

# **Be Not Deceived**

## **By Pastor Art Watkins**

### **Part Three**

#### **Security**

There are many heresies and false doctrines taught today about eternal security we need to be on guard against. It is an important doctrine and even though there are many heresies taught about security, we can and should know the truth about security. We do not have to be deceived about eternal security as so many are today

- (1)There are those who say that eternal security is false and that no one's salvation is secure today.**
- (2)There are those who say some saints in the New Testament have security, but others don't.**
- (3)There are some who say all saints have security today, but in the coming tribulation those saints will not have security.**

**But what saith the scriptures?**

- (1)There are those who say that eternal security is false and that no one's salvation is secure today.**

The answer: Eternal security is a sound doctrine and a true doctrine that is taught throughout the New Testament epistles. All believers in the New Testament are eternally secure and it's because of the cross of Christ. It's the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross that secures our salvation.

On the cross God imputed or charged our sins to Christ; he then judged Christ for our sins, he condemned Christ for our sins and he executed him for our sins as if he committed them instead of us. He was buried and rose again and when anyone today places their faith in Christ alone to save them, the merits of Christ's death is put their account. That means, God counts Christ's death as their death. This means that as far as God is concerned when he judged Christ for our sins he judged us; when he condemned Christ for our sins, he condemned us; when he executed Christ for our sins, he executed us. When he was raised, we were raised with him. When he sat down at God's right hand, we sat down with him. This is why the salvation of all New Testament saints is secure. God cannot judge and condemn and execute us for our sins, because Christ was judged, condemned and executed in our place on the cross. On the cross Christ

took the place of all sinners and God's wrath against all sinners was poured out on him and now that we are saved we can say with Paul there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus.

Let's illustrate it like this: Suppose a man robs a bank and is caught and he is put on trial. In the trial he is convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison. They take him to the prison, put him behind bars and he spends the next ten years of his life behind bars. When the 10 years is up he is set free from prison. Can the law arrest him again for robbing the bank? Can the law put him on trial again for robbing the bank? Can the law sentence him again for robbing the bank? Can the law put him behind bars again for 10 years for robbing the bank? Can the law punish any man who has already been punished for his crime? No. Why? Because you cannot punish a man twice for the same crime. Once he served 10 years behind bars he is a free man and he cannot be arrested or tried or sentenced again for that crime.

In the same way: On the cross God imputed our sins to Christ. He charged him for our sins as if he committed them instead of us. Jesus Christ was then judged, condemned and executed FOR ALL OF OUR SINS AND ALL OUR CRIMES. If so, can God judge, condemn and execute us for our sins and crimes again? NO. God has already judged us when he judged Christ. God has already condemned us when he condemned Christ. God has already executed us when he executed Christ. He can't do it again for you can't punish a man twice for the same crimes and Christ died for ALL of our sins and all of our crimes past, present and future. As a matter of fact all our sins were future when Christ died on the cross. This is why Col. 2:13 says God hath forgiven us of ALL trespasses. This is why Acts 13:38-39 says: ***That through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.***

If God has forgiven us of all trespasses this means he cannot condemn us again for them. As a matter of fact the death and shed blood of Christ is so powerful that once it blots out our sins, God himself cannot remember them anymore according to Hebrews 10:17. This is why our salvation is secure.

If this is true this means that anyone who has faith in the death and shed blood of Christ in the New Testament to save them has eternal security. All saints in the New Testament scriptures had faith in the death and shed blood of Christ to save them; therefore all saints in the New Testament had eternal security. If that was true in Bible times, it is true today. If eternal security is based upon the cross then all saints who have faith in the

crosswork of Christ today have security. If you do not have security today or feel like you have it, then the problem is with you, not the Bible. God guarantees the salvation of all those who put their faith in the sacrificial death of Christ and his resurrection from the dead. If the salvation you say you have is not guaranteed then the problem is you do not understand the crosswork of Christ. Those who understand why Christ died and what he died for have no problem in believing in eternal security. It's those who do not understand the crosswork of Christ who do not believe in eternal security. They do not understand because the god of this world has blinded their minds from seeing the truth, the whole truth about the gospel. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 says: ***But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.***

