

**THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER**  
***The Scriptural Reasons Why Every Christian Is Secure Eternally***  
***(Written for teachers)***  
***By Pastor Arthur L. Watkins***

Eternal security simply means "***once saved always saved***". It means that each and every person who truly believes the Gospel of Grace has a *guarantee* that they will spend eternity in the Kingdom of God. In this present age, there is no chance a believer can lose his salvation for any reason. Because of sin and apostasy a believer can lose many things today, but not his salvation. The same God who saves sinners, secures their salvation after he saves them.

**For The Following Reasons Every True Believer Has Eternal Security**

**SALVATION BY THE GRACE OF GOD THE FATHER**

Ephesians 2:8-9 says; ***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

Titus 3:5 says; ***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.***

Rom. 4:5 says; ***But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.***

According to these verses salvation is not based upon the works or performance of the sinner either ***before or after*** he believes the gospel. If God saved you because you did certain religious works and performed certain good deeds ***along with believing***, your salvation could never be attributed to grace. If God saved you in view of your good works and good deeds ***after you believed*** the gospel, your salvation could not be attributed to grace. ***If works play a part in receiving or keeping salvation, it is not by grace.***

In true salvation by grace, God took the works out of salvation and made faith the only requirement to be saved. When Paul said "***not of works***" that means you don't work to gain it or keep it. Those who God saves by grace through faith, without works, are kept saved the same way.

In Romans 11:5-6 Paul wrote; ***Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it***

***be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.***

According to these verses grace cancels out works and works cancel out grace. When it comes to salvation both cannot operate at the same time because they are diametrically opposed to one another. They are totally different principals and you cannot be saved by both at the same time.

If salvation is by works then it is totally by works without an element of grace in it. If it is by grace it is totally by grace without an element of works in it. If salvation is based upon your works or behavior either when you believed the gospel or after, it is not by grace.

This is an important fact, when it comes to eternal security, for if God keeps you saved by grace without works, how could you possibly lose your salvation? ***If you didn't do any work to gain or keep it, then you can't lose it.*** If you could lose your salvation because of bad works, it was never by grace to begin with and Paul was a liar when he said it is; *"the gift of God, not of works"*.

A gift is given freely and unconditionally. It is freely and unconditionally given and freely and unconditionally kept. If I gave you an automobile as a gift would it really be a gift if you paid me for it? If I gave you an automobile as a gift, is it really a gift if I took it back from you because I didn't like the way you treated it after I gave it to you? No.

### **OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH GOD THE SON**

In Galatians 3:27 Paul wrote; ***For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***

Being baptized into Christ by the Spirit we put on Christ; that is, ***we became identified with him.*** Prior to being identified with Christ, we were identified with Adam. In Romans 5 God makes it clear that in the Garden of Eden the one man Adam acted in behalf of all men. We were identified with Adam and being identified with Adam what was said of him was true of us. Consequently, when he sinned we sinned with him. When he rebelled against God, we rebelled. When death passed upon him, it passed upon us. When he was condemned, we were condemned with him. His acts and the consequences of his acts were put to our account as if we did them ourselves.

But now we are identified with Christ which means what is true of Him becomes true of us. In view of our identification with Christ Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20; ***I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the***

***faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.***

This verse says we are dead and yet alive at the same time. How can this be? Because we are identified with Christ. Being identified with Him, God counts Christ's death as our death and His life as our life. The death we have experienced in this verse is Christ's. The life we live in the verse is Christ's. As His death is accounted as ours, His Life is accounted as ours.

***He now lives for you as He once died for you.***

This is an important fact when it comes to eternal security. For if Christ lives for us, then how could we possibly lose our salvation, for he lives a perfect, sinless and holy life. He died for us, that's salvation. He lives for us, that's security.

I have heard people say that you got to "live it" to be saved and if you don't "live it" you will lose it. If that is true, then I know my salvation is secure because Christ "lives it" for me

## **THE SEALING OF GOD THE SPIRIT**

A seal denotes many things in the Bible.

***A seal can be:***

### ***(1) A Mark Of Ownership***

In Revelation 7:3 God will put a seal in the foreheads of the 144,000. That seal will be His name according to Rev.14:1. That seal will be a mark of ownership. It will identify the 144,000 as God's people and separate them from those who are not.

In Ephesians 1:13 Paul said; ***In whom ye also trusted, after 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.***

God has put a seal on us. This seal is a mark of ownership and the seal is the Holy Spirit of promise. He gave us the Holy Spirit to declare that we belong to Him, for He gives the Holy Spirit only to those who do. (See Rom.8:9) The seal of God is not in our foreheads, it's in our hearts. It's the Holy Spirit of promise and it is God's mark of ownership.

