

## **The Security Of The Soul**

No. 101

### **Introduction.**

I. For our lesson tonight I would like for us to discuss, "The Security of the Soul." There are two extremes views on this relevant subject in the religious world today. There are many who advocate the doctrine "once saved always saved." They contend that once a person is saved that he or she cannot be lost. There are others who teach that the child of God can have no security of salvation. They must live in constant fear, doubt and uncertainty.

II. **Let's examine the scriptures** to see if they teach either of these viewpoints. It is great importance that we understand what the Bible says on this salvation subject.

I. **View 1** - First, let's consider the doctrine "once saved always saved."

A. Those who hold this view rightly emphasize the grace of God. (Eph. 2:5; Rom. 6:23).

1. It is right to emphasize the grace of God. There is absolutely nothing one can do to earn salvation. There is nothing we can possibly do to deserve salvation.
2. It is, however, I believe taking grace too far to say the Christian cannot fall out of favor with God and lose his soul. This means even if a Christian becomes a habitual liar, thief, or murderer that he cannot be lost. This means even if a Christian becomes a blasphemer or wants to be lost he or she is still saved.

B. Those who teach that once a man is saved he cannot be lost use several scriptures in an attempt to prove their position.

1. One scripture that is used very often is **John 6:47**.

- a. The interpretation placed on this verse is that the believer already possesses eternal life and that such a person will not come under the condemnation or judgment of God.
- b. The fallacy of this interpretation is that the child of God can stop believing. Only the person who continues to believe on the Lord has eternal life. Christ will not save an unbeliever. (Mk. 16:16).

2. A second scripture commonly used to support this doctrine is **John 10:27-29**.

**JOH 10:27 "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.**

a. In this passage Jesus states that no one can snatch the child of God from His hand and out of the Father's hand. They interpret this to mean that once a man is saved he cannot be lost.

b. Those who interpret this passage to teach such overlook the condition of this promise. Jesus said,

“My sheep hear my voice and follow me.” The child of God is safe as long as he abides by this condition. If he stops heeding the voice of Jesus he is lost.

3. The advocates of this doctrine also use **Romans 8:38-39**.

**ROM 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,**

**ROM 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- a. In this passage Paul points out that no power can “separate us from the love of God.” The construction placed on these words is that since no power can separate us from the love of God that the child of God is eternally safe.
- b. This verse does not teach this at all. It simply teaches that no external force can stop God from loving us. It does not mean we cannot by our sinful lives fall out of the favor of God. This is why Jude said. (Jude 21). This is a needless admonition if the child of God cannot fall out of the grace of God.

4. **1 Corinthians 10:13** is used as a proof text for this doctrine.

- a. It is said that God always provides a way of escape that the child of God will not be overcome by temptation.
- b. It is true God provides for us a way of escape, but He not force it on us. We can reject it if we choose.

5. **Hebrews 13:5** is still another proof used in support of the eternal security of the soul.

- a. It is argued that God will not forsake us so we cannot be lost.
- b. It is true that God will not forsake us. It does not prove, however, that a child of God cannot forsake God.

C. There are numerous scriptures that clearly teach a child of God can fall from grace. (Matt. 10:22; 1 Cor. 9:27; 10:12; Gal. 5:4; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:12; Jas. 5:19, 20; 1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Pet. 1:10).

1. In addition to these warnings we have several examples of Christians falling from the favor of God.

- a. In 1 Timothy 1:18-20 the Bible states that **Alexander** and **Hymenaeus** made shipwreck of their faith. See 2 Tim. 2:17.
- b. In 1 Timothy 5:15 Paul mentions **some Christian women** who “turned aside unto Satan.”
- c. **Demas** (2 Tim. 4:10)
- d. **Ananias & Sapphira** - See Acts 5:1-11.

2. These warnings and examples should be enough to unequivocally convince every honest mind that a child of God can fall from grace. In fact, it is possible for a child of God to so fall from grace that it is impossible to renew him to repentance.

- a. Listen to what the Hebrew writer says. (Heb. 6:4-6).

**HEB 6:4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.**

- b. **One time I read about a faithful Christian who was a pillar and bulwark in the church** for a number of years, but who fell away from the faith in later years. One year, when a well-known evangelist was conducting a meeting in the city where he lived, he came out to hear him. The preacher went out to visit him and said, “You used to be strong in the church. You were a leader in the congregation. Why don’t you come back and start over again?” He said, “Do you know the man mentioned in Hebrews 6?” The preacher said, “Yes sir.” The said, “That is me; I can’t change.” The preacher said, “You are bound to be wrong about it. You have attended the meeting. You have shown concern for your soul. Surely you can change.” He insisted that he could not. The meeting came to a close and the man did not make a move. A few months later when the preacher was visiting back in the community, he saw this man’s wife standing in her front yard and stopped and asked how she and her husband were getting along. She said, “We buried him a few weeks ago. He went to his grave saying he could not repent.”
- c. He may have been wrong about it, but the Bible does clearly teach that a child of God can so fall that it is impossible to renew him again to repentance.

II. **View 2** - We are now ready to consider the second view that we mentioned in the beginning of our lesson.

A. There are those who teach that a child of God can have no security of salvation. If you ask them if they are saved, they say, “I’m not sure. I don’t know.”

1. There is an agonizing old song which begins with the words, “Am I saved or am I lost? This is the point I long to know.” A Christian does not have to sing this song. He can be confident of his salvation.
2. Those who disagree need to carefully meditate on these scriptures found in 1 John. (1 Jn. 2:3, 5; 3:1, 14). These scriptures set forth the fact that a child of God can be confident of his salvation

B. For the next few moments I would like for us to discuss how we can be sure of our salvation.

1. We can be sure of our salvation if we **believe in Jesus Christ**. (Jn. 20:30, 31).
2. We can be sure our salvation if we **repent of our sins**. (Lk. 13:3).
3. We can be sure of salvation if we **confess our faith in Jesus**. (Matt. 10:32).
4. We can be sure of our salvation if we are **baptized for the remission of our sins**. (Acts 2:38).
5. We can be sure of our salvation if we **seek the kingdom of God first**. (Matt. 6:33).
6. We can be sure of our salvation if we **manifest love to others**. (1 Jn. 4:7).
7. We can be sure of our salvation if we **work**. (Jas. 2:17, 24).
8. We can be sure of our salvation if we **study the word**. (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:2).

9. We can be sure of our salvation if we daily **confess our sins to Jesus and humbly depend on His blood to wash our sins away.** (1 Jn. 1:9).

10. Those who do these things can sing the word of the beloved hymn “Blessed Assurance.”

“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God; Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.	Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest; Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.”
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**Conclusion.**

- I. In summary the Bible teaches that the child of God is eternally safe (can be sure of his salvation) as long as he continues to love God and keep His commandments. This means a Christian can be confident of his salvation as long as he humbly confesses his sins. He is able to say, “It is well with my soul.”
- II. Is it well with your soul? Are you on the way to heaven or hell? If it not well with your soul, why not make it so tonight?
  - A. If you are not a Christian, you can be right with God by repenting, by confessing your faith in Jesus, and by being baptized.
  - B. If you are a child of God who has left the faith, you can get right with God by repenting of your sins and praying for forgiveness. (Acts 8:22).
  - C. If you are subject to the invitation, will you come as we stand and sing?

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