

Eternal Security

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That doctrine which assures us that our salvation cannot be lost by any act on our part and will not be lost by any act on God's part – that it is eternal in nature and as such without end.

Introduction:

- A. We differentiate between Eternal Life and Eternal Security
- B. The Doctrine of Eternal Security purifies motives in all areas of Christian conduct; while the sister Doctrine of Election/Predestination purifies motives in all areas of evangelism and ministry. – John 14:15, 21, 23, 24

| Eternal Security | Loosing Your Salvation |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Salvation by God's choice | Salvation by man's choice |
| Grace | Sin |
| Running to God | Running from Hell |
| Assurance | Doubt |
| Love | Fear |

- C. Those who reject – the stumbling block is Christ
1. Deism – Man can unify under the banner of “good works” done for a undefined deity.

Gal 5:11
11 But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished.
 2. Spiritist – Man can unify under the shared experiences of mystical and ecstatic spiritist worship.
 - 1.) How is it that a...
 - Catholic who prays to Mary and believes that Christ must be re-sacrifice in the Mass where the wafer and wine become the literal blood and body of Jesus;
 - Anglican homosexual priest;
 - Church of Christ pastor who believes in baptismal regeneration;
 - Lutheran priest who believes that babies are baptized into the body of Christ;
 - Orthodox priest who believes that asceticism and suffering in this world makes up for the suffering that is lacking in Christ;
 - 2.) how is it that God the Holy Spirit honors all these erroneous teachings about Christ and His work of salvation and fills them with the Spirit while passing by those who believe correctly about Christ?
 - 3.) We can ally ourselves in worship with Catholics, Anglicans, Church of Christ, Lutherans, Orthodox and more as long as we do not discuss Jesus, for Christ is divisive.

1 Cor 1:22-23

22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness,

3. Christ and the accompanying doctrines of Salvation

1 Pet 2:7-8

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone,"

8 and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

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1 Corinthians 1:22-23 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness,
 - 6. Christ and the accompanying doctrines of Salvation however are divisive when discussed in any ecumenical setting.
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I. The Nature of Sin: Total Depravity – Romans 3:10 – 12

- A. Sin kills – Romans 6:16; James 1:15
- B. It only takes one sin to kill – James 2:10
- C. We are born sinful – Romans 5:18 & 19
- D. As such we are enslaved to satan – Ephesians 2:1 & 2
- E. God's standard, on the other hand, is perfection – Matthew 5:48
- F. No amount of good works added to our lives negates the presence of sin. Good works do not change the past and are of no value in salvation. Jeremiah 2:22; 13:33
- G. Sin by its nature is abhorrent to God and must be judged – Ezekiel 18:4; Hebrews 9:27.
- H. Conclusion: Man's Estate – Both Helpless and Hopeless

I. The Great and Timeless Hymns Of Old Recognized Our Helpless Estate:

“Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.”

**Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Refrain

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Refrain

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and power.

Let not conscience make you linger,
Not of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him.

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my smitten heart with tears, tow wonders I confess
The wonders of His glorious love and my own worthlessness

I take, O cross, the shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide, What can avail to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide; Whiter than snow you may be today.

J. Conclusion

Eph 2:1-3

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Eph 2:12

12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Jer 18:11-12

11 "So now then, speak to the men of Judah and against the inhabitants of Jerusalem saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "Behold, I am fashioning calamity against you and devising a plan against you. Oh turn back, each of you from his evil way, and reform your ways and your deeds."'"

12 "But they will say, 'It's hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.'

