

Eternal Security¹

Getting into the topic of eternal security (whether or not you can lose your salvation once saved), we look back in history to find that, after the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century, this topic was among those that caused wars to be fought and men to be burned at the stake. It is certain that Satan didn't want truth to be rediscovered further than was already brought out by this Reformation (justification by faith alone, in Christ alone).

You will recall that the four truths, from the ministry of Paul, were lost for fifteen hundred years and recovered over a period of about three hundred fifty years. During this whole process the multitude of confusion was due to not recognizing the distinctive message and ministry of the Apostle Paul (the last of the truths recovered). Without the principle of right division of the Scriptures, one is left in an incorrect *denominational* view based on which parts of the old kingdom program are mixed with the new *mystery* program.

God ushered in a new program of pure grace with that new apostle and many things changed. Where Israel had an earthly kingdom hope, we now have a heavenly calling and hope:

Philippians 3:20,21: **“For our conversation (Gr, *politeuma*: community, citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”**

The terms of salvation in the former program were to repent and be water baptized for the remission of sins. The current program requires only that we believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that He died for our sins:

I Corinthians 15:1-4: **“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”**

There is nothing you can add to the work of Christ on the cross that will earn your salvation. By the same token there is nothing you can do after being saved to keep yourself saved. It is by grace and is a gift of God.

Some teach that once you are saved you can lose your salvation if you do certain things (or don't do certain things). This is a result of a failure to recognize that: Ephesians 2:8,9: **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is a gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.*”** This passage goes on to say in the next verse: Ephesians 2:10: **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”** Good works are a result of being saved; being saved is not a result of good works.

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Simply put, you committed no sin so big that the cross of Christ couldn't pay the price to save you; and after being saved, there is no sin so big that the cross of Christ can't pay that price as well.

By mixing the two programs of God, many denominations tend to teach that we must do something to help earn our salvation, and likewise, we must do something to help keep it. The enemy can't cause you to lose your salvation but, if he can keep you uncertain of having it, then he can keep you from understanding the truth and seeking the spiritual growth you could otherwise gain. Also, this uncertainty can keep you from sharing the gospel with others as the Spirit leads you.

Before we leave this important topic, let's search the Scriptures to see if one can be secure in Christ. There is one verse, one of the more familiar in the Bible, which pretty well says it all:

John 3:16: **“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.”** In what sense is everlasting life everlasting, if you can lose it?

The next two verses add to the thought:

John 3:17,18: **“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”**

In Hebrews 10:14 we read:

“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

Obviously, the above verses apply to the former, as well as future, kingdom program, but the topic of eternal security, like many other topics can be trans-dispensational; that is, their truth is the same in any dispensation. Let's look to the Pauline record to see this truth for us:

Romans 5:1: **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”**

Ephesians 1:13,14: **“In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”** Once you have believed you are sealed with the Holy Spirit and that seal is stronger than the power of sin in your life.

Some object to the teaching of being eternally secure by observing that many so-called Christians seem to be as evil and as sin-ridden as non-believers. First of all, it is not for us to know for sure who is saved among us. Look at the example of Judas. He was one of the twelve and was an impostor, about whom Christ said in John 6:70, **“...Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?”** Secondly, even we as blood bought,

justified, and sealed believers will continue to sin, due to our flesh, our sin nature. Let's verify this with a lamentation by the Apostle Paul himself:

Romans 7:14-25: **“For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”**

We won't be rid of sin until we are caught up to be with Christ and evil is defeated once and for all.

Romans 6:23: **“For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** Again, in what sense is eternal life eternal, if you can lose it?

Titus 3:5: **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”** Justice: getting what we deserve; mercy: not getting what we deserve; grace: getting what we don't deserve, praise God for His mercy and grace toward us by His love, through Christ!

Galatians 2:20: **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”**

Colossians 2:10-15: **“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”** I took the liberty of underlining the word all above and take it to mean all past, present, and future sins.

Romans 8:38,39: **“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** God wants us to know for sure that nothing can separate us from His love! The enemy would have you to believe that one or more certain types of sins will cause you to become separated from God's love.

Some denominations teach that we must confess our sins, after being saved, in order to have them forgiven. This is based on a verse from I John:

I John 1:9: **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

Read that chapter *carefully*. First of all, this verse is addressing non-believers; and second of all, John was writing to Israel under the kingdom program, where they were to repent (and confess their sins), and be water baptized for their remission. In fact, during the tribulation, this same gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world, more on this later in Part 4. (see author's book: Understanding the Bible and End Times)

Mark 1:4,5: **“John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.”**