

Salvation is Permanent

At the moment of faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit places the believer in union with Christ. This union is created by baptism of the Holy Spirit. The believer's union with Christ qualifies the believer to live with God forever, making him a new spiritual species (2 Cor. 5:17) and guarantees the eternal security (Rom.8:38-39).

The non-meritorious phrase *believed in God* is considered by God as act of acceptable righteousness like in the case of Abraham (Rom. 4:3).

But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness (Rom. 4:5) For with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation (Rom. 10; 10)

Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified (Galatians 2:16)

Eternal security means that every believer possesses eternal life now and that which continues forever (John 5:24). This assurance stands on the essence of God and not on man (Numbers 23:19) and that God is eternally perfect (Deut. 33:27) and all His gifts to men are perfect (James 1:17). God gave the right to become children of God to those who believe and receive Jesus Christ (John 1:12) as guaranteed by His unchanging character. Every believer is saved once and for all eternity (Acts 16:31).

The term *saved* means eternal, unchangeable, permanent salvation. Think about this, "Why would God revoke salvation just because of personal sins committed by a believer. God solved the problem of sin apart from our knowledge or participation. Christians are saved by the grace of God (Rom. 5:15, 17,20). Grace is everything that God does for men apart from human participation, contribution or assistance. Salvation guarantees no condemnation (Rom. 8:1) for those who are in Christ Jesus. This positional truth is guaranteed by the perfect integrity of God. Christians are the sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:26).

This is a permanent relationship (1 Cor. 12:21) that cannot be removed, altered, changed or desalinated by anything else (Rom. 8:38-39). Every believer remains saved by the power of God (2 Timothy 1:12) not by human power that fails often time. Every believer is born again by the imperishable seed of the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23) not by any inconsistent power, unwavering faith of men, religious activity or sacrifices.

The eternal security of the believer rests on the faithfulness of God. Any person who believed and accepted the free gift of eternal life cannot remove, change, cancel, alter, revoke or invalidate his salvation. An individual may decide to renounce his Christianity but if God has saved him, his salvation will remain intact and he is saved forever.

Nothing can change the verdict of God to justify the believer through the finished work of Christ and not on the work of men. A person may renounce his faith, embrace any atheistic ideology or doctrine, but if he is saved, his salvation will remain effective until eternity. Salvation does not depend on men but on God. "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13).

If salvation is dependent on men then nobody will ever go to heaven that is because we are inconsistent, changeable, untrustworthy and devious in everything. The title or *Deeds of our Salvation* enters our names as beneficiaries and Jesus Christ as the Benefactor. The authority and assurance of salvation rests on the Benefactor not on the beneficiary. The free gift of salvation is eternal and permanent.

GOD'S PLAN OF GRACE is always misunderstood. Majority of Christians rest on false assumption that God's plan of grace is built on human love. As a result, they try to base their lifestyle, relationship with others and with God on these obscure, imprecise and unclear feelings called love. In God's plan, all the glory belongs to Him, He has all the merit, He receives all the credit, because He does all the work. Grace is the policy of God's plan which is extended to the undeserving, totally helpless and condemned individual. God treats us in His justice. He is always fair to every person.

His justice conforms to the demands of His righteousness and everything He does conform to His righteousness. God cannot accept the imperfect righteousness and good work of men. There is nothing we can do to earn the love of God or the right to live with God forever. We are qualified only by non-meritorious faith in Christ, which is express to man in the simplest form.

To understand the doctrine of eternal salvation, four things are essentials.

- First: The total depravity of man. There is nothing in fallen man that could in any way commend him to God. He is an object of divine grace.
- Second: The efficacious grace of God. Fallen man's salvation is made possible entirely by God the Holy Spirit. It is His power and His graces that acknowledge the faith of a spiritually dead person and make it effective for salvation.
- Third: The sovereign and eternal election of the believer. Those who are saved by efficacious grace from the estate of depravity have been chosen for that special purpose even before the foundation of the world.
- Fourth: The eternal security. Those chosen of God and saved by grace are, of necessity, preserved until the plan of God to be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ is realized.

The truth of eternal security is inherent in the nature of salvation itself! Salvation is the creation of a new spiritual species composed of unchangeable and imperishable elements and every aspect of it is made to depend on the perfect and immutable merit of the Son of God, then there can be no failure! God is not offering a salvation to men which are not eternal in its very nature.

John 3:15, "that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life." And in 3:36, John the Baptist said, that "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 10:28, Jesus said of all believers, that "...I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand." Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

John 5:11-13, that "...the witness is this that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know [with absolute certainty] that you have eternal life."

Doubts about the security of believers can be traced almost universally to a failure to comprehend the reality of what God accomplishes in sovereign grace, a finished and complete redemption, reconciliation and propitiation! Scripturally, it is a fact that no soul once saved has ever been, or ever will be, lost again. The salvation of the believer is eternally secured.

Romans 8:1 *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"*

1 Corinthians 15:22: *"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. (NAS)"*

Romans 6:3 says, *"...do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?"*

1 Corinthians 12:13, *"For by one Spirit [Holy Spirit] we [Church Age believers] were all [none excluded] baptized into [identified with forever, at the moment of salvation] one body [Body of Christ], whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we [Church Age believers] were all [none excluded] made to drink of one Spirit [a reference to the eternal indwelling of the Holy Spirit which is another factor that is unique to the Dispensation of the Church]."*

The baptism by the Spirit brings the believer into living union with Jesus Christ. Through the baptism by the Spirit, the believer is vitally and spiritually united to the Lord. Being "in Christ," he is a possessor of the righteousness which Christ is. "In Christ" we are perfected to the point which satisfies divine integrity and on that ground alone God declares us justified in His own sight.

Romans 5:8-9: *"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath {of God} through Him."*

Ephesians 1:3-6: *"Blessed {be} the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly {places} in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. (NAS)"*

We see in Romans 3:26-28 Paul saying, "for the demonstration, {I say,} of His righteousness at the present time, that He [God / Father] might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where then is boasting? It is excluded. *For we maintain that a man is justified [declared legally righteous in the sight of God] by faith apart from works of the Law."*



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