1. Unregenerate man is totally depraved, incapable of choosing good over evil, under the just judgment of God and destined for Hell. As such he is both helpless in terms of his will and hopeless in terms of his destiny.
2. Once saved, if man could loose his salvation he most certainly would. Unless our salvation is eternal in nature it is a divine tragedy, for no man, once saved will remain saved.
3. Once in heaven, if man could be cast out as satan from heaven or Adam from the garden, he most certainly would. One by one heaven would be depopulated until it was empty.
4. If man could loose his salvation the terms "salvation" and "heaven" become judgmental rather than redemptive in nature – just another example of the justness of God's wrath in the face of man's irresponsibility. (In answer to the question, "Can those in heaven loose their salvation?" the answer is "No". For satan is bound in Hell and God has fixed a chasm which no man can cross. Both heaven and hell are eternal. Luke 16:26)
5. If man could loose his salvation he most certainly would – we are either all going to heaven or we are all going to Hell.

II. The Nature of Salvation

A. Regeneration

1. John 1:13
2. John 3:3
3. I Peter 1:3
4. II Corinthians 5:17

B. Eternal:

To speak of losing your salvation in the face of the “eternal” nature of both our salvation and the benefits of our salvation is nonsensical

1. Definition: Existing without interruption, into the future, without end.
 - a. If conditions are attached to it then it is not “eternal” but rather both “conditional” and “temporal” in nature
 - b. Thus by the definition of “eternal” as in “eternal life” the very question as to whether or not someone has or may lose his salvation is nonsensical

| Statement | Nonsensical Response |
|--|---|
| Dr: You have a healthy baby | Man: Is the baby dead? |
| Merchant: The bill is paid in full | Man: How much do I owe? |
| Dr: The operation was a success | Man: Should we begin plans for the funeral? |
| Judge: We find the defendant not guilty | Man: How long will I spend in jail? |
| Jesus: I give you eternal life and now one shall ever snatch you out of my hand. | Man: Can I lose my salvation? |

2. The salvation and its attributes are all of an eternal nature.
 - a. Life – Romans 6:22 & 23
 - b. Weight of glory – II Corinthians 4:17
 - c. Salvation – Hebrews 5:9
 - d. Redemption – Hebrews 9:12
 - e. Inheritance – Hebrews 9:15
 - f. Covenant – Hebrews 13:20
 - g. Kingdom – II Peter 1:11
 - h. Dwelling – II Corinthians 5:1
 - i. Reign – Revelation 22:3 – 5
 - j. Fellowship – John 10:29; 14:16

C. The Definition of Grace – Ephesians 2:8 & 9

D. The Definition of Mercy – Titus 3:5

E. The Qualitative Nature of Christ’s Sacrifice – I Peter 2:24; Hebrews 10:18

Romans 5:8-9 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”

F. Propitiation – Romans 3:25; I John 2:2; 4:10

III. The Nature of God

A. Election/Predestination – Ephesians 1:4, 5, 9, 11

1. In Ephesians 1: 4 – 6, what is the purpose of the Doctrine of Predestination/Election?

Ephesians 1:4-6

4 *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love*

5 *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*

6 *to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

2. In Ephesians 1:9 – 12 what is the purpose of the Doctrine of Predestination/Election?

Ephesians 1:9-12

9 *He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him*

10 *with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. In Him*

11 *also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,*

12 *to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.*

3. In Acts 13

a. Who believed

b. What is the purpose of the Doctrine of Predestination/Election?

Acts 13:46-48

46 *And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.*

47 *"For thus the Lord has commanded us, 'I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, that you should bring salvation to the end of the earth.'"*

48 *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*

4. Because this doctrine strikes at the heart of the pride of man it has from the beginning been a stumbling block.

John 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."

John 6:39 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day."

John 6:44 "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:65 "And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father."

John 6:66 "As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore."

5. The argument by those who feel you can loose your salvation:
 - a. I made the decision to receive Christ and I can make the decision to reject Christ
 - b. I made the decision to follow Christ and I can make the decision to turn back
6. God makes His decisions concerning salvation
 - a. Not with the past in mind "I was too bad"
 - b. Not with the present in mind "I am not good enough"
 - c. Not with the future in mind "I can commit a sin which will cause me to loose my salvation"
 - d. But rather on the basis of the eternal counsels and decisions of His own nature for His glory.
 - e. Many Christians recoil at this for they view doing something for ones own glory to be prideful and vain and as a result sinful. Remember though that there are many attributes and actions of God which are sinful for man, forbidden to man but perfectly right for God. We are forbidden to engage in pride and vain glory, not because seeking glory is in itself sinful but because all glory must rightfully go to God. Thus for God to do something to bring Himself glory is simply that which is as should be, while when man does this he takes something that is rightfully due God for himself.

