

THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

I. THE DEFINITION OF SIN: (FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN SINLESS PERFECTION)

A. What is sin?

1. All unrighteousness, 1 John 5:17. No distinction here between willful and unwillful.
2. The Transgression of Law, Romans 4:15. No distinction between willful or unwillful.
3. Knowing right, but doing it not, James 4:17. Covers willful disobedience.
4. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin, Romans 14:23. Doubting, worrying, etc.

B. All sin is mortal sin, (there is no distinction between mortal and venial sin) and must be paid for by death.

1. All people are sinners, Romans 3:10-12, 23-25, and must die;
2. Or, have someone who is perfect, die for US, Romans 5:12; John 3:16-18; Isaiah 53:1-12

C. Some examples of saved sinners:

1. Noah, a drunkard, Genesis 9-10
2. Abraham lied, nearly caused his wife to be taken by another man.
3. Moses murdered an Egyptian
4. King David committed adultery and murder. He also got the same man drunk.
5. Lot lost his testimony to his kin [his family]. God could not destroy the city with Lot there, the angels physically carried him out. He committed incest with his two daughters and had children by both of them. Peter two times calls Lot a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7-8).
6. The incestuous man in I Cor. 5:5-“To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

D. Israel-They are God’s chosen people, and even though they reject Christ now, Israel is still God’s chosen nation. “I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee.”

II. SOME EXAMPLES OF THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER FROM THE SCRIPTURES:

A. Last Will and Testament

1. Will left by Jesus, **II Peter 3:9**: The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. **Titus 1:2** In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
2. A will is made valid only by the death of the testator, Hebrews 9:16-17; Romans 5:12.
3. After the death of the testator, no one has authority to change a valid will. The testator himself (he being dead) cannot change it.
4. The promise of eternal life was made, and sealed with Christ's own blood by His death for us. Nothing can change His promises.

B. The Good Shepherd:

1. "My sheep (Christians) know my voice, and I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand...and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."
2. **Ephesians 4:30** - And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
3. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Romans 8:35-39. Paul anticipated some would say that we ourselves could turn our back on God and of our own choice walk out of God's salvation, so he said: "NOR ANY OTHER CREATURE..." For us to claim power to be able to walk out of God's salvation is for us to claim power higher than God's.

C. The IMPOSSIBILITY of being re-saved. **Hebrews 6:4** For *it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, **Hebrews 6:5** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **Hebrews 6:6** If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.*

- D. YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN, John 3:5. Nowhere in Scripture is there an indication, or the slightest hint that one can be saved more than one time.
1. Once a birth has taken place (either physically or spiritually) and one is born, it is an impossibility to be UN-BORN, once that birth has taken place.
 2. One can easily change his name. The law allows at least two or three ways one can change his name. They are: court order, marriage, or adoption. The law can change one's name, BUT IT CANNOT CHANGE THE FACT OF ONE'S BIRTH.
 3. **John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
 4. **Romans 8:16-17** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. By virtue of this joint-heirship, all that Jesus owns, He has promised to us also.

III. THE CHRISTIAN AS HE STANDS BEFORE GOD

- A. **Romans 8:1** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- B. **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.**
- C. **2 Cor. 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

IV. HOLINESS: Alas there are some who say we must have holiness before we can get to Heaven, and that that holiness is by our ability to live spotless lives.

- A. THE SCRIPTURE DOES NOT TEACH THAT INDIVIDUALS MUST HAVE HOLINESS TO SEE GOD.
- B. The source of this holiness is the question. It should not be because of its plainness in the Scripture.
- C. Hebrews 12:14 and 1 Peter 1:16 teach that we must have Holiness.

- D. Isaiah 64:6, Rom. 3:10-20 and 23 teaches that we HAVE NO HOLINESS, and that ALL OUR RIGHTEOUSNESSES ARE AS FILTHY RAGS.
- E. QUESTION: IF WE MUST have holiness, BUT WE HAVE NO holiness, how are we to be saved?

1. **Romans 4:3-5** For 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. Abraham's faith was his belief in the COMING MESSIAH.
2. **Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.... Our faith (11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him) is in the RISEN MESSIAH.
3. Read John 6:28-48. **John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**
4. Christ knew the sins we would commit before He went to the cross for them. Not only our past sins are **PAID IN FULL**, but so are our future sins. All of **OUR** sins that Jesus died for, were in the future when He died.
5. If Jesus is your Saviour:
 - a. He paid for all sins, past, if you confess them, and future, if you confess them or not.
 - b. As stated before, and we will touch on it a bit more later, all sin must be paid for. All sin carries a price tag. Whether it is a Christian or a lost man.

V. HOW ABOUT JUDAS? Many contend that he was a saved man, and lost his salvation.

- A. **John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?**
- B. I have yet to hear of a saved devil. If he were saved, he would not be a devil. If he is a devil, he cannot be saved.

- C. Christ chose Judas that the Scriptures might be fulfilled, John 13:18; 17:12. [SEE ALSO Psalm 41:9]
- D. Jesus pronounced a woe upon him, Mark 14:21.
- E. A lesson to be learned by this account concerning Judas:
 1. A man can fool men. Judas was so trusted, that he was treasurer, and held the money bag.
 2. But he cannot fool God. Mark 14:21. "Better for that man that he had not been born..."

VI. SAVED BY GRACE

- A. **Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us....
- B. **Romans 4:4-5** Now 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.
- C. **Romans 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. **Romans 3:28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.
- D. If we are saved by works, baptism, penance, etc., then is Jesus crucified in vain.