Paul says the gospel is hid to them that are lost. The gospel declares Christ died for our sins and paid for them in full and was raised from the dead. Lost people do not understand this. They do not understand what it means that Christ died for their sins. They cannot see the fact that if Christ died for their sins and if he suffered the wrath of God for their sins, that they do not have to suffer the wrath of God for their sins. They do not understand the substitutionary nature of the death of Christ; that he was judged in our place; he was condemned in our place; that he was executed in our place. They can't see that God is satisfied with the atonement he made for our sins; in fact he is so well pleased with it that he says, if you will put your faith in his blood atonement he will forgive, remit, blot out, and erase your sins so that he cannot even see them anymore. And that once they are blotted out and removed he will not punish you in hell for them because he has already punished Christ for them. Lost people cannot see this. Why? Paul said the god of this world who is the devil has blinded their minds.

If you do not believe in eternal security then God says it's your fault. It's because you have allowed the devil and his ministers to blind your mind from seeing it. It is a true and sound doctrine and if you can't see it don't get mad with those who believe it and preach it. If you get mad with those like me who preach eternal security, it's a sure sign your mind is blinded by the god of this world because it is true and sound doctrine that Christ and all of the apostles preached. So, if you can't see it take another look at the cross and this time believe what God says instead of what some man has taught you. A man who says you can lose your salvation is deceived. He is deceived because the god of this world has blinded his mind according to

2 Corinthians 4:3. Are you going to trust your soul with a man who is deceived about the cross of Christ?

Read this carefully: God says his Son took your place on the cross. That is, he stood trial for all the sins and crimes he foreknew you would commit from the cradle to the grave. In that trial he judged him in your place. He condemned him in your place. And after judging and condemning him, he died in your place. He was punished for all of your sins and raised from the dead. When God raised him from the dead he declared he was satisfied with the atonement he made for your sins. Now God turns to you and he makes an offer. The offer is this; if you will put all of your faith and trust in his Son and in his death and resurrection for your sins, he will forgive all your sins and remember them no more and he will guarantee your salvation forever. He can guarantee it because Christ's death and resurrection paid your sin debt in full. There is no work for you to do; for he did all the work necessary to save you and keep you saved forever.

**(2)There are those who say some saints in the New Testament have security, but others don't.**

If our salvation is secure because of the cross, this means that security can be found throughout the New Testament, because Christ and all of the apostles preached the cross for salvation. How could the apostles preach the cross for salvation and at the same time warn people about losing their salvation? How could they say that God condemned Christ on the cross for our sins and then turn around and warn believers that if they are not careful God will condemn them for their sins? No one can preach the cross without preaching security.

There are those who say that the only place we can find eternal security is in the Pauline epistles. Some even believe he is the only apostle who preached the cross for salvation which is total nonsense. I heard one of these quote: "brilliant doctors of divinity" recently say that for 15 years after the death of Christ the apostles still didn't have a clue as to why he died. According to the dear doctor they walked around scratching their heads trying to figure out why he died. If so, what did they preach for 15 years? If they didn't know why he died, what did they tell people to do to get their sins forgiven; offer animal sacrifices? Think about that. This man and other hyper dispensationalists like him would have us to believe that for 15 years after Christ died and was resurrected Peter, James and John and the other apostles went around preaching salvation and atonement for sin by offering

animal sacrifices for sins! If that isn't crazy enough it is these same religious clowns who say God will resurrect the law of Moses in the kingdom of God, that Christ abolished on the cross, and that men will start offering animal sacrifice for sins all over again with Jesus Christ sitting there watching them do it! That is religious insanity and this is what the cult of hyper dispensationalism does to people's minds. The rest of us know better. We know that every preacher, apostle, prophet God sent to preach in the New Testament preached the cross for salvation. That can be easily proven. And if they preached the cross for salvation they had to preach security for what good is salvation without security. Eternal security is as much a part of the preaching of the cross as forgiveness of sins. Christ didn't die to save you from some of your sins. He died to save you from all your sins. He didn't die to save you half way. He died to save you all the way from the time of your conversion till your death. He is the author of eternal salvation, not half way salvation.