(You can see the seal of the Spirit in a person's heart by the fruits of the Spirit in their lives)

### ***(2) To Preserve And Secure To A Future Time***

At the second coming of Christ, God will cast the Devil into the bottomless pit and will shut him up and set a seal upon him, that he should not deceive the nations no more for a thousand years. (See Rev.20:1-3) The seal God will set upon him is for preservation and security. It will preserve and

secure him in the bottomless pit with no chance of getting out. This seal shows us something about the seal of God. ***It shows us that any thing God seals remains sealed the whole time that He designates it to be sealed.*** If the devil will be sealed for a 1000 years, you can rest assured, he will not come out of the pit one minute before the 1000 years is finished. In Ephesians 4:30 Paul wrote; ***And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*** This is a seal of preservation and security. God has also designated how long we are to be sealed; ***"till the day of redemption"***. The day of redemption is the coming of Christ, when our bodies will be redeemed. If we are sealed unto the day of redemption, then we are preserved and secured unto the coming of Christ, which means we cannot lose our salvation. ***As long as we are sealed, we are secure.*** If we are sealed unto the day of redemption, we are secure unto the coming of Christ for the church. What about after then? We won't need security after the day of redemption, for in that day God will give us glorified, sinless bodies that cannot and will not sin again.

### **THE FORGIVENESS OF ALL SINS**

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.***

In Acts 13:38-39 Paul said; ***Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, 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.***

All is all. All is not part. All is not 50% or even 99%. All is 100%. All is all without exception and distinction. If God forgave you of all sins and trespasses without exception and distinction, what sin could He send you to hell for? 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 that 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 no more after He forgives them, how could you lose your salvation?

## THE IMPUTATION OF NO SINS

In Romans 4:7-8 God said; ***Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.***

To impute means to charge someone with something such as a crime, a debt, faults, blame or sin. According to Romans 4:8, God does not impute sin to our account: He does not charge us with sin. Why? Because He imputed our sins to Christ's account. He charged Him for our sins who in turn suffered and died for them. (See 2 Cor.5:19-21) If God does not impute sin to our account or charge us for sin, how could we possibly lose our salvation?

Those who say you can lose your salvation, believe you lose it because of sin. They say that through sin a Christian can forfeit and lose his salvation. But, if sin is not imputed to your account, how could you lose it then? If sin is completely taken out of the way and is no longer held against you, then what could possibly cause you to lose your salvation? Nothing! The fact that God does not charge or impute sin to the believer's account, assures me that we are secure eternally in Christ.

## JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

In Rom.5:1 we are justified by faith. In Rom.5:9 we are justified by the blood Of Christ. In Rom.4:25 we are justified by the resurrection of Christ. In Rom.3:24 we are justified by the grace of God. In Acts 13:38-39 we are justified from all things.

What does it mean to be justified? In our case, it means ***to be free and clear from the guilt and penalty of all sins.***

How were we made free from the guilt and penalty of all sins? Through the death and shed blood of Christ on the cross. The cross is how and where we are justified, for on the cross, ***Christ assumed the guilt of our sins and paid the penalty for them.*** If Christ assumed the guilt of our sins and paid the penalty for our sins, how could God judge and condemn us to hell for our sins? God can't judge us for sins He has already judged. God cannot condemn us to hell for sins He has already condemned. God judged, convicted, sentenced and executed Christ for our sins, once for all time. He can't do it again, for that would be double jeopardy.

If you ran a stop sign and got a ticket, but someone paid the ticket for you, can the judge make you pay it again? No. ***The law cannot punish you twice for the same crime.*** When Christ died on the cross, He died for all of your sins. God punished Him for the sins and crimes you committed against Him. If God punished Christ for the sins and crimes you committed,

can He turn around and punish you in hell for your sins? NO! Why? Because He already punished Christ for them. Once your sins were paid for they are forgiven and you are pronounced justified and God cannot charge you with those sins again.

### **OUR SEAT IN HEAVENLY PLACES**

In Ephesians 2:6 God said that He; ***Hath raised us up together, and made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.***

When Christ sat down at God's right hand, it signified His work and labor was done and that His sacrifice is sufficient to forgive us of all sins. If God allowed us to sit down with Him in Heavenly places, what does this imply about us? There is no work for us to do, to get saved, or to stay saved. If there was work for us to do to gain or keep from losing our salvation, God would never allow us to sit down. We would still be standing and working, as far as salvation was concerned.

The fact that God has allowed us to sit down in Heavenly places, tells us there is no work to be done to keep from losing our salvation, and it tells us we are secure eternally in Christ.

