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The Eternal Security of the Believer

John 10:27-29

When people come to know Christ as their Savior, they are brought into a relationship with God. I often say that our salvation is so simple that a child can understand it – simply believe –BUT it is also so complicated that we can study it all of our lives.

There is one aspect of salvation that is often confused.

There is only one reason why it is confused – people forget what we are supposed to use for our authority. Everything that I believe must be based on the truths from this Book.

If the Bible says it, then I am to believe it.

What many people do is, instead of accepting what the Bible says, they use

- Human reasoning: they decide what they think would be a good way for God to do things
- Or they just listen to what someone else says.

One principle that we must always keep clear in our minds is that we MUST find out what the Bible says on any subject and then believe it.

If our reasoning says something different from the Scripture, then we are wrong and God is right.

Our text shows us one of the great comforts that all born-again Christians should enjoy - the assurance that they are saved forever: that they are eternally secure.

This is the unmistakable teaching of scripture and the cause of rejoicing for every believer.

This morning we will look at three major arguments for the truth of this great doctrine.

I. The Meaning of Words

The basis for believing that once a person has accepted Christ he or she is eternally secure is found in the simple understanding of the meaning of the words that Jesus used in describing that salvation.

A. The meaning of "eternal" or "everlasting".

In verse 28, what kind of life do we have? eternal

Jesus says that we possess eternal life."

The question must be asked: Is eternal, eternal or temporary?

If the life Jesus gives can be terminated for **any** reason at all, would it still be eternal?

No it would be temporary – no matter how many years you were able to keep it. We would have temporarily enjoyed the blessings of walking with God.

Some will say that we don't actually receive the salvation until we die, so eternal life would begin then. There is a problem with that reasoning. The Bible says disagrees.

1 John 3:1-2

¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

² Beloved, **now are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

The Bible says that if we have believed then we NOW ARE the sons of God. (Words have meaning.)
It began the moment that you trusted Christ as your saviour.

Those who say that the eternal life doesn't begin until your life is over contradict themselves and talk about the blessings of salvation that you can enjoy now.

Either you have it now or later, but it can't be both.

God says that it is a current possession of those who have believed.

Let's go back to that word eternal in John 10:28.

Was that word ever used anywhere else in the Bible to describe our salvation? John 3:15, 16, 36; 5:24

I guess at this point we need to ask ourselves a few questions:

a. Did Jesus Christ know the meanings of the words He used?

b. Did Jesus Christ use the words He meant to use?

c. Did Jesus Christ mean what He said?

The answers to all of these questions is "yes."

These answers also mean that the believer is eternally secure.

B. The meaning of "never perish"

In our text, Christ says His sheep "never perish."

a. Does Christ mean what He says here, or Is it possible for one of His sheep to perish?

b. If a sheep that belongs to Christ can lose his or her salvation, then that sheep would perish.

c. But Christ said His sheep will 'never perish.'

(John 3:15, 16: 5:24 again)

The believer then is eternally secure.

C. The meaning of "pluck out of my hand"

In our text, Christ said that the believer, His sheep, is in the hand of the Father and in the hand of the Son. He also repeated the statement that nothing can take the believer out of their hands.

That means that nothing a man, an animal, a circumstance, the devil, or sin itself, can take the believer away from God and Christ.

Is that what it means? Or, does this statement mean something else?

If Christ means what He says, then the believer is saved forever and can never be lost.

D. The meaning of "separate"

Romans 8:35, 38-39 asks a series of questions and makes a series of statements to the effect that no person can separate the believer from God's love, and no circumstances can separate the believer from God's love.

Now, if the believer could be lost and sent to hell, he or she would be separated from God's love.

Again, did God know what He was talking about?

Did He mean what He said?

I believe He did and does, and as a result, the believer is eternally secure.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... 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 found in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:35, 38-39

II. The Method of Our Salvation

What did you do in order to receive salvation?

Did you pay for it?

Did you work for it?

Did you observe religious ceremonies to receive it?

A. If mankind has nothing to do with paying for or earning his salvation, then why would God require men to do something to maintain it?

Salvation cannot be by God's grace AND man's self-righteous works.

We are clearly taught from God's Word that works are NOT essential to our salvation.

Titus 3:5 states... "**Not by works** of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us..."

And again in Ephesians 2:8-10 we are told, "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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..."

We do NOT have anything to do with salvation except to receive God's free gift by FAITH.

Romans 4:5 reads, "But to him that **worketh not**, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, **his faith is counted for righteousness.**"

This is how Abraham was saved in the Old Testament, i.e., his faith was COUNTED for righteousness (Genesis 15:6).

This raises the question:

B. If I cannot do good works to get saved, then how can I do bad works to be unsaved?

Also, if my works could take away my salvation (something eternal) then how many bad works would it take?

C. How is salvation maintained, by man or God?

"For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not His saints; they are preserved forever; but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off." Psalm 37:28

"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." Jude 24

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed In the last time." I Peter 1:5

It is therefore eternal and unchangeable.

Conclusion:

There is so much more that we could consider.

We could look at the way that God describes our salvation – we are born into His family.

The moment that we trust Christ as our Saviour, then we become a child of God.

You do not throw out your children and disown them when they do bad.

--- AND GOD DOESN'T DO THAT EITHER.

What do you do when your children do wrong?
You punish them so they learn to do right.
That is why God teaches about how He chastens His children.

The Bible also talks about how we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, just like a contract was sealed in those days – not to be opened until the day that the contract was being exercised.

There is so much more.

If you have trusted Christ, then you are secure.
If you are trusting anything other than the payment that Jesus made on the cross – anything that you have done – then you need to come to Him for salvation.