

Assurance of Salvation

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There's a lot of debate, discussion, and disagreement about one particular and important subject, and that's salvation. And God wants us to know, understand, and believe what He says in His word about it. He wants us to be absolutely certain about the essential truths of salvation, to have convictions, and not be confused or swayed by the lies of the devil.

Last week we talked about Rom. 3:20-28, a key passage when it comes to salvation.
- Rom. 3:28 - We read that we're not saved by our works, but by faith, by trusting in Christ's work for us, in His death on the cross. And we learn that what God does for us is by His grace and is a free gift - that is, it costs us nothing. And we read that God is propitiated, which means that He is satisfied by Christ's death for us, and therefore can justify us, redeem us, and make us righteous.

Eph. 1:4-7, 13-14. We learn that God chooses ahead of time those He wants to save. He loves us before the world was ever made and predestines us for salvation.
- The result of being saved is that we're adopted into God's family, we become His children. And we're redeemed, which means God spiritually owns us. And we're forgiven of our sins, our guilt is taken away - and therefore, we're holy in God's sight. We also learn that God gives us His Spirit - and His Spirit actually comes to live in us, and permanently so. And the Spirit is God's promise and pledge to us that He will finish what He started in us, and we'll receive an inheritance, and a brand-new glorified body.

Last time we talked about how our salvation is secure, that we can't lose our salvation, it can't be taken away, for once we're saved, we're always saved. And today I want to look at a number of truths that make it very clear that we cannot lose our salvation.

1. There are many verses that actually say that we can't lose and won't lose our salvation.
- John 10:27-30. Those who are saved have eternal life, and this life lasts forever; and those who have eternal life will never perish, which means they'll never lose their salvation. Not only that, but no one will snatch Christians out of Christ's hand, and more than that, no one will snatch Christians out of God's hands. Once we're saved, we're always saved.
- 1 Cor. 1:8. *"God will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of Christ."* This says you'll be blameless on the day Christ comes back, and that's because God Himself will keep you strong, He will keep you blameless, He will keep you saved.

Heb. 13:5 - *"God Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.'"*
To lose our salvation means that spiritually speaking, God has left us. But God doesn't ever spiritually leave us; He's always with us, and He always keeps us saved. Ps. 73:23-24
- Jude 24-25. *"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy."* God will keep you from stumbling, meaning He'll keep you from losing your salvation. He'll make sure you make it through this life and after this life, you'll stand before God Himself, you'll be in His presence.

2 Timothy 4:18 – *“The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom.”* God will protect you, guard you, and rescue you from all the traps and snares of the devil and bring you safely to heaven. Psalm 144:1-2
- God never says you can lose your salvation but, rather, says that He will make sure you don't ever lose your salvation, and that He'll do what it takes so you keep your salvation.

2. The work to secure our salvation was completed by Jesus Christ.

- John 19:30. *“Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ And He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.”*
The work to pay for all our sins was completed, was finished by Jesus Christ. He died and paid the penalty for all our sins. And there's nothing else that He or anyone else needs to do. Again, you must know that obtaining salvation is not what we or anyone do, but what Christ does for us, and Christ did all that needed to be done to pay for our sins. *“It is finished.”*

Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11. Jesus suffered and died for all our sins, He bore our iniquities, He paid for our sins, He was a guilt offering, Christ did it all. Therefore we're fully and forever saved. It says, *“He will see His offspring.”* If Christ died for you, then He will see you in heaven, for Christ will see the ones whose sins He bore, the ones whose guilt He took upon Himself.
- Hebrews 1:3, 8:1, 10:12. When an OT priest was offering sacrifices, he never sat down, for his work was never done. And his sacrifices were foreshadowing the time when Christ would offer Himself as a full and final payment for our sins, and would then sit down.

3. God gives you His Spirit as a pledge, His promise to you that He'll complete your salvation, and bring you to heaven and glorify you. Jn. 14:16-17 - Do you see this, that God gives you the Holy Spirit forever, which means you are saved forever?

- 1 Cor. 6:19-20. God bought you, He paid for you with the blood of His own Son. And so God owns you, and the Spirit is given to you as proof that He owns you, and that He'll keep you, and never give up on you, and will bring you safely to heaven.
- Eph. 1:13-14. This word redemption refers to how God, through the work of the Spirit, physically redeems you, will give you a brand-new body. Eph. 4:30

4. No power, no person, no devil, no demon can undo your salvation, can somehow do something to make you unsaved so you don't go to heaven, but instead, go to hell.

- Rom. 8:31-34. No being or power can bring a charge against you, can accuse you of something that somehow, someway, would cause you to lose your salvation. Not only that, but Jesus keeps praying for you, as does the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8:26-28

5. God's nature and character motivates Him and enables Him to keep you saved.

- 1st, God has all the power He needs to keep you saved. 1 Cor. 1:8, Jude 24
- 2nd, God has the knowledge, omniscience and wisdom to keep you saved. 1 Cor. 1:30-31.
Righteousness refers to the past, that you were justified, and sanctification refers to the present, that you're being sanctified during your life on earth. Redemption refers to the future, to your physical redemption, when you will be glorified and receive a new body.