### **THE PROMISE OF GOD**

In John 10:27-29 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.***

This is a promise that God made to all those who belong to him. And once God makes a promise he must keep it for he cannot lie or go back on a promise. Num:23:19 says; ***God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?***

If God promised to give you eternal life, but later on took it away from you he would be lying. If God promised to give you eternal life He is obligated to give it to you and never take it back from you again. If he could take it away from you, it was never eternal life to begin with. Eternal life is just that, it is eternal. If you have it 10 years and God took it back it is not eternal life.

### **OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AS SONS**

Hebrews 12:5-8 says: ***And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For***

***whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.***

Our relationship with God is that of sons. He is our Father and we are his sons. If you have a son or daughter and they disobey you, what do you do with them? Do you disown them? Do you stick them in a fire and burn them to death? No! You chastise them.

What does God do with his sons when they disobey him? Does he disown them? Does he stick them in hell fire and burn them forever? No! He chastens them. What would you think of a father who would take his own son and stick him in a fire and burn him to death? Would you say he was a kind, gentile, compassionate and loving father? No! He would be an evil monster. Would you do that to your son or daughter? No! But yet there are people who say that God will do that with his sons. These heretics who teach you that you can lose your salvation are actually saying that God will cast his own children into the fires of hell to burn forever. What kind of a God is that?

### **THE NEW BIRTH**

John 3:3-7 says: ***Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.***

Once your child is born can he become unborn? It is impossible for a child to become unborn once he is born into this world. It is ridiculous to even think that a child can become unborn, but yet those who teach you can lose your salvation are saying in effect that a Christian can become unborn after he is born again. It is clinical insanity to think a child can become unborn and it is religious insanity to think a believer can become unborn after he is born again into God's family.

In closing, let it be clear that God did not give us eternal security as a license to live in sin. He did not give us eternal security to give us permission to be carnal and lazy. Eternal security does not mean God will not chastise you for sin either. He chastens every son He receives (See Heb.12:5-11, 1 Cor.3:17, 5:1-5, 11:29-32). Also, even though we cannot lose our salvation there are certain blessings, rewards and crowns we can lose because of sin, apostasy, carnal behavior and laziness.

**Rewards** - Col.2:18, 3:24-25, 1 Cor.3:11-15

**Reigning with Christ** - 2 Tim.2:12

**Crowns** - 2 Tim.4:8

**Inheritance** - 1 Cor.6:9-11

### ***The Practical Influence Of Eternal Security In Our Personal Lives***

Sound doctrine always has a practical influence on the personal lives of those who believe it. Sound doctrine changes people's lives for the better. It makes them better Christians and this is true of the doctrine of Eternal Security.

#### ***(1) Eternal Security Allows Us To Serve God Without Fear Of Losing Salvation***

He gave us eternal security to take the burden of keeping and maintaining our salvation off our shoulders, so we can serve Him without fear of losing our salvation. It's not easy to serve God in this present evil world and it would be much harder to serve Him if we had to worry about losing our salvation. But that's one burden we don't have to carry, for God took care of that by giving us eternal security. Our salvation is completely in His hands. We don't have to worry about keeping it, or maintaining it. We can get on with serving Him without fear of losing it.

Paul said in Philippians 1:6; ***Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Christ.*** God's work is to keep you saved, till the day of Christ. Your work is to serve Him, live for Him and hold forth the word of life, until the day of Christ. (Philp.2:16)

#### ***(2) Eternal Security Prevents You From Frustrating The Grace Of God***

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.***

The word "*frustrate*" means; to defeat, to disappoint, to bring to nothing, to nullify, and to render of no effect. The works of the Law and the works of



the flesh, religious or moral, frustrate and nullify the Grace of God. In true salvation by Grace, salvation is *received and kept* by Grace through faith, without works. If you try to *gain salvation* by works of any kind you frustrate the Grace of God. If you try to *keep saved* by works of any kind, you also frustrate the Grace of God. A man who teaches that you can lose your salvation frustrates the Grace of God just as much as the man who teaches works to gain salvation.

One reason God gave us eternal security is to prevent us from frustrating his Grace. Eternal security eliminates the need to work to keep yourself saved. If you have eternal security and know it, you will not frustrate the Grace of God by working to keep yourself saved. If you have eternal security you may work, but not to keep yourself saved. (See Eph.2:10)

### ***(3) Eternal Security Keeps You From Making The Cross Of Christ of None Effect***

According to Galatians 2:21, works not only frustrate the grace of God, but they make the cross of Christ of none effect.

