

Morning Sermon August 19, 2018
"Sure Salvation" John 10:27-30; 2 Peter 1:1-11

I. The strength of our salvation is God, His shepherding,
His power, His provision –

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ "I and My Father are one." (John 10:27-30 NKJ)

1. As I said last week, we are in His grip and nothing or no one can take us out –

If we are truly Christ's sheep:

- A. We have, He gives us eternal life
- B. We will never perish
- C. No one can snatch us out of Christ's hand or the Father's hand
- D. The power of God is our strength –

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (Ephesians 6:10 NKJ)

E. Nothing can separate us from Christ's Love –

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ 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. (Romans 8:37-39 NKJ)

It is from John 10:28-29 we get the "Once Saved Always Saved" doctrine / slogan ... which is true, but dangerous, if distorted!

2. How? Why do we distort truth?

- A. Why? We distort truth because we are sinners, we are still struggling with a sin nature.
- B. How? By focusing on one portion of a passage or one passage while neglecting and missing others.

"Almost all doctrinal error is really, Truth perverted, Truth wrongly divided, Truth disproportionately held and taught.

A. W. Pink

3. Question: How do we distort "Once Saved, Always Saved"?
Answer: by focusing on "and they shall never perish" while neglecting or forgetting the context; both the immediate and broader scriptural context.

A. What is neglected in this immediate context?

(1) Who it is that will not perish – Christ's sheep – John 10:27

(2) What Christ's sheep do:

(A) They hear Christ's voice, meaning His word, they hear it and do it –

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22 NKJ)

(B) They follow Christ –

"Across the will of nature leads on the path of God; not where the flesh delighteth, the feet of Jesus trod. O bliss to leave behind us, the fetters of the slave. To leave ourselves behind us, the gravestone and the grave. We follow in His footsteps; what if our be torn? Where He has marked the pathway, all hail the briar and thorn! Scarce seen, scarce heard, unreckoned, despised, defamed, unknown, or heard but by our singing, on children, ever on!"

Gerhard Tersteegen

(3) We distort this "they shall never perish" "once saved always saved" doctrine when we apply it to so called sheep who run in ways opposite of Christ –

for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, ... (2 Timothy 4:10 NKJ)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17 NKJ)

B. What is neglected in the broader context? Understanding fully what Christ saves us from – "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21 NKJ)

II. *The power of God will work, not only to save us from the penalty due our sins: Hell's fires, but also from the power of our sins –*

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, (2 Peter 1:1-3)

1. *We have gained our faith, our standing with God, our justification in His sight by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Rom. 5:1-2 NKJ)

Here is salvation from the penalty due sin, but also new standing in grace! ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you

2. *Standing in grace His, power has provided all things -
³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness*
3. *If we have been given, by His divine power all things that pertain to life and godliness, shouldn't we EXPECT to PROGRESS in life and godliness?*

- A. *Even more we should expect progress because we have been given great and precious promises -*

⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, (2 Peter 1:4A)

- B. *We are partakers of the Divine nature - that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, (2 Peter 1:4B)*

- C. *We have escaped corruption that is in the world through lust - having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:4C)*

III. *Expect Hearing, Following, Adding, Working – Hearing and following were mentioned before – John 10:27*

1. *Adding -*

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add** to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (2 Peter 1:5-7 NKJ)

Why add?

- A. *These things prevent us from being barren and unfruitful, blind, forgetful of Christ -*

⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, **you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

- B. *These things make our election and entrance into Christ's Kingdom sure -*

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-11 NKJ)

2. *Working –*

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12-13 NKJ)

Working not in order to be saved but because you are saved, and being saved! Beware of walking blind to Heaven, beware of being barren, beware of stumbling – Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (1 Corinthians 10:12 NKJ)

We are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling because our confidence is to be in God and not ourselves, and we should NEVER be confident in SIN for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. It does not say, it is God who works in you to sin and sin and sin and still think you'll WIN! Those are serpent words – “You will not surely die” ...Genesis 3:4. We do fall and fail yet Christ does prevail, even over our sins! Do you see Him prevailing in your life?

Arnold A. Brevick