

Christians at Texas State Bible Study # 3

The Assurance, Security and Joy of Our Salvation (2)

THE SECURITY OF OUR SALVATION

A man with millions in the bank has the *assurance* that the riches are his. But if the bank insists on leaving their vault unlocked, our rich friend will have a real problem with the *security* of his riches. He knows he is rich today, but he does not know about tomorrow.

I know that whatever God does, it will be forever. (Eccl. 3:14)

One wonderful fact regarding our salvation in Christ is that it is irreversible, that is, it cannot be undone. Once we are saved, we are saved forever because our salvation has as its basis the very nature and person of God Himself.

Salvation Was Initiated by God

Jesus told His disciples,

You did not choose Me, but I chose you. (John 15:16)

In other words, salvation was God's idea, not ours. In eternity past we were chosen and even predestinated (marked out) by Him.

Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, (Eph. 1:4-5)

Furthermore, it was He who called us.

Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers; and those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified. (Rom. 8:29-30)

Since it was God's plan to save us in the first place, it is also His plan to keep us in that salvation. Could God choose us, mark us out, call us into salvation and then abandon us? No, God's salvation is eternal.

God's Love and Grace Are Eternal

Furthermore, God's love and grace toward us are not conditional or temporary. It was not love from our side that saved us, but love from His.

Herein is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

He loved us with an eternal love.

Jehovah appeared to me from afar, saying, Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love, therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness. (Jer. 31:3)

His grace was toward us in eternity past, before the world began.

Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages. (2 Tim. 1:9)

When Christ loves us, He loves us to the uttermost.

Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come for Him to depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost. (John 13:1)

No sin, failure, or weakness on our part can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we have been accounted as sheep for slaughter." But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:35-39)

God Is Righteous

Suppose you run a red light and are given a \$25 ticket. That \$25 fine is a righteous penalty, and the law of the land demands that you pay it. If a civil judge simply overlooks your offense and releases you without paying, he is an unrighteous judge. It is not a matter of whether or not the judge loves you; he is bound by the law to collect the fine.

Since God desired to save us and since we could not pay the debt of sin ourselves, He in His mercy decided to do so Himself. Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ, the incarnate God, came to die on the cross to pay the debt for our sin. Having no sin Himself, He alone was qualified to die this substitutionary death. His death, being reckoned by God as ours, was acceptable to God, and He raised Him from the dead. Now when we believe in Christ, His death is counted in God's sight as our own. Thus, our debt of sin is righteously paid, and we are saved.

Now, can God take back this salvation which Christ has purchased? Absolutely not! Since the debt was paid, for God to demand it again from us would be unrighteous. The same righteousness which formerly called for our condemnation now calls for our justification. What powerful security this gives to our salvation! Even a worldly judge would not demand the same fine to be paid twice. Certainly God, the source of all justice and righteousness, cannot do so.

We Have Become God's Children

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name, who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13)

God Is Strong

I give to them eternal life, and they shall by no means perish forever, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father...is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. (John 10:28-29)

God Never Changes

The Father of lights, with whom is no variation or shadow cast by turning. (James 1:17)

His compassions do not fail; they are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness. (Lam 3:23)

Christ Has Promised

Listen to His promise:

Him who comes to Me I shall by no means cast out. (John 6:37)

I shall by no means give you up, neither by any means shall I abandon you. (Heb. 13:5)

The Lord's promises here are unconditional. "By no means," that is, under no circumstances whatever, will He ever cast us out or cease to uphold us. This is His faithful promise.

What powerful security our salvation has! We have God's selection, His predestination, His calling, His love, His grace, His righteousness, His life, His strength, His unchanging faithfulness, and His promises as the foundation, guaranty, and security of our salvation. We can all declare with Paul:

I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to guard my deposit unto that day. (2 Tim. 1:12)

THE JOY OF SALVATION

Restore to me the gladness of Your salvation, / And sustain me with a willing spirit. (Psa. 51:12)

Our friend with millions in the bank may have the *assurance* that he is rich, and he may have the *security* of knowing that his deposit is safe. But if he never spends a dime and is content to live a pauper's life, we can hardly say he has the *enjoyment* of those riches. Objectively speaking he is rich, but in his practical experience he has nothing.

The Maintenance of Joy

Our salvation is like a rock, immovable, but the joy of our salvation is like a delicate flower, easily upset by a little breeze. Therefore, it is something we must cultivate and nourish. What, then, can we do to maintain this joy?

First, we can confess our sins (1 John 1:7, 9). When we confess our offenses to the Lord, His blood cleanses us, and our fellowship with Him is restored. After David sinned, he prayed, "Restore to me the gladness of Your salvation" (Psa. 51:12). There is no need to wait. The precious blood of Christ cleanses us from every sin.

Second, we can take God's Word as our food. Jeremiah said, "Your words were found and I ate them, and Your word became to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart" (Jer. 15:16). Often we discover that after reading and praying over God's Word, our heart is bubbling over with enjoyment. No famished man is happy. Likewise, we should not remain famished Christians. We should continually feed and feast on God's Word (Matt. 4:4).

Third, we can pray. Often after opening our heart and speaking out to the Lord, we sense a deep joy and refreshment. Isaiah 56:7 says He will cause us to rejoice in His house of prayer. Real prayer is not the recitation of familiar words and phrases— it is a pouring out of our heart and spirit to the Lord. Jesus said, "Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be made full" (John 16:24). Real prayer is releasing and enjoyable.

Finally, we can fellowship. The greatest enjoyment for a Christian is to be together with others who love and enjoy Christ. No human words can utter the sweetness we experience when we praise Him and speak about Him together. First John 1:3-4 says, "That you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write that our joy may be made full." Real fellowship is not a duty, but an enjoyment—the greatest joy on earth.

Thus, we have the assurance, the security, and the joy of our salvation. Praise Him for such a full salvation.

** From Living Stream Ministry.*