We know Paul preached the security of the believer. He says in Romans 4:8 that God does not impute sin to the believer after he forgives them. He said in Romans 5:9 we who are justified by the blood of Christ now have a sure promise to be saved from future wrath. In Romans 6 he says we are free from sin's penalty and will not suffer it in the future because Christ paid the penalty for us. In Romans 8:1 he said there is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus. In Hebrews 10:17 he says God does not remember sins he had forgiven. In Colossians 2:13 he said God forgave all of our trespasses. In Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30 we are sealed and preserved by the Spirit unto the day of redemption which is the second coming of Christ. These verses and many more like them appear in Paul's epistles and they prove beyond doubt that salvation is secure. But, what about the Four Gospels and the epistles of the other apostles? Let's search and see.

### **The Four Gospels**

(a) If eternal security is true because of the cross, then Christ preached security for he preached the cross.

In John 10:11 he said: ***I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.***

In John 10:15: ***As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.***

John 10:17: ***Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.***

John 10:18: ***No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.***

Five times in these verses Christ said he would die for us. If we have eternal security because of the cross then Christ must have offered security to those he died for and he does right here in John 10 where he said he would die 5 times.

In John 10:27-30 Jesus said; ***My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.***

These verses are some of the greatest verses for eternal security in the Bible. The Lord made this promise to his sheep; he said he would give them eternal life and they will never perish. Eternal is forever and never means never. There is no chance that God's people will perish in hell, for he said they will never perish. If a believer could perish in hell then Jesus lied for he said they will never perish. They will never perish because they have eternal life. It's because we have eternal life that we will never perish. If you could perish then you never had eternal life like Jesus said. He also said that no man can pluck the believer out of his hand or his Father's hand. But how could Jesus make these promises of security? How could he say that once we believe on him we will never perish? Because in this same chapter where he made these promises of security he said five times he would die for us! His death and resurrection made eternal security possible.

In John 3:15-18 it says: ***Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 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. 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.***

These verses plainly say that when someone believes on Christ they will not perish, but they have eternal life. It says it twice. It also says that those who believe on Christ will not be condemned. These verses clearly teach eternal security. But, what are these promises of security in verses 15-18 based upon? ***The cross in verse 14; And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.*** And

where and when was the Son of man lifted up? The Son of man answers it John 12:32-33 where he said: ***And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.***

The lifting up of Christ in John 3:14 was Christ being lifted up on the cross to die for our sins. Therefore, the promise God made in John 3:15-18 was made in view of Christ dying on the cross in John 3:14. Those who believe on Christ according to John 3:15-18 will never perish because of the cross of John 3:14.

In John 5:24 he also said: ***Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.***

This is another promise of security for the Lord said that once you believe on him you have everlasting life now and shall not come into condemnation in the future. But, how could he make this promise in John 5:24? Because of John 3:14 which says: ***And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.***

The promise of John 5:24, which we claim today, is based upon the death of Christ of John 3:14. We will not come into future condemnation according to John 5:24, because Christ was lifted up on the cross and condemned for our sins according to John 3:14.

In John 6:37 Jesus said: ***All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.***

This is a promise that once a man comes to Christ he cannot and will not be cast out of Christ. If a believer will not be cast out of Christ, then he has security. He said he would in NO WISE cast anyone out who comes to him.

In John 6:39 he said: ***And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.***

Jesus said he would not lose one person that God gave him and he would raise all of them up at the last day. It's not up to us to keep from losing Christ, it's up to him to keep from losing us and he will never lose one person the Father gave him. He said I should lose nothing. This is a promise Christ will not lose us and we will not lose him.

In John 6:40 he said: ***And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.***

The Lord says that those who believe on the Son have everlasting life and they will be raised up at the last day. Everlasting life is never ending life. Everlasting life is eternal life. If you have a promise of everlasting life, then you have a promise of eternal security, for eternal security is the promise of everlasting life. And those have everlasting life also have a promise that God will raise them up in the last day.

