



*“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,”*  
John 3:16.

## **Eternal Security**

**Lesson Aim:** The study of Article 14.  
14. Eternal Security of the believer.

**L501. Date:** February 1960. **Text:** Romans 8:1-4, 14-17, 35-39.  
**Topic:** Security: Of Believers

INTRODUCTION — To be born again by the Spirit of God is the most wonderful experience possible for carnal men. However, it is possible for one who does not know the truth of the Scriptures to be redeemed and yet live in uncertainty as to his security. The new convert does not necessarily know that when he was purchased by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ he was also sealed by the Holy Spirit, and is thus safe unto eternity.

Look at the picture which accompanies this lesson. Here God's love is pictured as a rope down to the Christian. Swords are attempting to sever the bond. The powers of life, death, angels, principalities, powers, things present, things to come, height, depth and every other creature are seeking to break the rope. The conclusion is however, that none of these is sufficient to take the redeemed away from God's love and care. Today's lesson should create a feeling of assurance in our hearts.

To believe in the “security of the believer” is not to induce one to sin. The person who uses this as an excuse to sin is showing that there is something radically wrong with his relationship with God—perhaps he is not saved in the first place. Rather than encouraging sin, it should lead us to a greater dedication to the God whose grace has made our redemption and security possible. Baptists are the only major denominational group to hold to this doctrine. Study this lesson well and bear witness of its truth to others.

## **EXPOSITION**

### **1. The Believer Is Free From Condemnation.**

To be free from condemnation is to be no longer liable to a judgment where a sentence of condemnation will be pronounced. The unbeliever is already under a condemnation, John 3:18. When a man trusts in Jesus as Saviour, he is set free from the state of death which sin merits and brings. Thus there is no condemnation to the man who is in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:1-2. The reason God no longer condemns the believer is that the Spirit has made him free from the dominion of sin. Thus the result of sin (condemnation) is likewise gone. Jesus informs us that the believer is so delivered from sin's judgment that he is not only now free but *"he shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life,"* John 5:24. The believer is secure because he has been delivered from the punishment upon sin and cannot again enter into the condemnation which sin brings! Praise God for grace.

### **II. The Believer Is Made Righteous.**

Romans 8:3-4 gives another reason why the believer is secure. It says God has sent His Son as the sacrifice for sin so that *"the righteousness of God might be fulfilled in us."* That is, the righteousness that the just law of God demands is actually fulfilled in the believer. There is nothing here to merit condemnation. This righteousness is actually the righteousness of God which comes upon us by faith, Philippians 8:9. The law demands righteousness. Man, without grace, is unable to reach the righteous standard demanded. God came, in the person of Jesus Christ, and conferred His righteousness upon us. Now we are qualified to meet the demands of the law because we are righteous through the grace of God. Why does the believer need to fear so long as, he has the righteousness of God's own Son abiding upon his soul? To be righteous is to be safe and no righteousness can surpass that of Jesus Christ, of which are we are partakers.

### **III. The Believer's Life Is Under the Holy Spirit.**

1. He is led by the Spirit, Romans 8:14-15. This means that the believer is led by the Spirit to communion and fellowship with God. The Spirit keeps us in such relationship with God that we acknowledge Him as our "Father." (Observe that it is the tender, affectionate word for "father" used here.) How

can the believer so sin as to be condemned when he is kept in such sacred company?

2. He is sealed by the Spirit, Ephesians 1:13-14. This passage tells us that every believer is sealed immediately upon his exercising faith in Jesus. This sealing is a divine act, performed by the Spirit as the agent of God our Father, II Corinthians 1:22. It is intended to preserve the believer in perfect holiness until he enters eternity with God, Ephesians 4:30. If one who professes faith in Jesus stands condemned before the Great White Throne Judgment, it will be because he was not sealed (not truly saved) and not because Jesus and the Spirit could not keep him.