VII. SALVATION IS NOT A LICENSE TO SIN

- A. ROMANS 6:1-10
- B. As mentioned before, ALL SIN must be paid for. The lost pays for his own in hell, (God's jail) and ultimately in the Lake of Fire (God's prison, final and eternal fiery torment). (Rev. 20:14) Sins of those who have trusted Jesus as their personal Saviour were paid for by Him on Calvary, Isaiah 53; Romans 5:8.
- C. Christians are expected to walk circumspectly before the world, not to gain salvation, but BECAUSE of their salvation. Eph. 5:15
- D. Christians failing to please their Lord by their testimony, will receive a just reward. SEE I Cor. 3:9-15; SEE ALSO "A TESTING TIME IS COMING" - 1 Cor. 3:13

1. The Foundation is Jesus. Men without Jesus as their foundation are lost. There can be no better foundation than Him.
2. We are God's husbandry, v. 9.
3. We are building upon Christ as our foundation. We are building by our life. We are to take heed how we build thereupon.
4. Each Christian's work will be tried by fire, of what **sort** it is, v. 13.
5. Two types of buildings are constructed:
 - a. One built with: Gold, Silver, Precious Stones. These are UNBURNABLE.
 - b. One built with: Wood, Hay, Stubble. These are VERY BURNABLE.
6. Twofold result of this test by fire:
 - a. V. 14: "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."
 - b. V. 15: "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."
7. How do we build the building that will withstand the test? **1 Cor. 4:1-2** Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

E. Erring children are chastened by God, Heb. 12:6-8

1. Chastisement proves:
 - a. His Love for us.
 - b. That He has received us.
 - c. That we are His son. "...for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not." (V. 7)
2. Those without chastisement may know most assuredly that they are lost and that they are still the children of the devil, v. 8.

VIII. SOME SAY THAT THEY DO NOT SIN, OR AT LEAST WILLFULLY. I marvel at their boldness to lie, and not only so, but to also call God a liar. What saith the Scriptures?

A. **1 John 1:8-10** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If

we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

B. **Eccles. 7:20** For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

1. This does not teach that there are no just people, but that all just people sin.
2. Lot, called a just man by Peter, was guilty of many vile sins. David, Paul, Jonah, etc., though close to God, were all guilty of various sins.

IX. GOD BELIEVES IN ETERNAL SECURITY

A. **2 Tim. 2:13** If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

1. **1 John 3:24** And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.
2. **Romans 8:9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
3. **John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

B. If we are sons of God, and He has given us His Spirit, and nowhere does He say that He will take His Spirit from us, then regardless of what comes, we will always remain children of God, and joint-heirs with Jesus.

X. A PASTOR'S ILLUSTRATION OF ETERNAL SECURITY

His mom comes to Church with two big shiners (black eyes). When asked how she got them, she said: "Bobby gave them to me. He knows he's my son, and he'll always be my son, so he just whipped me to pieces, just for the fun of it." No person in his right mind is going to treat his mom in this way. For any Christian to think that he can treat God likewise is absurd. A Church of Christ preacher one told a pastor: "If I believed like you do, I'd go live like the devil because I'd always be saved." To this the pastor replied: "If I believed like you do, I COULD live like the devil to, because I could always get saved again."

XI. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME QUESTIONS FOR WHICH I HAVE NEVER RECEIVED AN ANSWER FROM THOSE WHO HOLD THAT ONE CAN BE SAVED AND LOST AGAIN.

- A. How can any frail human being place himself above God who declares that “nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God”?
- B. How can one become un-born after he has been born? We must be born again, and to deny Eternal Security is to say that we can become un-born.
- C. If we are not now, nor ever can become condemned (John 5:24) then how can we become lost?
- D. Which sin is the sin that loses one’s salvation? Where do you draw the line between saved and lost?
- E. Why do not churches which teach one can lose his salvation, re-baptize him after he has been “re-saved”?
- F. For those who hold that one can live above sin, please show me one person other than the Lord Jesus who was able to do so.

XII. THERE ARE MANY TYPES OR PICTURES OF ETERNAL SECURITY IN THE SCRIPTURES. Some are:

- A. Moses was commanded to first strike the rock. The second time he was to SPEAK ONLY to it. Jesus was smitten for our salvation. Now we only have to speak to Him.
- B. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, only one look to the serpent caused healing to all who looked.
- C. Noah’s ark is a striking example of Eternal Security. God was in the ark before Noah and Noah was in it 7 days before the rains came. At any time in those 7 days, anyone who wanted to come, could have come into the ark. After due warning to those without, the Scripture records “AND GOD SHUT HIM IN”. The door of the ark was never again opened, neither to the wailing sinners outside, nor to Noah (and those others who were saved) on the inside. Could Noah have opened a door God had closed? NO! When Noah left the ark, the covering, or roof was removed.
- D. Another good example of Eternal Security is the fact that anyone whom the Lord ever healed from a disease, or ailment, never had to be re-healed again. No one whom He ever raised from the dead had to be raised more than once because the first time was not sufficient.
- E. For Him to give unto sinners Eternal Life is a mystery in itself. It is also to His Honour and Glory. If there were any glory in man, he would be robbing it from God.
- F. The doctrine of Eternal Security of the believer is truly scriptural. It is one of the most blessed realities, and not a mere doctrine. Had Christ not meant it when He promised us eternal life, He certainly would not have

made it so emphatic.

- G. The Divine Author of the Holy Scriptures has said in a number of places: “I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren”. A study of His Word will reveal wonderful doctrines to those who will believe them. A belief in this doctrine, the Eternal Security of the Believer, will produce a happiness that heretofore you have not experienced. “These things have I written unto you that your joy might be full.”