3rd – God is faithful. 1 Cor. 1:8-9. Every second of every day, God keeps doing what needs to be done to make sure you stay saved. 1 Thess. 5:23-24

- 4th – God loves you so much. And His love is a true love, a perfect love, an eternal love. And because He loves you, He's motivated and excited about continuing to keep you saved, which is just what He will do. Rom. 8:30, 35-39

- 5th - God has specific purposes for your life, and they will not be thwarted. One of His purposes is to keep you saved, and He will definitely do that. Prov. Is. 46:9-11

6. The different aspects of your salvation show and prove that God will keep you saved.

- 1st, Eph. 1:4-7 says God chose you and predestined you to get saved and to be holy in His sight. God decided that you'd get saved back in eternity past and worked out all the details so you would get saved, and would stay saved, and would someday be glorified. Then you got saved, and God isn't going to undo the fact that He chose you - He isn't going to reverse His decision to save you, and undo His entire plan to keep you saved, and to glorify you. Rom. 8:30, Eph. 1:4-7

2nd, God made you holy, you have God's righteousness, and God won't ever take away the righteousness He gave you.

- 3rd, God redeemed you, He bought you with the blood of His Son, and He now owns you. And your redemption happened at a point in time in the past, when you were saved. And there won't be a time in the future when God un-redeems you, when He undoes your redemption, and you're not His possession anymore.

4th, you have forgiveness. And nothing can happen that will take away your forgiveness. Christ died for your sins and the Spirit applied Christ's work to your life and so you're always forgiven, and nothing will ever undo that. Col. 2:13

- 5th, you've been adopted into God's family – and so now you're a child of God, and you'll always be His child, and you're never not going to be His child.

- 6th, Eph. 1:13-14 talks about how God sealed you with the Holy Spirit, how He gave you the Spirit, and nothing will cause Him to take His Spirit from you. John 14:16

7. Your salvation is not dependent on you or anyone else, but on God alone.

Jonah 2:9 - *"Salvation is from the Lord."* Rev. 7:10 - *"Salvation to our God."*

- We've talked about this truth before, but it must be firmly in your mind, that your salvation is not what you do, but what God does for you. Baptized, money, a prayer
When people talk about losing their salvation, they usually talk about something they did to lose it. But there's nothing you did to save yourself and so there's nothing you can do to un-save yourself, there's nothing you can do to lose your salvation. God did it all.

8. Your salvation is not dependent on how you feel. We walk by faith, not by sight.

You may say, *"I don't feel saved, I don't feel loved, I don't feel forgiven, I don't feel like I'm God's child."* But it's not feelings, it's faith, it's depending on God and His word.

9. Some people and religions believe you can lose your salvation because of some sin. In fact, some churches teach that there are two kinds of sins, mortal and venial. And mortal means leading to death, and they say if you commit that kind of sin, and don't confess it before you die, then you'll go straight to hell. Extreme Unction But God doesn't differentiate between sins. Christ died for all our sins. And once we're saved, we're forgiven of all sins, big and little sins, sins past, present, and future, and even if we die right after having committed some "bad" sin, we're still going to heaven.

What we've talked about today are different truths about your salvation and you need to know and believe these things. 1 John 5:13. But having assurance that you're a Christian is also based on the fact that you're living a godly life and are bearing fruit. A true Christian lives a godly life, he bears fruit - there's love, joy, peace, goodness, etc. But if a Christian is weak, young, or carnal, he may not have much fruit, and he may not have confidence he's saved, and others who know him may not have confidence either. And if he isn't bearing fruit at all, then he may not be a Christian. John 15:2, 6

Now the main reason the epistle of 1 John was written was so people could know, could have confidence and assurance they are Christians. 1 John 5:11-13

- This epistle talks about the marks of a true Christian. It says he believes Jesus is the Christ, he confesses his sins, he lives a holy life, he knows he's forgiven, he knows God loves him, he doesn't love the world but loves God, he overcomes the world, he obeys God's commands, he is in fellowship, and he loves the believers. If you have these qualities in your life, then you know you are a Christian, you can be confident, you can be assured that you are a Christian.

Now the devil's goal is for non-Christians to have false assurance, to feel like they are saved and are going to heaven. And his goal for Christians is to get them to feel like they're not saved, to think they're going to hell. But God wants true Christians to have assurance they are saved, and for non-Christians to not have assurance they are saved and are going to heaven, but in fact, to think and feel like they are going to hell. 1 John 5:11-13

- In all this, we are to clearly share the gospel, and trust that God will work in their hearts. Romans 1:17-18, Colossians 4:2-4