3. He has the Spirit as an earnest of his inheritance, II Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:14. An “earnest” is a partial payment made to secure property until the full payment is made. The Holy Spirit is given the believer as an “earnest” —God's guarantee that redemption will be perfected and the believer will share glory with the Saviour! Who can worry about “falling from Grace” with this assurance? We are as safe as the Spirit's sealing, the Son's sacrifice, and the Father's oath!

#### **IV. The Believer Shall Not Be Separated From the Lord.**

Even a casual reading of Romans 8:35-39 points out the blessed assurance that the believer is secure.

1. Physical sufferings cannot separate the believer from his Lord, verses 35-37. Paul first lists all those physical sufferings which would likely cause a man to forsake his conviction and turn from the Christian way. It matters not whether it is tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword, the believer is “more than conqueror” through the Lord Jesus Christ. The blood of martyrs through the ages has witnessed that physical sufferings do not remove one from his Lord.

2. Spiritual opposition cannot separate the believer from the Lord, verses 38-39. Observe carefully the list of opponents mentioned here. It takes in all forces, powers, and influences of intangible things—including Satan himself—and concludes that these are insufficient to remove the believer from his Redeemer. This list even includes the demons of hell. The expression “nor any other creature” actually means “nor anything that is created” which includes the believer himself. When once one knows Jesus as Saviour he will be redeemed in spite of what anyone or anything can do! What better assurance could one desire?

#### **V. The Believer Is Kept by God's Power.**

The idea that God saves a man and then leaves it up to the individual to make his way to heaven is false. I Peter 1:5 identifies the believers as those who are *“kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.”* This is the same idea which Jesus expresses in John 10:27-30. Here Jesus observes (1) believers have eternal life; (2) they shall never perish; (3) they are in His hand and the Father's hand and no power can remove them. Saints are not simply led by the Master's hand; they are likewise securely kept there. God is truly *“able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,”* Jude 24. He is here shown to be willing and be able to preserve His children. More than that, He is concerned that each one be kept and that none should perish. Look again at I Peter 1:5. The word “kept” is a military term and pictures the guard marching back and forth—standing constantly on duty. Thus has God pledged Himself to keep us unto eternity. There is a great consolation in being able to say, *“For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day,”* II Timothy 1:12. Praise God our redemption is dependent upon God's power, not upon our feeble efforts!

## **VI. The Believer Is Born Into God's Family.**

The Scriptures speak much of the believer being born of God. See such passages as John 1:11-13; I John 5:1, 4, 18. This means that when one is saved he becomes a member of God's family and receives something of God's nature, II Peter 1:4. To be saved is to be “born again” and this means we are born into a new relationship with God so that He becomes our Father and we become His children. If it were possible for the believer to so sin as to become unsaved, it would mean he would have to cease to be one of God's children. Earthly relationships teach us one cannot be “unborn.” Even if a parent disinherits a child, it is only a legal matter, and the blood relationship is still there. Is it reasonable to assume that God would love a rebellious sinner enough to give Jesus to die for His redemption and still be so unconcerned about one of His born-again children as to cast him off in Hell? No, we are children of God and are thereby assured that we shall overcome the world, I John 5:1, 4. Our being the children of God is not a matter to be determined in eternity, or at judgment, but is a present reality. *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God,”* I John 3:2. This gives a blessed assurance now and a positive guarantee for eternity!

## **VII. The Believer Has Eternal Life.**

Forgiveness of sins brings with it the attendant blessing of eternal life. This life is eternal in its duration (being never-ending) and in its quality (being the type of life experienced in eternity). It is the opposite to being dead in sin, Ephesians 2:1. Eternal life comes as a result of penitent faith. When one believes in Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour, he receives eternal (or, everlasting) life, John 8:14-16. This eternal life is received immediately when one is saved. Jesus has said that he who (1) hears His Word and (2) believes on Him who sent Him, (3) has eternal life right now, John 5:24. A common error is the belief that one is not truly saved until the judgment. The believer shall never have to wait to final judgment to receive eternal life. It is already abiding within his soul! Now, if this life is experienced today and lost in the future so that one is condemned to hell, it is not eternal life. It is eternal life only if the believer enjoys it for eternity. Jesus says that to have eternal life is to “never perish,” John 10:28. God is not so fickle as to play with the destiny of our soul. He forgives our sins, gives us eternal life, seals us with His Spirit, and preserves us unto eternity! What more could any man desire?