But, what are all these promises of eternal security in John 6 based upon? Keep reading; In John 6:47-51 he says: ***Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.***

All of the promises he made in John 6 of eternal security and eternal life are based upon what he said in verse 51. He said: **The bread that I will give IS MY FLESH, WHICH I WILL GIVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.** You can't miss it even if you tried. All the promises he made in this chapter of security are based upon him giving his body of flesh on the cross to die for the sins of the whole world.

All the promises Christ made of eternal security in the Four Gospels were based upon his coming death on the cross. It's the death and shed blood and resurrection of Christ that makes eternal security possible. That is why you will find security in the Four Gospels and what good is salvation without security?

### **Hebrews through Revelation**

If eternal security is true because of the cross then the apostles preached security because they all preached the cross for salvation.

Read what the apostles believed, preached and wrote about the cross:

In 1 Peter 3:18 he said: ***For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:***



In 1 Peter 1:18: ***Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:***

1 Peter 2:24: ***Christ his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.***

1John 1:7 John wrote: ***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

In Revelation 1:5 John wrote: ***And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.***

As you can see all of the apostles preached salvation, redemption, forgiveness and cleansing from sin by the death and shed blood Christ. If so, they must have also preached the security of the believer. Some folks say they did not but God says they did for the simple fact they preached the cross for salvation and no one can preach the cross and at the same time say you can lose your salvation.

***For example:***

In 1 Peter 1:3-5 he wrote: ***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***

These are remarkable verses for they show us that the Hebrew saints Peter wrote to had spiritual salvation then and a guarantee of physical salvation later.

According to verse 3 they were begotten again, that is they were born again, which means they had spiritual salvation. Their spirits were born of God's Spirit which means they had the life of God in them which is eternal life. They had the Spirit of God in them who is holy and they had the nature

of God in them which is divine. These three things are true of all those who are born again and the saints Peter wrote to were all born again.

I ask you, how can someone lose their salvation if they have been born again? Can they become unborn? If the saints Peter wrote to in his epistles could lose their salvation as some teach then they would to become unborn. You say that that's ridiculous and it is, but yet there are many people who believe this nonsense. They say the only people who had security were those Paul wrote to; if so what about these saints who were born again If you believe they could lose their salvation then you are in effect saying they could be become unborn after they were born again. Do you see the mess people get themselves into who teach against eternal security?

They not only had spiritual salvation but they also had a guarantee of future salvation from wrath in verse 5. In verse 9 it's called the salvation of their souls and this throws some people, but in the book of 1 Peter soul salvation is physical salvation from the coming wrath of God. In 1 Peter 3:20 Peter said in that in the ark Noah built 8 souls were saved. What was saved and what were they saved from? Their physical bodies were saved. They were saved from the wrath of God that came upon the whole world in the flood in Noah's day. In the ark Noah built there was soul salvation: that is, there was physical salvation from the wrath of God. Read it for yourself. (The word soul in the KJB can refer to the physical body as well as a part of the body. See Acts 27:37)

The people Peter wrote his epistles to have a guarantee that they would be saved physically from the wrath of God also; the wrath the 8 souls were saved from in Noah's day was the waters of the flood that drowned the whole world. The wrath the saints of 1 Peter were written to will be saved from is fire that will devour the whole world at Christ's coming. In 2 Peter 3:6-7 he wrote: ***Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: (the world in Noah's day) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.***

God destroyed the world the first time with water and he will destroy it along with the lost the second time with fire. But in 1 Peter 1:5 he said the people he wrote to were: ***Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*** The salvation in the verse is physical salvation from the fires of God's wrath and it says they

were kept by the power of God through faith unto the day God will save them from that wrath.

The word kept is a powerful word. It is a word of security for it means:

To hold, to retain in one's power or possession, not to lose or part with.