7. God does not choose men only to cast them aside.

1Thes 5:8-10

8 *But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.*

9 *For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

10 *who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him.*

8. The twin doctrines of Predestination/ Election are expressions of God's love and compassion for without them no mind would be saved nor if saved could any man maintain his salvation.

Romans 8:33 *"Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;"*

B. Foreknowledge – Romans 8:29 & 30

1. Foreknowledge neither negates nor dilutes the doctrines of Predestination/Election.
 - a. Foreknowledge is an expression of one of God's eternal, self-existent attributes: Omniscience.
 - b. Election is an act of His sovereign will.
2. God knew all the sins you would ever commit when he saved you.
3. Package deal, all sins paid for 2,000 years ago.
4. Illustration:
5. God recorded your name in the book of life, not only before you were born, but before creation itself.

Revelation 13:8 *"And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain."*

Revelation 17:8 *"The beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come."*

6. Nothing we do will surprise God
 - a. Births surprise men, they do not surprise God Psalm 139:14 - 16
 - b. Decisions surprise men, they do not surprise God. Psalm 139:1 - 4
 - c. Death surprises men, they do not surprise God. Psalm 139:16
 - d. Sins surprise men, they do not surprise God. Isaiah 53:6
 - e. If you were going to commit a sin so heinous that it would cause you to loose your salvation, then God would not have saved you in the first place.

IV. Corinthians 3:10 – 15

:14➔Reward

:10,11 Jesus

:15➔Loss, yet saved ➔

:12

Building Materials

Gold / Wood

Silver / Hay

Gems / Stubble

Qualities of Materials

Eternal / Decaying

Value / Worthless

Beauty / Ugly

Impervious to fire / Destroyed by fire

:13

Work, not man

is tested by fire -

there is a big dif-

ference between the two!

III. Romans 8:1, 28 – 39

A. Guiltless before God, there is nothing to judge.

Romans 8:1 “*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*” – As Christians we stand guiltless before God, true there will be a judgment but our verdict is already assured, “Not Guilty”.

1. What about the Judgment Seat of Christ
 - a. Romans 14:10
 - b. II Corinthians 5:10
 - c. Hebrews 9:27
2. There is a difference between the “judgment” of an athlete and a criminal
 - a. We do not stand before God as criminals – Revelation 20:11 – 15
 - b. Rather we stand before God as athletes – II Timothy 2:5; 4:7 & 8

STANDING BEFORE THE JUDGE

| Athlete II Tim 2:5; 4:6-8 | Criminal Revelation. 20:11-15 |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Wants fair judge | Wants crooked judge |
| Wants to be judged | Wants to avoid being judged |
| Pays to qualify to be judged | Pays to avoid judgment |
| Happy to just be there/location & event | Fears even the location and event |
| Everyone a winner | Everyone a loser |

B. First Questions 8:31 & 32 - “If God is for us, who will be against us?”

C. Second Question 8:33 – “Who will bring a charge against God’s elect?”

D. Third Question 8:34 – “Who is the one who condemns?”

E. Fourth Question 8:35 – “Who will separate us from the love of God?”

1. 8:35 – 37
 - a. Physical trials do not separate us from God
 - b. When things go bad it does not mean we have lost our salvation.
2. 8:38 - 39
 - a. The sets containing...
 - 1.) Death / Life
 - 2.) Spiritual beings
 - 3.) Present / Future
 - 4.) Height / Depth
 - 5.) Any created thing (includes you)
 - b. cannot separate you from God.

