

Subject: *Once Saved Always Saved*

Scripture: *Philippians 1:1-6*

Perched on a high cliff there was an old monastery. The only way it could be reached by visitors was in a big basket pulled to the top with a ragged rope. Halfway up one passenger asked, "How often do you change this rope?" Calmly the monk replied, "Whenever the old one breaks." Some people have no more confidence in their salvation than the people in that basket. The best they can do is hope they make it. Once saved always saved (the doctrine of eternal security) is one of the greatest truths in the Bible.

The good work spoken of in verse 6 is God's good work of salvation in the believer. Salvation is of God. It is a work that begins in time and continues for eternity. Salvation is an event followed by a process and finished with another event. Our text speaks the day of salvation (vs. 5) which is an event. Then it speaks of the day of Jesus Christ (vs. 6), the coming of Christ and that is an event. It also speaks of the process as the good work that was begun in us (vs. 6). It is an ongoing work that is not yet finished, but it will be finished because it is God's work of salvation. We need to beware of two things:

- Eternal security is not a license to sin. A person will object, "If I believed that you could be saved and never lose your salvation, then I'd get saved and live any way I pleased." No you wouldn't, not if you really were saved. **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 real believers – When we speak of once saved always saved, the key word is saved. A person will challenge us, "I knew somebody who was a Christian and then turned his back on Christ and renounced his faith. Didn't he lose his salvation?" No, he never had it. Eternal security is for true believers, not make-believers. Notice what Jesus said in **Matthew 7:23** *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* **1 John 2:19** *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.* God knows who true believers are. **2 Timothy 2:19**...*the Lord knoweth them that are His...* What does the Bible teach about eternal security?

Believers are secure because of the Lord's provision

When a person is saved he receives the free gift of eternal life. The Christian life has a beginning but it has no end. **John 10:27-30** ²⁷ *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:* ²⁸ *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* ²⁹ *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* ³⁰ *I and my Father are one.* **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.* Everlasting life is a present possession. **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.*

Believers are secure because of the Lord's promise

When a person is saved the Lord enters into an unbreakable relationship with him.

John 10:27-30 ²⁷ *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:* ²⁸ *And I give unto them eternal life (the provision); and they shall never perish (the promise), neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* ²⁹ *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* ³⁰ *I and my Father are one.*

R. A. Torrey said, "The blood of Christ makes us safe. The Word of God makes us sure."

Believers are secure because of the Lord's purpose

When a person is saved he is fulfilling God's purpose and plan for his life. **John 6:37-40** ³⁷ *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* ³⁸ *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.* ³⁹ *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.* ⁴⁰ *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.* See **Romans 8:28-30**. This is God's eternal purpose.

Believers are secure because of the Lord's payment

When a person is saved he is redeemed or set free by the payment of Christ's blood. His sin debt is paid in full. **1 Corinthians 6:20** *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.* **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.* The statement, "It is finished" means the debt is paid in full. **Romans 8:31-33** ³¹ *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?* ³² *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?* ³³ *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.* If the Judge is satisfied, that's all that matters. Who can condemn us? God justifies us because the penalty for sin has been paid in full. The song says, "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."

Believers are secure because of the Lord's priesthood

When a person is saved he has Christ to represent Him before the Father. **1 Timothy 2:5** *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.* Christ is not only the perfect sacrifice, He is the perfect priest. He offered His own blood to make atonement for sin and then entered heaven to make intercession for us as High Priest.

Romans 8:34 *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.* Satan is our adversary and our accuser, but Jesus is our Advocate.

Believers are secure because of the Lord's presence

When a person is saved the Holy Spirit comes to live inside him. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in the believer. The believer's heart is not a hotel where the Spirit checks in and checks out. **Romans 8:9** *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.* The Holy Spirit seals us. **Ephesians 4:30** *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.* The clay seal was a mark of identification and ownership. The Holy Spirit is God's down payment for us. **Ephesians 1:13-14**¹³ *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,*¹⁴ *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.* The Holy Spirit is God's deposit. For us to lose our salvation means that God would have to forfeit Himself.

Believers are secure because of the Lord's placement

When a person is saved he has a new spiritual position in Christ. A believer is united with Christ in a spiritual, unshakable, unbreakable bond. **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.* We are now in Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:22** *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.* When we are born physically we are born in Adam, but when we are born spiritually we are born in Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:13** *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.*

Do you remember being on a balcony or bridge and sticking your arm over the rail? Did it scare you that maybe your arm might be in danger? No, that never entered your mind because your arm is attached to the rest of your body.

Being saved is like Noah being inside the ark. The Bible says that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. God said, "Noah, this world is so wicked that I am going to destroy every person and everything with a flood. Noah, I want you to build a big ship, an ark of safety. I'll give you the dimensions and tell you how to build it. Noah, I'm going to use that ark to save you and your family." Now we know the rest of the story, don't we? Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives went into the ark and God saved them through the flood. They were secure inside the ark. Noah may have fallen down inside the ark, but he never fell out because God sealed the door and shut him in. The Lord didn't put pegs on the outside of the ark and expect Noah and his family to hang on. No, they were safe inside the ark. We are safe in Christ. There is salvation and security in Christ, but only in Christ.