To have in custody for security and preservation. To preserve from falling or from danger. To guard or sustain. To hold or restrain from departure. To keep, to fulfill or perform as to keep one's promise or covenant. To maintain, to keep watch or guard, to prevent from falling, to last, to endure, not to perish or be impaired. (Webster's 1828 dictionary who defined English words with the KJB)

That is what it means to be kept by the power of God. The saints Peter wrote to were kept by the power of God. That means God took them into his custody for security and preservation. God preserved them from falling and danger. God guarded them and sustained them. He held them and restrained them from departure. He maintained them and kept watch and guard over them continually. He prevents them from falling and perishing.

This is what it means to be kept by the power of God and that is what God does for all those he keeps and he has to do it otherwise no one could possibly keep and maintain their salvation now or the future. The saints Peter wrote to were born again by the mercy of God in verse 3 and kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation from wrath in verse 5. They had spiritual salvation then and a guarantee of future physical salvation from the wrath of God.

It says they were ***kept through faith***; That's important to note because what is the opposite of faith? Works. This means their salvation from coming wrath was not based upon their works, but their faith. Faith in what? Keep reading for in verse 18 of this same chapter Peter wrote:

***Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.***

This is the faith they had; they were kept by their faith in the death and shed blood of Christ. Here in the same chapter where God promised he would keep them and preserve them and secure them, we find Peter writing about the death and shed blood of Christ showing us again the cross is what secures us and all those who preached the cross preached

security. They were kept by the power of God unto salvation because of the cross of Christ. It's just like in John 10.

It says they had: an ***inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for them.***

The saints Peter wrote to had an inheritance that was incorruptible, undefiled and perpetual and would not fade away; and this inheritance was reserved in heaven for them. What was it? Some say it was a new glorified body which is in heaven according to 2 Corinthians 5:1-2 which says: ***For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.*** This body is incorruptible.

It can also be the heavenly city New Jerusalem John describes in Revelation 21: Verse 2: ***And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.***

***Verses 22-27: And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.***

The inheritance reserved in heaven for the saints Peter wrote to can be either the new heavenly body promised in 2 Corinthians 5 or the heavenly city New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 or BOTH. But the point is, God reserved it for them in heaven. And this is why they were kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. If receiving this heavenly inheritance depended upon their works instead of their faith or their power instead of God's power they will never claim it. It will sit in heaven forever unclaimed. But they will claim it because they were kept by the power of God. That is why God took them into his custody for security and preservation. That is why God preserved them from falling and danger. That is why God guarded

them and sustained them. That is why he held them and restrained them from departure. That is why God maintained them and kept watch and guard over them continually. That is why he prevents them from falling and perishing.

God reserved this inheritance for them in heaven when they believed the gospel and to see to it that they receive it, he keeps and secures their salvation now and in the future and without the keeping power of God they or no one will ever be saved or receive this heavenly inheritance.

**(3) There are some who say all saints have security today, but in the coming tribulation the saints of God can lose their salvation.**

I have heard preachers say for years that God has to secure our salvation today because we could not possibly keep and maintain it ourselves which is true. But, then they turn around and say a man in the coming tribulation must keep and maintain his salvation by works and if he doesn't he will lose it! If you can't keep and maintain your salvation today how can a man in the coming tribulation keep and maintain his? How can he do what you say is impossible for you to do? But yet there are many hyper dispensationalists who teach that in the coming tribulation God will do a doctrinal 360 and send men to preach salvation by works and he will also recall the promise of eternal security that we enjoy today. According to these people, in the tribulation a man will have to work his way into heaven and if he is not careful he can lose his salvation. I have this little booklet written by one of these extreme hyper dispensationalists and he actually says in the coming tribulation a man will have to keep the 10 commandments, keep the Golden Rule give his money to the poor, get baptized, take up a cross, and hold out to the end of the tribulation. He says that in the coming tribulation, salvation will not be by grace as it today. He says the doctrine and gospel in that day will be Hebrews through Revelation and according to him and other hyper dispensationalists like him, salvation in those books is by works and there is no security in them. But what saith the scriptures? The scriptures say this theory is totally bogus.