IV. John 10:27 – 30

- A. The sheep are His (Jesus), they hear His voice and He knows them.**
- B. Jesus gives them eternal life.**
 - 1. They shall never perish
 - 2. No one shall snatch them out of Jesus' hand
- C. The Father has given them to Him.**
 - 1. No one is greater than the Father
 - 2. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.
- D. Jesus and the Father are one.**
- E. Since salvation is not a matter of man's commitment to his salvation but rather God's commitment to man's salvation, our salvation is secure**

V. Suggested Reading:

- A. Things Which Become Sound Doctrine - J.D. Pentecost**
- B. Major Bible Themes – Walvrood;**
- C. Basic Christian Doctrine – C.F. Henry**
- D. The Potters Freedom – James R. White**
- E. Whatever Happened To The Gospel of Grace – James Boice**

VI. Appendix Study “Eternal Life”

Eternal Security

One kind and one kind of salvation is granted by the blood of Christ – “Eternal”. If it is lost, if it is taken away, then it is not eternal. By this we have security in our salvation

ETERNAL 166 aionios (ah-ee-o'-nee-os); from 165; perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well):

AIONIOS ^166^ "describes duration, either undefined but not endless, as in <Romans. 16:25; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 1:2>; or undefined because endless as in <Romans. 16:26>, and the other sixty-six places in the NT.

"The predominant meaning of aionios, that in which it is used everywhere in the NT, save the places noted above, may be seen in <2 Cor. 4:18>, where it is set in contrast with proskairos, lit., 'for a season,' and in <Philem. 15>, where only in the NT it is used without a noun. Moreover it is used of persons and things which are in their nature endless, as, e. g., of God, <Romans. 16:26>; of His power, <1 Tim. 6:16>, and of His glory, <1 Pet. 5:10>; of the Holy Spirit, <Hebrews. 9:14>; of the redemption effected by Christ, <Hebrews. 9:12>, and of the consequent salvation of men, <5:9>, as well as of His future rule, <2 Pet. 1:11>, which is elsewhere declared to be without end, <Luke 1:33>; of the life received by those who believe in Christ, <John 3:16>, concerning whom He said, 'they shall never perish,' <10:28>, and of the resurrection body, <2 Cor. 5:1>, elsewhere said to be 'immortal,' <1 Cor. 15:53>, in which that life will be finally realized, <Matt. 25:46; Titus 1:2>.

"Aionios is also used of the sin that 'hath never forgiveness,' <Mark 3:29>, and of the judgment of God, from which there is no appeal, <Hebrews. 6:2>, and of the fire, which is one of its instruments, <Matt. 18:8; 25:41; Jude 7>, and which is elsewhere said to be 'unquenchable,' <Mark 9:43>.

"The use of aionios here shows that the punishment referred to in <2 Thes. 1:9>, is no temporary, but final, and, accordingly, the phraseology shows that its purpose is not remedial but retributive."
(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

John 3:14-16

14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;
15 that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life.
16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

John 4:14

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

John 5:24

24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

John 6:27-29

27 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal."
28 They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"
29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

John 6:40

40 *"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."*

John 6:47

47 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life."*

John 6:54

54 *"He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."*

John 10:27-29

27 *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;*

28 *and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall 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 the Father's hand."*

John 17:1-3

1 *These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee,*

2 *even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life.*

3 *"And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."*

Acts 13:48

48 *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*

Romans 5:20-21

20 *And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,*

21 *that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Romans 6:22-23

22 *But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.*

23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1 Tim 1:16

16 *And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.*

Hebrews 5:9

9 *And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,*

Hebrews 9:11-12

11 *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;*

12 *and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

Hebrews 9:15

15 *And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*

I John 1:1-3

1 *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life--*
 2 *and the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us--*
 3 *what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

I John 2:25

25 *And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.*

I John 5:11-13

11 *And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.*
 12 *He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.*
 13 *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.*

I John 5:20

20 *And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

Jude 1:21

21 *keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.*