

**Subject: *Eternal Security in Christ***

**Scripture: *Philippians 1:1-7***

Is there anything better than being saved? Yes there is. It is being saved and knowing for sure that you are saved. Is there anything better than being saved and knowing for sure you are saved? Actually there is. It is being saved, knowing you are saved and knowing that you can never lose your salvation. The best thing is to be saved and secure.

Eternal security depends on God's work in salvation. Verse 6 of our text reminds us that salvation is God's work, not man's work. God always finishes what He starts. Have you ever started something you couldn't finish? God never does.

### **1. It is based on God's eternal provision**

**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.* We are partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4).

**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.* If eternal life can be lost, it is not eternal. Jesus says that salvation is a present blessing not a future blessing, and salvation is a complete blessing not a partial blessing.

### **2. It is based on God's unlimited power**

**John 10:28-30** <sup>28</sup> *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* <sup>29</sup> *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* <sup>30</sup> *I and my Father are one.*

**1 Peter 1:3-5** <sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* <sup>4</sup> *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,* <sup>5</sup> *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Peter wrote of God's keeping power, and he knew something about that in his own life. There was a time when Peter turned his back on the Lord and denied Him, but he didn't totally reject the Lord and walk away from Him for good. Why not? Why did Peter repent, but Judas the traitor did not?

**Luke 22:31-32** <sup>31</sup> *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:* <sup>32</sup> *But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

### **3. It is based on God's sovereign purpose**

**John 6:37-40** <sup>37</sup> *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* <sup>38</sup> *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.* <sup>39</sup> *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last*

day. <sup>40</sup> And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

**Romans 8:28-30** <sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Believers are foreknown, predestinated, called, justified, and glorified. All of these things are written in the past tense, even our glorification, because they are certain. All five realities are inseparably linked from eternity. No one gets dropped along the way.

#### **4. It is based on Christ's sufficient payment**

**John 19:30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

**Hebrews 9:12** Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Isaac Watts composed a great hymn, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*: “And when before the throne I stand in Him complete, Jesus died my soul to save, my lips shall still repeat. Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow.”

There is another great hymn titled, *My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*: “My faith has found a resting place, not in device or creed. I trust the ever-living One—His wounds for me shall plead. I need no other argument, I need no other plea; it is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.”

#### **5. It is based on Christ's eternal priesthood**

**Romans 8:31-34** <sup>31</sup> What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. <sup>34</sup> Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

**Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

**1 John 2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

#### **6. It is based on the Spirit's indwelling presence**

**Romans 8:9-11** <sup>9</sup> But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. <sup>10</sup> And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of

righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. “Dwell” means a permanent residence. The Holy Spirit lives inside every believer. Your heart is not a hotel; it is a home.

**Ephesians 1:13-14** <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

## **7. It is based on the believer's spiritual position**

**1 Corinthians 15:22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Eternal security is not based on a feeling. It is based on a fact. That fact is that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone. The teaching of eternal security is often misunderstood and sometimes abused.

- Eternal security is not a license to sin

Someone may say: “If I believed that I could be saved and never lose salvation, then I’d get saved and live any way I pleased.” No you wouldn’t, not if you really were saved.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**Romans 6:1-2** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

- Eternal security is only for true believers

A person may object to the doctrine of eternal security: “I knew someone who was a Christian and then walked away from Christ and renounced his faith. Didn’t he lose his salvation?” No, he never had it. The faith that fizzles before the finish had a flaw from the first. Eternal security is for true believers, not make-believers.

**Matthew 7:22-23** <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? <sup>23</sup> And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The teaching of eternal security is often described in these words: “once saved, always saved,” but the key word is “saved.” God knows who is truly saved. He knows His own children.

**2 Timothy 2:19** Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.