**Follow this study carefully:**

**Works makes the cross of Christ vain and useless**

In Galatians 2:21 Paul wrote: ***I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.***

This verse says that works, such as the works of the law, cannot be preached along with the cross for salvation for works makes the cross of Christ of none effect. Paul said: ***For if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*** Paul is saying that if you and I could be saved by the works of the law or works of any kind, Christ died in vain. Why did Christ die if we could gain salvation and eternal life by our good works? God would have never sent his Son into the world to suffer the awful pain, and death of the cross if we could be saved by works. His death would be unnecessary if salvation and eternal life could be gained by our works. Therefore no one can preach salvation by works and the cross at the same time for works makes the cross of Christ vain and useless.

### **The cross secures our salvation**

By Christ's death on the cross all of our sins are forgiven and are no longer imputed to us.

Colossians 2:13 says: ***And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;***

When a man believes that Christ died for his sins and was raised again God forgives all of his sins without exception and distinction. If God forgave you of all sins without exception and distinction, what sin can he send you to hell for now? If God could send a believer to hell for sin, then he did not forgive him of all sins like he said he did. God does not lie and if he has forgiven you of all sins, your salvation is secure and there is no possibility of you going to hell if you are saved. The sins God forgives he also forgets. Hebrews 10:17-18 says; ***And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.*** If God does not remember your sins after he forgives them, how could you lose your salvation? It's because of the cross our salvation is secured. His death and shed blood satisfied all of God's just demands against our sins and when we believe on him God counts our sins paid for in full and he no longer charges them or imputes them to us again.

**Therefore, anyone in the Bible who preached the cross for salvation could not preach works for salvation because works makes the cross of Christ vain and useless according to Galatians 2:21. And anyone who preached the cross for salvation preached security for it's the cross that secures our salvation for by the cross all of our sins are forgiven, and forgotten.**

We are told by these hyper dispensationalists that salvation in the coming tribulation will be by works and that salvation will not be secure. If you ask

them what books in the Bible will men preach in the coming tribulation; they say Hebrews through Revelation and according to them salvation is by works in Hebrews through Revelation and there is no security in those books.

But that is bogus for one simple reason: the men who wrote Hebrews through Revelation preached the cross for salvation and the people to whom those books were written put their faith and trust in the death and shed blood of Christ to save them.

## **Hebrews**

***9:12-14: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?***

***10:11-14: And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.***

The book of Hebrews gives us one the clearest descriptions of the cross of any book in the New Testament. Paul devotes two whole chapters in Hebrews to show us how much better the sacrifice of Christ is than the sacrifices of the law.

## **1 Peter**

In 1 Peter 3:18 he said: ***For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:***

In 1 Peter 1:18: ***Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:***

1 Peter 2:24: ***Christ his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.***

## 1 John

1John 1:7 John wrote: ***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

## Revelation

Revelation is clearly a last day's book and in this book John is given a number of visions of saints who will live on the earth during the coming tribulation. If we want to know what those saints will believe to be saved in the coming tribulation, then all we have to do is read what John said about them.

The book of revelation is written to 7 churches in Asia. Many people today say these 7 churches represent the 7 stages of church history. There are some who say these 7 churches are future churches that will exist in the coming tribulation. There are others who say these 7 churches were present when John wrote Revelation for the letters to these churches were sent or delivered to them. In Revelation 1:11 Jesus said to John: ***I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.***

There were 7 churches in Asia in the time of the apostles and this letter was sent to them and read by them.

When it comes to the issue of eternal security it does not matter if these churches were past, present or future. What matters is what do the saints in this book believe about salvation? How are they saved? What is their faith and trust in to save them? I will tell you ahead of time; their faith and trust is in the death and blood Christ shed on the cross just like us today.

If that is so, these means they are saved by faith alone without works for no one can be saved by works and the cross at the same time, for works makes the cross of none effect according to Gal. 2:21. It also means they have security because the cross secures our salvation and there is no way a man can preach Christ died for your sins and with the next breath say you can lose your salvation.



In chapter 1:5 he said this about the saints he wrote to: ***Jesus Christ loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.***

We sing the song; what can wash away my sins; nothing but the blood of Jesus. These saints sang the same song. The sins of the saints to whom the book of Revelation was written were washed away by the blood Jesus Christ shed on the cross just like us.

