



“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.

L331. Date: November 1964. **Text:** Romans 8:1-4, 14-17, 35-39.

Topic: Security: Of Believers.

INTRODUCTION—What God does is done for eternity! At no point is this more readily evident than in the matter of salvation of sinners. One of man's most wonderful experiences is to be born again. This experience becomes increasingly wonderful when it is realized that the repenting believer has received an eternally secure salvation. Yet, the new convert does not necessarily know that when he was saved he was also secured in salvation. It is possible for one to be saved without understanding this blessed doctrine.

Baptists are the only major Christian group who still hold this truth. Therefore, every Baptist should study it thoroughly, learn the scriptures which support it, and gladly share it with others that they might rejoice in it also.

“But,” someone objects, “a belief in the eternal security of the believer will induce one to sin.” Not so! This opinion is based upon a misunderstanding of the principles involved. Paul writes in Romans 6 that when one is saved his whole disposition of life is changed. He doesn't want to live in sin! He wants to live in holy obedience to the One who loved him and redeemed him. Any person who uses this doctrine as an excuse to live in sin is revealing an ignorance of what it really means to be saved and is raising a serious question as to whether he is truly saved. Rather than an enticement to sin, this blessed doctrine reveals the marvel of redeeming grace and deepens a Christian's humble dedication to God. God is glorified

in having provided such a great redemption for man.

EXPOSITION

I. FREE FROM CONDEMNATION

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus . . .” Romans 8:1. To be saved is to be free from condemnation. To be free from condemnation is to be no longer in danger of a judgment. The unbeliever is already condemned, John 3:18. When a man trusts in Jesus for salvation, he is set free from the condemnation of death and hell. Therefore, there is no condemnation to the man who is in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:1-2.

Why is the believer no longer condemned? Because God has set him free from the law of sin and death, Romans 8:2. When sin is taken away in salvation, its penalty is taken away also. Therefore the result of sin—condemnation—is gone!

Freedom from sin's condemnation is not a fleeting and temporary thing. Jesus assures us that the believer is so perfectly delivered from condemnation that he is not only free now, but “he shall not come into condemnation” in the future, John 5:24. This simply means that neither now nor at any time in the future will one of God's believing children be condemned to hell because of sin. This is what “security of the believer” means!

II. MADE RIGHTEOUS

Romans 8:3-4 gives yet another reason why the believer is secure in grace: the righteousness which God's law demands is actually being fulfilled in the believer! God cannot condemn righteousness and that righteousness is being worked out in the believer's life. There is nothing which merits condemnation.

The law demands righteousness. Man, without grace, is unable to reach the righteous standard demanded. He has “fallen short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23. But when a man is saved, the righteousness of God is imputed to him, Philippians 3:9. After that, when the law is set to judge the life of a believer, it is satisfied by the presence of the righteousness of God. Last week's lesson observed that in justification a man is (1) declared righteous and (2) made righteous. Why should any Christian fear for his security when the' righteousness of God has been imputed to him? To be righteous is to be safe and believers share the righteousness of God himself.

III. UNDER THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The believer is saved through the Spirit. A recent study showed the Spirit's work in conviction, conversion, sealing, and indwelling. The sacrifice of Jesus is made valid to the believer by the ministry of the Spirit, who thereupon takes up permanent residence in him.

2. The believer is led by the Spirit, Romans 8:14-15. Communion and fellowship with God are enjoyed because the Spirit leads the believer to these experiences. He keeps a man in such sacred relationship with God that a mortal man looks to the Divine presence and calls him "Father." Moreover, God looks back and says. "My child. How can the believer be condemned when he is led in such a blessed company?"

3. The believer is sealed by the Spirit, Ephesians 1:13-14. The Spirit seals the believer immediately upon his exercising faith in Jesus. The sealing is God's 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. Sealing signifies divine ownership, a finished transaction, and security. If one man who professed Christ as Saviour stands before God's judgment and is condemned, it will be because he was never saved and sealed and not because Jesus and the Spirit could not keep him saved.

4. The believer 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 insure the fulfillment of a bargain; a promise or indication of what will follow. In salvation, God's redemptive promise reaches unto eternity. All that salvation brings has not yet been realized. But God has given the Holy Spirit to dwell within men as an "earnest"—His guarantee that redemption will be completed unto eternal glory! 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! The Spirit is the earnest for all, not only a few, of God's children.

IV. NOT SEPARATED FROM GOD

1. Physical sufferings cannot separate the believer from his Lord, Romans 8:35-37. Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword bring such physical sufferings that they might tempt the believer to forsake his conviction and turn from Christ. Not so! He who really walks with Jesus is "more than conqueror" through Him. The blood of martyrs

through the ages has witnessed that physical sufferings do not remove true believers from their Lord.

2. Spiritual forces cannot separate the believer from the Lord, Romans 8:38-39. This list of opponents takes in all forces, powers, and influences of intangible things, including Satan himself. The conclusion is that these are not sufficient to remove the believer from his Redeemer. As if the list is not inclusive enough, Paul concludes it with “nor any other creature” (which actually means “nor anything that is created”). Not even the believer can separate himself from Christ. God alone could do this, for He alone is uncreated, and He has given Jesus to die for us. Read Romans 8:28-34. The child of God will enjoy heaven in spite of what any physical or spiritual force can do to stop him. This is, indeed, blessed assurance!

