

ETERNAL SECURITY

“True or false”

This is not a very well understood doctrine. Many have a lot of problems with the teaching of “Eternal Security” or “Once Saved Always saved.”

The simplest definition of eternal security is , “***The power of God which keeps the saved person eternally secure.***” This stems from the belief that our salvation is entirely the work of God from beginning to end - “salvation belongs to the Lord only!”

Over the centuries there has been two lines of thought: one stresses **salvation by grace entirely apart from human works or merit**. Some identifies this as “Calvinism”. The second thought stresses human **“free will”** and a continual exercise of that free will. Some identifies this as “Arminianism” But, the main issue that we have is, is it possible for one who has truly been saved to lose his salvation. There are great minds on both sides of this issue. I think that the root problem is a failure to understand our relationship with our heavenly Father through the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, the purpose of this lesson is to show from Scripture that it is possible to have the assurance of salvation in the here and now, and to answer questions that have been raised. We will also prove from scripture that salvation is eternal and cannot be lost once it has been received.

First of all, we need to realize that the credit belongs to God. The assurance of salvation can only come from accepting the scriptural teaching that salvation is a free gift of God grace to undeserving sinners entirely apart from any and all human works. ***1 Peter 1:4,5; “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”***

Notice here that it is by the “Power of God” that we are kept. To deny the Biblical teaching of Eternal Security is to deny the power of God to keep those who have trusted in Him for their eternal salvation to keep them secure. ***Gal. 2:20; “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”***

Whether you realize it or not, there are actually only two groups of people on the earth today; – The family of Adam and the Family of God – we all come into the world via the family of Adam. In Adam all are described as being dead in trespasses and sins. This death sentence hangs over the head of every member of Adams’ family. It is currently a spiritual death now (which means separation from God) - In the end it will mean a physical death (or eternal separation from God in a place called hell.) This is what awaits all members of the family of Adam

But God has provided a way of escape through His Son by providing a way for us to escape from the family of Adam and adopted into the “family of God”. In the family of God, all are made alive. The moment we believe and accept the His Son’s death, burial and resurrection as being sufficient for our sins, God the Holy Spirit takes us out of Adam and puts us into God’s family. All who are in Christ are made alive. It is His life that lives within us... Notice in the above verse that it says, ***“I am kept by the faith (or the faithfulness) of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.”***

Now, the question concerning our eternal security within God’s family is, ***“Can I loose my standing within the family of God and be brought back into the family of Adam?”*** Well, if it depended on my ability to keep myself in the family of God, then I would have to say YES - it is a very good possibility that I would end back in the family of Adam. But here in 1 Peter 1:5 it says that ***“...we are kept by the power of God”***. Do you think for a moment that God’s power is not great enough to hold on to you, and keep you from falling away? Paul goes on to say in:

Rom. 8:38,39 *“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 creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Isn't that wonderful to know that there is absolutely nothing that can come between us and God's love - that my friend, is eternal security.

Jude 1:24; *“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,”* He who saved you is able to keep you safe in His power and one day present you faultless to the Father.

II. So you need to realize that the credit for your salvation from beginning to end lies in the power of God to keep you in the palm of His hand... That folks is eternal security.

The assurance of salvation Plainly stated in Scripture

Rom 3:26-28; “To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. The Apostle Paul shows that the believing sinner is justified freely by the grace of God and that he has nothing in which he can boast as a possessor of salvation. He cannot boast in his works because his works is nothing but filthy rags in God's sight. He cannot boast in his keep of the law because no man has kept the law to the letter. Man is a sinner and has nothing to bring to God. He can only come by faith, and even faith cannot be an object of our boasting. Where does our faith come from? Do we somehow manufacture it within ourselves: Can we boast in that? NO!

Eph. 2:8,9 ; *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* We cannot even boast in “our faith” even our faith comes from God. **Titus 3:5;** *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”* If works of righteousness couldn't save us, why should we expect works of righteousness to keep us saved?

You can have the assurance of salvation right now, **1 John 5:13;** *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life,.....”* Notice it says, “you have eternal life”. It's not that you will have eternal life if you hold out to the end. It is not a matter of us holding on to God but God holding on to us. If it was in our hands no one would make it...

Rom. 8:15,16; *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”* We are sons of God and no man can pluck us out of His hands...

Let's consider the arguments against eternal security. Some say that it is a dangerous doctrine because it may lead to careless or sinful living. They argue that this might make us feel free to indulge in the pleasures of sin. There are actually some who teaches that, but that is false doctrine. As a child of God, it does matter how we live.

No father would tells his child live like you want, it doesn't matter. God never uses terms or expressions in His Word which would give liberty to His children to commit sin. There is much that a Christian lose in indulging in sin. **1 Cor. 3:14,15;** *“If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, 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 scriptural doctrine of eternal security must always be balanced with the truth of God's parental discipline within the family of God. When the doctrine is presented in this manner, there can be no objection that it encourages or leads to careless or sinful living. Then, there are those who argue against eternal security by citing examples of those who once were “Christians” and have fallen away. We cannot be absolutely sure who is saved. Not everyone who says they are saved are truly saved. But on the other hand he might be saved but be in a state of rebellion.

Some use, as the example as “proof” of this view, Judas Iscariot. They say, “*Was he not one of Jesus’ disciples, and did he not die unsaved?*” It is true that he was chosen as a disciple but it was evident that he was never saved. Jesus said, concerning the group of His followers, in *John 6:64; “But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.” John 6:70,71; “Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.”* Jesus knew from the very beginning the heart of Judas.. Judas was a false disciple even though he was numbered among them...

Let’s look at some of the scriptural argument that is used by some who reject the doctrine of eternal security? *Matt. 24:13,14 “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”* What “end” is he talking about here and what “salvation” is in view? The passage is dealing with the tribulation period. It will be a time of great persecution and only those who refuse to take the mark of the beast all the way up to the end will be saved.... Israel are the ones who are in view – Not the Body of Christ

Another “proof” text they use is, *Gal. 5:4; “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”*

I. All throughout the book of Galatians Paul is pointing out that it is an impossibility for anyone to be justified by the law. For example *Gal. 2:21; “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness came by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”*

I. There are those who do not believe in Eternal Security that when a person commits a sin he loses his salvation/ That is totally contrary to what Grace is all about.

A. So what is Paul talking about here in *Gal. 5:4* when he says that: “*Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*” Paul is speaking hypothetically - If you could be justified by the law, you would have to remove yourself from

the realm of Grace down to law and thereby be justified by the law. But that is not going to happen because no one is justified by the law...

So does that mean that we can just sin up a storm and get away with it? NO!!! There is discipline within God’s family - *Heb 12:6; “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”*