## **VIII. The Believer Is Beyond Satan's Reach.**

While still subject to temptations, the believer is beyond the control of Satan over the destiny of his soul. *“He that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not,”* I John 5:18. To say the least, this verse testifies that he who is born of God is not “touched” by the Wicked One. Job 1 and 2 shows that Satan can have no control over the child of God without God's permissive will. He will allow trials to come to strengthen us in faith and patience. We can be sure, however, that He will never allow one of His children to be taken from His care. John testifies that he who is born of God does not live continually in sin. The seed (likeness) of God abides within Him and it is impossible for him to live on in sin, because he is born of God, I John 3:9-10. The distinction between the child of God and the child of Satan is whether one allows God to rule in his life. Satan cannot and will not gain control over a single one of God's children. *“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life,”* Romans, 6:22. The believer's life is hid with Christ in God, Colossians 3:3. There is little danger that Satan shall enter there to steal the believer away to condemnation. We are as safe as God is reliable.

## **IX. The Believer Has Divine Nature.**

*“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust,”* II Peter 1:4. The believer has escaped the corruption in the world. In the place of that he has received the very nature of God! That is why he can call God his Father. The nature of God is above being subject to sin so that he cannot be tempted to evil, James 1:13. The divine nature residing in the believer is not subject to sin either. While the passions of the flesh may be a cause of constant disturbance, our soul remains free from the sin stain, Romans 7:15-25. It is impossible to corrupt the nature of God with the guilt of sin so that it deserves condemnation in hell. It is impossible to corrupt the believer with the guilt of sin so as to deserve this condemnation, because he has the nature of God within! Thus the believer's body becomes, in a special way, a sanctuary in which the Spirit of God abides and where the nature of God seeks to control all the words, thoughts, and actions of the flesh. Is there really any danger of condemnation to eternal suffering of one who shares the very nature of God?

CONCLUSION—This lesson has briefly surveyed some of the reasons why Baptists contend that the believer in Jesus Christ is secure in his redemption. Salvation is thus made to appear as the true work of God and in no wise dependent upon the works of men. Man believes and God redeems! That is why the believer is secure in this redemption. Being set free from condemnation, made to partake of the perfect righteousness of God, living under the Holy Spirit, to be never separated from the Lord, but kept by God's power, being born into God's family and given eternal life, being set beyond Satan's reach because one has received the Divine nature, these and other reasons guarantee absolute security to the believer in Jesus Christ. This is a message the world needs to hear. It is important that men trust in Jesus Christ and then rest securely in this salvation. The doctrine will not encourage sin but will glorify the grace of our God who has made redemption available to all.

Never be ashamed of the great truth that the believer in Jesus is secure. In this day of doctrinal looseness stand firmly by this truth. Bear witness of it to others. It is a most wonderful fact! *“Buy the truth and sell it not,”* Proverbs 23:23.

## QUESTIONS

1. Will the doctrine of “security” induce the believer to sin?
2. List several reasons for believing in eternal security.
3. Ask a class member for a testimony of the blessing this doctrine has brought his life.
4. Why are Baptists the only major denomination who hold this doctrine?
5. How is security related to our concept of salvation?
6. Explain in your own words the meaning of John 10:27-30 and 5:24.
7. How will this lesson help you be a better Christian this week?

“The indifferent member cannot feel close to the faithful. “

“Those who walk with the world cannot keep peace with those who walk with the Lord.”

“Those who hide their light make poor guides for those who walk in darkness.” — From GOD'S PECULIAR PEOPLE.