It says their sins were washed away, past tense. This means they had a past and present tense salvation just like us. They were not waiting for their sins to be washed away; they were washed away past tense.

In Revelation 5 John sees another vision in heaven. It says verses 8-10: ***And when he (Christ) had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.***

These verses show us who Christ died for and what he died for. Christ was slain for every kindred, tongue, people and nation in the world. In other words he died for Jews and gentiles alike. John also said in 1 John 2:2: ***And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*** The death of Christ was for sinners in every nation, kindred, tongue throughout the world. That is why he commanded us to preach the gospel to every creature in all the world.

Christ was slain to redeem them to God by his blood. To redeem is to purchase. Christ purchased these Jew and gentile saints by his blood on the cross. Paul said the same thing in Colossians 1:14: ***In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.***

In these verses redemption by the blood of Christ for the sins of every man in all the world is clearly seen. These people were not redeemed by their works; they were redeemed by the blood of Christ just like us. These people were not waiting to be redeemed for it says; thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, past tense. Their redemption and salvation is like ours; a present possession not a future reward.

In Revelation 7 John sees a multitude of gentile saints in the coming tribulation. He wrote in 7:9:

***I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;***

In verse 14 he says this about them: ***These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.***

These are clearly tribulation saints for it says they came out of great tribulation. It says they were clothed in white robes. White robes are a symbol of the righteousness of the saint's according to Revelation 19:8. But it's not their own personal righteousness for we don't have any. Romans 3:10 says: ***As it is written there is none righteous, no, not one.*** Isaiah 64:6 says: ***But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.***

If no one has any righteousness, what is the righteousness of these gentile saints in Revelation 7? It's not theirs, it's Christ righteousness. How will they become clothed with the righteousness of Christ? The same way we are, by faith in the death and shed blood of Christ. Romans 3:21-22 says: ***But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.***

The righteousness of God is given to unrighteous sinners like us by faith alone in the death and shed blood of Christ. And you must have the righteousness of God for the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. The gentile saints in Revelation 7 who will come out of great tribulation are seen wearing white robes which means they are clothed with the righteousness of God. It says they made their robes white by the blood of the Lamb. Not by their works, trials and tribulation that they will suffer, but by the blood of the Lamb. The faith of these future saints is in the blood of the Lamb just like us today.

In Revelation 12 John gives us another vision of another group of saints in the coming tribulation. He says in verses 10-11: ***And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day***

***and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.***

What John saw are saints on the earth when the devil is cast out of heaven down to the earth in the tribulation. It says they will overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb. Their faith is in blood of Christ and if so that shows you what men will preach in the tribulation; they will preach the cross for salvation for it was on the cross and at the cross that the Lamb of God died and shed his blood for our sins.

In the book of Revelation which describes the events of the coming tribulation John shows us exactly what the saints in that period of time believe; That Christ the Lamb of God died and shed his blood for their sins. If faith comes by hearing that means that God will send men to preach the cross in the future as he does today. This of course means that salvation in the coming tribulation will not be by works and in that day saints will have security just like us. Why is this true? For the simple reason the cross will be preached for salvation and works cannot be preached with the cross for works makes the cross of Christ of none effect according to Galatians 2:21. And it's because of his death and shed blood on the cross that salvation is secure. There is no way a man can scripturally preach the cross and works together for salvation and there is no way he can preach Christ died and paid for your sins and with the next breath say that those who believe Christ died and paid for our sins can lose their salvation. That is a contradiction of all contradictions.

If this is not enough Paul shows us that the gospel that will be preached during the tribulation is the same one he preached.

In Romans 1:16 he wrote: For I am not ashamed of ***the gospel of Christ***. In 2 Thessalonians 1:8 Paul says that when Christ comes in flaming fire at the end of the tribulation he will take: ***Vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

What gospel will be preached till the end of the tribulation? The same one we preach today; the gospel of Christ. What gospel will God damn men for not believing in the tribulation? The same one he will damn men for not believing today: the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The fact the gospel of Christ will be preached till the end of the tribulation shows us again and again that men in that day will be saved by faith alone without works and enjoy eternal security just like us today.