V. KEPT BY GOD'S POWER

God does not save a man and leave him to make it to heaven by his own efforts. I Peter 1:5 says true believers are “kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.” This is the same truth Jesus expressed in John 10:27-30. Jesus says, (1) believers have eternal life; (2) they shall never perish; (3) they are in His hand and the Father's hand so that no power can remove them. Saints are not merely led by the Master's hand, they are likewise securely kept there. God is “able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,” Jude 24. He is both able and desirous to preserve His believing children. God's concern is that each one of His children be kept and that none should perish. Look again at I Peter 1:5. “Kept” is a military term which may be translated “guard.” It pictures the guard of divine power constantly alert. The believer is constantly being guarded by God's power because he has trusted in Jesus. God has thus pledged Himself to keep us secure! It is a great consolation 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. Redemption and security depend upon God's ability and not upon man's efforts.

VI. BORN INTO GOD'S FAMILY

To be saved is to be “born again.” This means we are brought into a new relationship with God. He becomes our Father and we become His children. The Scriptures speak much of the believer being born of God. See John 1:11-13; I John 5:1, 4, 8, et. al. If a person is saved by being born of

God, he must be “unborn” in order to be lost. Earthly relationships teach us one cannot be “unborn.” Even disinheritance of a child is only a legal matter for the blood relationship with the parent is still there. Would God be so concerned about impenitent sinners as to give Jesus for them and then be so heartless about His redeemed children as to cast them off into hell? It is not reasonable! Those who are children of God overcome the world because they have believed, I John 5:1, 4. The person who is saved has been born into God's family and is right now a child of God, I John 3:2. As he is now God's child, he can enjoy the assurance of a child now!

VII. ETERNAL LIFE NOW

Eternal life is the gift of God when He forgives a sinner. The new life is eternal in duration and quality: it never ends and it is the kind of life we will enjoy fully in eternity. Eternal life is received immediately when one trusts Jesus as Saviour, John 3:14-16. Jesus says that (1) he who bears the Word and (2) believes on Him. (3) has eternal life right now, John 5:24. It is commonly believed that one is not really saved until eternal judgment. Not so! The believer already has eternal life abiding in him and will not wait until the judgment day to receive it.

If eternal life is enjoyed today and lost tomorrow so that one never enjoys it again, it is not eternal. It is eternal life only if one enjoys it for eternity. Jesus says that to have eternal life is to “never perish,” John 10:28. God is not fickle so as to play with the destiny of our souls. He saves souls in view of eternity. Why would He even forgive if salvation was not to endure?

VIII. BEYOND SATAN'S REACH

“He that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not,” I John 5:18. Satan has no control over the destiny of the soul of one who has been saved. Job 1 and 2 reveals that Satan can have no control over the child of God without God's permission. Though God may permit trials to come, He will never permit one of His children to be taken from the realm of grace and condemned to hell. Salvation delivers from the dominion of sin. John says that when one has the seed of God within him, it is impossible for him to live on in sin, I John 3:9-10. The believer's life is hid with Christ in God, Colossians 3:3. There is no danger that Satan will enter there to steal the believer away to condemnation. We are as safe as God is reliable. Safely enfolded within the hands of the Father and the Son,

as well as sealed by the Holy Spirit, there is no way Satan can reach us to destroy our soul.

IX. THE 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 exchanged the corruption of the world for the nature of God! Sharing the divine nature, he looks up into the face of God and calls Him, "Father." Now the nature of God is so pure that it is not even subject to temptation to sin, James 1:13. The divine nature within the believer is not subject to sin, either! Though there may be occasional faults, due to the weakness of the flesh, the soul once redeemed remains pure, Romans 7:13-25; I John 3:6-8. It is impossible to corrupt the divine nature so that it deserves a destiny in hell. Therefore, it is impossible to corrupt the believer to such an extent that the divine nature within him will be consigned to hell. Indeed, the very fact that the nature of God testifies within will cause the believer to live holily, justly, and blamelessly in this present world. The divine nature within influences the human nature without so that words, thoughts, and actions are tempered by grace. Is there really any danger of condemnation to eternal destruction of one who shares the 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 grace. Salvation is here seen to be the work of God and independent of the works of man. Man trusts and God redeems! That is why the believer is secure. The Christian is guaranteed absolute security in Jesus Christ because in salvation he has been set free from condemnation, made to partake of the perfect righteousness of God, made to live under the Holy Spirit, 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 he has received the divine nature. Blessed assurance!

This is a message the world needs to hear. Never be ashamed of the great truth that the believer in Jesus is secure. In this day of doctrinal liberalism, stand firmly by this truth. Faithful Baptists teach it; the Bible guarantees it; the hearts of God's people rejoice in it. **"Buy the truth and sell it not,"** Proverbs 23:23.

QUESTIONS

1. What is “the security of the believer”?
2. Does this doctrine encourage one to sin?
3. Why are Baptists the only major denomination who holds this doctrine?
4. What does John 10:27-30 say on this subject?
5. How do Romans 8:1 and John 5:24 relate to this study?
6. Who keeps us safe in grace according to I Peter 1:5?
7. What does the sealing of the Spirit mean in Ephesians 1:13-14?
8. How does the “earnest” of the Spirit teach security?
9. What are the reasons given to prove security in this lesson?
10. How will this lesson help you to be a better Christian this week?