



**“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31).**

## **Security**

**Central Truth:** the believer shares an eternal relationship with God.

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**Topic:** Security: Of Believers.

*Security* means the state or condition of being free from danger in fact and free from fear, care, or anxiety in feeling. It is the state of being safe. This week we study the Bible doctrine of security.

We understand “the security of the believer” to mean that the person who trusts Jesus (“the believer”) is safe from spiritual harm and danger. The doctrine is often called “once saved, always saved.” It means that he who is truly saved by repentance from sin and faith in Jesus is preserved by God and will so persevere that he will not fall away so as to be finally lost in hell. What a great and comforting truth!

The security of the believer in Jesus is a great Bible doctrine which Baptists have held firmly through the centuries. It is important that we understand the reasons for believing it and that we share it.

This doctrine is true in all occasions of life. When a loved one dies, when money is lost, when a trusted friend deceives, God is still faithful and the believer is still secure. The central truth of this study is, “The believer shares an eternal relationship with God.” The emphasis of the comments which follow is on that “eternal relationship” we have with God in Jesus Christ.

### **I. SECURE IN GOD'S PURPOSE (Romans 8:28-30)**

Everything that God does in human history is according to His great and “*eternal purpose*” (Ephesians 3:11). His purposes will be performed;

therefore, He declares *“the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure”* (Isaiah 46:10). Paul presented the certainty of the fulfillment of His eternal purpose as a reason for our security (Romans 8:28-30). After assuring us that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose, he sets out five great elements of God's purpose. They are foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification.

**A. Foreknowledge secures us.** To *“foreknow”* is to know before. *“Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world”* (Acts 15:18). Before the Creation, God knew you and all the details about you. He even knew the free acts of your will, what you would choose to do in this or that situation. We might say with the psalmist, *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it”* (Psalm 139:6). It is no strange thing with God. In His omniscience He knows all things about all persons and things. We are *“elect according to the foreknowledge of God”* (I Peter 1:2). His foreknowledge that we would be one of His own assures us of our security.

**B. Predestination secures us.** *“Whom he did foreknow he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son”* (Romans 8:29). *“Predestinate”* means “to determine in advance.” God determined in advance that we who trust Jesus will be *“conformed to the image of his Son.”* Since He determined that in advance, it is a great basis for our security. Predestination is God bringing to pass what He has determined to do. He has chosen to make us His children and fashion us like Jesus Christ to the glory of His grace (Ephesians 1:3.6). That makes our salvation sure.

**C. Calling secures us.** *“Whom he did predestinate, them he also called”* (Romans 8:30). The call is from God and is always spoken of in the New Testament as being heavenly in its origin, nature, and destiny. It is God calling and getting response as sinners accept His invitation to receive the benefits of salvation. The Bible speaks of it as a holy calling, a high calling, and a heavenly calling; it concludes that the calling of God is never regretted by one who responds to it in faith. He who foreknew us and chose us, called us to salvation. What a basis for security!

**D. Justification secures us.** *“Whom he called, them he also justified”* (Romans 8:30). To be justified means that God has formally and legally acquitted us from all guilt and has made us righteous in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. That blessing is by faith (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:25), totally apart from merit. Because God has already justified the believer, (Romans 5:1), he stands secure in grace.

**E. Glorification secures us.** *“Whom he justified, them he also glorified”* (Romans 8:30). All of the verbs dealing with God's purpose are in the past tense: *“did foreknow,” “did predestinate,” “called,” “justified,”* and *“glorified.”* That indicates that the act is already done. Even the glorification, which will not take place until Jesus returns, is spoken of in the past tense. Why? Because it is so certain that God speaks of it as if it were already past. What could guarantee security any more than that?

God is working out His eternal purpose according to His foreknown plan *“which God ordained before the world”* (I Corinthians 2:7). He will do all His pleasure, and His pleasure is to save us. We are secure!

## **II. SECURE IN GOD'S PROVISION (Romans 8:31-34)**

**A. God has provided a Substitute.** Romans 8:31 says He is *“for”* us. *For* means “in the place of.” God is so kindly disposed toward us that, when the enemy comes in, He takes our place. Think about that! *“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him”* (Isaiah 59:19). We are in no danger when the Lord takes our place against the enemy. How much more secure can we be than that?

**B. God has provided a Supplier.** He loves us enough that He gave His greatest treasure, His only begotten Son, to die in our place and on our behalf. Since He has paid that great price for us, He will not hesitate to provide anything we need (Romans 8:32). There is no danger of falling away so as to be eternally lost when God has *“given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness”* (II Peter 1:3). God meant it when He caused Paul to write, *“My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19). How could we fall away with His provision?

