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Soteriology

Eternal Security

Sadly, there are many people — including Christians — who have no real assurance of salvation. Regrettably, there are others (especially those within the “holiness movement”) who teach the real possibility of personal apostasy; that a child of God can actually lose his or her salvation.

The refrain to a song entitled “I Am Determined” (taken from the Pentecostal Praises song book) has these words:

“I am determined to hold out to the end,
Jesus is with me, on Him I can depend,
And I know I have salvation, for I feel it in my soul,
I am determined to hold out to the end.”

A faith in Christ that is conditional — which requires “living up to it,” or “holding out faithful to the end” — is NOT saving faith. Furthermore, any ‘assurance’ of salvation based upon “feeling it in my soul” is a very shaky assurance to say the least.

Assurance of salvation and the eternal security of the believer rests solely upon the veracity of the Word of God.

I John 5:11-13 — “And this is the RECORD [God has put it in writing], that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 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, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

We are saved now and forever because of what Christ has done for us and in us, and we are assured that we are saved now and forever because the transaction is in writing.

I. BIBLE REASONS FOR THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

There are three main reasons why a Christian can be absolutely assured of being eternally secure in his or her salvation:

A. SECURE BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF GOD:

1. God’s Omniscience.

See: Romans 8:29 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Ephesians 1:4 “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”

If God foreknew who would be saved, how could it be possible for the saved to be lost again at a later date? Is God’s foreknowledge conditional upon the Christian enduring to the end?

2. God’s Omnipotence.

II Timothy 1:12 “...He is able to keep...”

Jude 24 “...Him that is able to keep you...”

Philippians 1:6 “...He which hath begun...will perform it...”

I Peter 1:5 “...kept by the power of God...”

Hebrews 7:25 “...He is able also to save them to the uttermost.”

3. God’s Righteousness.

Romans 8:1 “...now no condemnation...”

Our sins have been judged and paid for. To pay for them again in our own body would make a mockery of the justice of God.

4. God’s Love.

II Peter 3:9 “...not willing that any should perish...” John 6:37,39 “...I will in no wise cast out...”

B. SECURE BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF SALVATION:

1. Salvation Is A Birth — John 3:5,6.

Is it possible to be “un-born again?”

2. Salvation Is A Gift — Ephesians 2:8,9; Romans 6:23; I John 5:12. A gift is something the receiver does nothing to merit; a gift is not a gift if it can be taken back — it’s a loan!

3. Salvation Is A Satisfaction — John 4:14; 6:35.

What amazing words — “never thirst again,” “never hunger!”
What does the word “never” mean?

4. Salvation Brings Both ‘Eternal’ AND ‘Everlasting’ Life.

• ‘Eternal’ means “no beginning and no ending.” • ‘Everlasting’ means “no ending.” (The Christian possesses both! Eternal life — the believer in Christ: Everlasting life — Christ in the believer.)

If salvation ultimately depends upon our “enduring to the end,” John 3:16 (along with a host of other scriptures) would have to read, “...but have probational life.”

5. Salvation Is An Inward Change.

The believer receives the divine (Christ’s) nature — II Peter 1:4. This is an inward change, wrought entirely by the Spirit of

God. It is an irreversible change — II Corinthians 5:17. Old things have passed away.

Those who believe one can lose his or her salvation do not appreciate the fact that just as the sinner cannot change his sinful nature, so the saint cannot change his divine nature.

6. Salvation Is A Present Possession.

The Word of God speaks of salvation as ours now!

John 3:16 — “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but HAVE everlasting life.”

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.”

John 10:28 — “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall NEVER perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

It is not something we receive after death (and maybe miss out on at the last minute!)

7. Salvation Is The Total Work Of Grace Needed For Glory.

To be sure, each Christian needs a real work of grace to live for the Lord as He intends, but as far as our eternal salvation is concerned, "...ye are complete in Him..." — Colossians 2:10.

8. Salvation Places Us Positionally In Heaven Already.

Ephesians 2:5,6 — "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

Colossians 3:3 — "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

C. SECURE BECAUSE OF THE SURE PROMISES OF GOD:

1. The Bible Clearly States We Are Preserved.

Jude 1 — "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and PRESERVED IN JESUS CHRIST, and called."

Psalms 31:23 — "O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD PRESERVETH THE FAITHFUL, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer."

2. The Bible Says We Are Sealed.

Ephesians 1:13,14 — “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were SEALED with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 4:30 — “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are SEALED unto the day of redemption.”

The “seal” refers to the official [legal] seal, the imprint in wax that holds the envelope closed.

- a. This sealing is divine** — by the Holy Spirit.
- b. The presence of the Holy Spirit in a Christian’s life is a personal guarantee of Heaven.**
- c. This “sealing” is until the “day of redemption,” not “until the day of backsliding.”**

There is a three-fold aspect of salvation. In Christ, the great transaction is:

- Signed — in the blood of the covenant.
- Sealed — by the Holy Spirit of promise (He is the earnest).
- Delivered — the redemption of the body.

3. The Bible Says No-one Can Take Us From God.

John 10:28,29 — “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.”

4. The Bible Says Nothing Can Separate Us From God’s Love.

Romans 8:35-39 — “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 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.”

5. The Bible Says We Are Predestined To Be Conformed to the image of Christ.

When God has declared our destiny, how could He be wrong?

See: Romans 8:29 Romans 8:29 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

I Corinthians 15:49; Philippians 3:21; I John 3:21.

The Christian is IN the Father (I Corinthians 8:6; I Thessalonians 1:1) and IN Christ (Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1).

Christ is IN the believer (Ephesians 3:17; Colossians 1:27) as is the Father and the Holy Spirit (John 14:17,20,23).

Furthermore, we belong to Christ and He belongs to God (I Corinthians 3:23). We are as secure as the Godhead itself!