and, I believe, misused, to support the doctrine that

a man can be saved today but lose his salvation tomorrow and may need to be saved all over again.

**First, there are those passages that are related to the *nation Israel*, in which the nation is warned that it will be set aside by God if it continues in disobedience.** For instance, in Matthew 18 there is the parable of the king making a reckoning with his servant, and there are some unfaithful servants who are banished from the king's presence. This parable was designed to teach not that a man loses his salvation, but rather that a privileged servant-nation may be set aside if it persists in disobedience and unbelief, and rejection of Jesus Christ (and we know that they did). **Many of the Old Testament passages used to support the doctrine that a man may lose his salvation fall into this classification.** Remember, if you try to build a New Testament doctrine on Old Testament scriptures, you are in trouble.

**Second, there are passages that relate to the *apostates* in the last days.** For instance, in 1 Timothy 4:1-3, Paul says, "...the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, doctrines of demons; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." **It is out of this group that come cult religions, that is, they use certain scriptures to build a false doctrine.** These apostates were *never redeemed men, never born again*; they *never possessed eternal life*, but they held to a form of godliness while denying the power thereof, and of such we are warned.

**Third, there are passages that relate to *professors*, that is, those who professed to know Christ but never knew Him.** Although this group of nonbelievers is similar to apostates, there is a difference – this group basically refers to lost church members. John 15:6 says, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and man gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." Christ is not teaching that a man who has been saved will be cast into hell; but such *professors* will be, because there is no truth behind their profession.

**Four, there are passages that contain *warning and correction* to those who seek to be saved by *performance*, that is, by their works.** One of the main scripture passages here is found in Hebrews 6:4-6, "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers

of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.” **The key word here is “impossible.” Therefore, if you use this scripture passage to teach that a person could be *saved* and then *lost*, you would conversely have to teach that if one were to be saved and then be lost it would be “impossible” for them ever to be saved again: and that is just not what they believe. Taken in its entire context, the Greek makes this passage much more clear. Lets go back to verse 1 to start, “So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding. For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened - those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come - and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.”**

**Five, there are passages that speak of *losing rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.*** 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 says, “For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble - every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall test every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abides which he hath built upon it, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” **The Judgment Seat of Christ has nothing to do with being saved or lost – the Judgment Seat of Christ is where the believer will be judged for his works. Although it is true a believer may lose his reward, but loss of reward is not synonymous with loss of his salvation.**

**Therefore, a careful study of these scriptures will reveal that not one of these has to do with the question of salvation, or of the continuance of salvation, or of the duration of a man’s salvation when he has been saved.** So to use these scripture passages to try to prove that a person can be saved and lose is wrongly dividing the Word of God.

**As we look back over this *doctrinal* series, each of the truths that we have studied have some measure of impact on what we believe about the**

**security of the believer.** We have learned that there are only two spiritual families on this earth, God's and the devil's. We learned that we were born into the devil's family at the time of our physical birth, and we are born into God's family when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior.

**What, then, is the basis of our eternal security?** I believe that basis of our eternal security is the *power* of God, the *promises* of God, and the *shed blood* of the Son of God, and the *seal* of the Holy Spirit.

Jude 24 speaks to us concerning the *power of God*, which "is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." The bible declares in 1 Peter 1:5 that we are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 John 4:4 says, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." **So there is the power of God.**

Jesus made this *promise* in John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Jesus made this *promise* in John 6:37, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." Jesus said in John 10:27-29, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." Romans 8:31-34 makes us this *promise*, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us." Then in Romans 8:38-39, Paul continues, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Paul mentions every spiritual and natural enemy of a man, and shows us that there is no enemy with sufficient power to overthrow God's purpose and plan, and to take the believer out of God's charge.** With that thought in mind, Paul draws this conclusion in 2 Timothy 1:12, "For this reason 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 what I have committed to Him until that Day." **So there is the promise of God.**

Listen to what we have been told in Romans 5:7-9, “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His *blood*, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” The great statement of eternal security is this – “Christ died for us.” **His death was a satisfaction for the sin of the world. His death was the payment to God for the indebtedness of the human race. His death made provision that all men might be saved.** The record that was black has been made white and clean, and the child of God stands accepted in the Beloved, because Christ died for our sins. Glory to God! **So there is the *blood* of Christ.**

Last of all, there is the *seal* of the Holy Spirit, as seen in Ephesians 1:7-14, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

**When you were born physically, there was a record made of your birth called a *birth certificate*, and birth certificate is marked with a seal.** Jesus tells us in John 3:6, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” 1 John 5:11-13 tells us, “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.” Ephesians 1:13 tells us that when we were born again, your “new birth” certificate was “sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.” **And ladies and gentlemen, that “seal” causes us to be predestined for heaven.**

Let me draw this conclusion from the words of Jesus in John 6:39, "And this is the will of Him that sent me, that I should loose none of all that He hath given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that every one who sees the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." **The *plan* of God, the *provision* of the Son, and the *power* of the Holy Spirit all render the child of God *secure* in Christ Jesus!**