What We Believe

Lesson 7

Eternal Security

*John 10:27-30*

Introduction: Salvation is a gift, and a wonderful gift at that. It is one we could never in a million years earn on our own. But once we have attained this everlasting life many believe that we are to go on and live our lives doing all we can to preserve this salvation. This is not a biblical belief, but neither is the other extreme in belief which would say that since we are saved eternally and all our sins have been covered, then it doesn’t matter what we do in this life. When considering this important part of our salvation the Bible gives us clear guidelines that will keep us from error.

**The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers**

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5)
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)
3. Salvation came by grace and it stays that way.
	1. We all know that moving a mountain is an impossible task for any individual. If God asked you to move a mountain from point A to point B, that would be an impossible task.
	2. When it comes to salvation, God has moved the mountain. He does not move it half-way and expect us to do the rest.
	3. Our salvation is taken care of completely by Jesus Christ.
		1. Ephesians 2:8-9

*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.*

ii. John 1:12-13

*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that* ***believe on his name****:* *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

1. God’s promise of everlasting life has very safe implications.
	1. John 3:16 tells us that the gift God gives us is everlasting.
	2. The definition of everlasting is very simple: lasting forever.
	3. The moment an individual receives Christ, is the moment in time that their everlasting life begins.
		1. That means it does not end.
		2. This is true regardless of circumstances, or emotions, or sin.
	4. This is a simple but clear approach that helps us understand that we are secure in him.
2. Once we are in Christ, we are eternally secure.
	1. John 10:27-29

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:* *And I give unto them eternal life; and* ***they shall never perish****, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and* ***no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand****.*

b. This gives us a beautiful picture of security, this security is not based on us, but on Christ who saved us.

c. Romans 8:38-39

*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 in Christ Jesus our Lord****.*

d. Nothing can separate you from your eternally secure position in Christ.

 IV. However your fellowship can be hindered by your disobedience.

a. God’s remedy for our sin is found in 1 John 1:9

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

b. This is written to believers, who will sin after salvation.

c. This verse is not telling us that we need to be forgiven in order to stay saved.

d. The only logical end of that kind of philosophy would mean that we need to be resaved hundreds of times every week.

e. Christ’s death on the cross was enough to take care of all of our sins, past, present, and future.

V. Because we are secure we should serve Him.

a. Many “Christian” groups motivate their adherents to service by warning them of eternal damnation if they do not work.

b. The Bible tells us that God doesn’t want you to work so you can earn a place in heaven, He’s given that to us freely.

c. A genuine response to this truth will never result in lasciviousness, giving in to every sinful desire.

d. Understanding God’s plan for salvation will lead His people to service motivated by love and thankfulness.

Conclusion: I’m so glad this morning that my salvation is not based on my good works. If that were the case none of us would be saved. God in His great mercy has given us the ability to live our lives with peace and security. This security must never be something we take advantage of for selfish reasons. Meditate on the fact that God loves you so much that He has done absolutely everything that needed to be done for your salvation. The natural result of this truth in our lives will be a life of service to Him. Not motivated to perform for His acceptance, but motivated to serve Him because we know that He has made us acceptable.