**C. God has provided a Justifier.** Who can bring a charge against a believer which would result in his being cast into hell? Who, indeed, since it is God who has justified him (Romans 8:33)? The person who secured the condemnation of a Christian would have to be of greater authority than God. God pronounces a repentant believer “justified.” Another replies, “No, not justified. Condemned.” Whose word will carry the greater weight? God has justified; no one can condemn.

**D. God provides an Intercessor.** Our assurance is based on the fact that Christ died, arose, and now represents us at the right hand of God (Romans 8:34). He *“ever liveth to make intercession”* (Hebrews 7:25). That is why we are secure. To know that the Lord is our helper takes away the fear of falling.

Be assured! God is your Substitute, Supplier, Justifier, and Intercessor. He is committed to your salvation. Rest all your concern on Him. He who promised is faithful. You are safe in the arms of Jesus.

### III. SECURE IN GOD'S PROTECTION (Romans 8:35-39)

There are two realms from which dangers might arise to threaten the Christian. He might face physical threats which would challenge his confidence in God. Paul discusses those and comes to this conclusion: *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us"* (Romans 8:37). There are spiritual foes also which would challenge the Christian's confidence in God. Paul discusses those and concludes that not one of them or the sum total of them *"shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:39).

**A. God protects us in physical dangers** (verses 35-37). The dangers listed here are real. God's people suffer trials, some of the severest sort (I Thessalonians 3:4; John 16:33). But those trials draw us nearer to Him rather than separating us from Him (Hebrews 11:32-38). The more we suffer the more we lean upon Him and trust Him for help. The result is that the trials are overcome in His strength. Read II Corinthians 4:8-11 and be encouraged in your trials.

The trials listed in Romans 8:35 are what we experience in this generation. *"Tribulation"* means pressure which causes pain. *"Distress"* is anguish of spirit, mental anguish. *"Persecution"* is abuse from without. *"Famine"* is the lack of sufficient food. *"Nakedness"* is the lack of sufficient clothing. *"Peril"* is danger of any sort. *"Sword"* is a threat to life itself. God's people are undergoing all those things in various parts of the world this very day. And they are finding God sufficient to keep them through it all.

To be *"more than conquerors"* in trouble means that we gloriously conquer and win an overwhelming victory. That does not sound like a person losing his salvation because of trials, does it? Trials which come to the body do not destroy the soul. On the contrary, it works to our good. *"The God of all grace, . . . after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you"* (I Peter 5:10). That is victory!

**B. God protects us from spiritual enemies.** The list in Romans 8:38, 39 embraces the whole scope of spiritual existence. If no foes from those areas can overthrow us, we are safe indeed. We are victorious over all things

in the realm of existence, “*death, . . . life.*” We are triumphant over all spiritual beings, “*angels, . . . principalities.*” We are sufficient through all the span of time, “*things present, . . . things to come.*” We are successful in all the scope of space, “*height, . . . depth.*” We are triumphant over all created things — “*any other creature.*” Glory!

Do you have trouble with assurance? Here is the remedy for your distress. Discipline yourself to memorize Romans 8:28-39. Call it to mind and meditate on it when problems arise. Let it strengthen your faith and give you a foundation on which to stand. You can have victory through the Word of God and grow as a consequence. That may seem to be a demanding assignment, but you can memorize it one verse at a time. It may be the most profitable thing you can do to give you peace.

Why is God committed to keeping us safe in Jesus? Romans 8:39 says it is because of “*the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” He saves us because He loves us. He keeps us because He loves us. If we are secure as long as He loves us, we are eternally secure (Jeremiah 31:3). Rejoice!

Jesus gave three parables in Luke 15 that speak assurance to us. God is like a woman who does not rest until a lost coin is found, like a shepherd who personally seeks the lost sheep, and like a father who yearns for and welcomes home a wayward son. He loves you too much to give up on you. You are secure in Him.

## Questions

1. What do we mean by the “security of the believer”?
2. How does God's eternal purpose guarantee security?
3. What is God's foreknowledge? His predestination?
4. What is God's calling? His justification?
5. What assurance do you find in Romans 8:31?
6. How does Philippians 4:19 relate to security?
7. What does it mean to be “*more than conquerors*” in Christ?
8. What hope do you find in I Peter 5:10?
9. How does the love of God guarantee security?
10. What effect will this study have on your life this week?