For God to save you and give you eternal life all of your sins must be paid for in full. When Christ died he died for all of your sins, past, present and future. He died for all of your sins without exception and distinction. If you could be saved by another way than by the cross, Christ died in vain. His death was useless and unnecessary if you could gain salvation and keep salvation by another way. If you could gain or keep salvation by keeping the law, Christ died in vain. If you could gain or keep salvation by any kind of works, Christ died in vain. Why would God subject His only begotten Son to such misery, agony and such a horrible death, if you could get saved and stay saved by another way? Therefore, any man who says you can get saved or stay saved by works is saying in effect that Christ died in vain.

Eternal security will keep you from such blasphemy because eternal security is based upon the death of Christ. We are eternally secure because Christ died for all our sins without exception and distinction. Because He died for them all, they are all paid for. ***The sins that Christ paid for are the ones He died for.*** If He died for them all, then they are all paid for. If they are all paid for, *what sin can God send you to hell for now?* Receiving and keeping salvation is based upon the death and shed blood of Christ. He not only died to save you, but He died to keep you saved. But if you could be saved by another way, He died in vain.

Believers who have eternal security know it's Christ's works that saved

them, and it's Christ work that keeps them saved, and you will not find them working to keep themselves saved.

#### ***(4) Eternal Security Prevents Us From Boasting***

Ephesians 2:8-9 says; ***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

One reason God *saved you* and *keeps you saved* by grace and not by works it to keep you from boasting in your salvation. For by grace ***are ye saved*** lest any man should boast. For by grace are ye ***kept saved*** lest any man should boast. It is not of works to get saved, lest any man should boast and it is not of works to keep saved, lest any man should boast. God took the works out of *receiving and keeping* salvation, lest any man should boast.

We are saved and secured by the grace of God, which leaves us no room to boast. How can we boast in something that was given to us as a gift? And how can we boast in something that we don't have to work to keep? Salvation by Grace keeps us from boasting in getting saved by works. Eternal security keeps us from boasting in keeping our salvation by works. We can take no credit in receiving or keeping our salvation because it is all by grace and not of works and that's one of the reasons why it is hated and despised by the religious system. Man by nature is proud of the flesh and does not like to be told that his works don't count and are no good. Religion is based upon the works of the flesh. And when you take works out of receiving and keeping salvation, you destroy most religious systems. That's why they hate the Gospel of Grace and preach another gospel, and why they hate eternal security and teach you can lose it. Their gospel always has an element of works in it to please their flesh. The so-called salvation they preach must be carefully maintained by works to satisfy their carnal flesh.

The Gospel of Grace and eternal security eliminates all boasting. We can take no credit in receiving it or keeping it because they are both by grace through faith, without works.

#### ***(5) Eternal Security Keeps Us From Falling From Grace***

Galatians 5:4 says; ***Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.***

We are saved by the principle of grace. That principle says we are saved by grace without works and we are kept saved by grace through faith

without works. If you deny either one of these principles you are fallen from grace. To fall from grace means you deny that grace is the principle by which we are saved and kept saved. It is to apostatize from the principle of grace.

There are two ways in which men fall from grace. A lost man falls from grace when he tries to gain salvation by works. A saved man falls from grace when he tries to stay saved by works. Catholics and Cambelites are fallen from grace because they do not believe we are saved by grace through faith only. The Galatians were fallen from grace because they didn't believe we are *kept saved* by grace through faith only. They were led to believe they had to work to keep from losing their salvation. (See Gal.3:3)

If you have eternal security and know it, you will not fall from grace like the Galatians, for you know that in Christ you are complete and nothing can add to or take away from it. (See Col.2:10) People who get caught up in a system of works trying to keep something they can't lose are either lost or very deceived. Paul called the Galatians "foolish" (See Gal.3:1) ***It is foolish to work for something that is a gift and it's foolish to work to keep something you can't lose.***

The Galatians were fallen from grace because they were ignorant. Most lost people are fallen from grace because they are blinded by the Devil, the god of this world. (See 2 Cor.4:3-4).

#### ***(6) Eternal Security Magnifies The Grace Of God***

In Ephesians 2:6-7 Paul wrote; ***And hath raised us up together, and made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.***

In the ages to come, God will shew the exceeding riches of His grace in those He saves by grace. God saved you by grace and keeps you saved by grace so that He gets all the credit and glory in the ages to come.

If works played any part in receiving or keeping salvation, God would not get all the credit and glory. If works played any part in your salvation, you would have reason to boast, and if you could boast, God's grace would be belittled. God saved you by the *Gospel of Grace* lest you boast in gaining salvation by works. God gave you *eternal security* lest you boast in keeping your salvation by works. Your salvation is totally by the Grace of God, so that if anyone gets the credit, it will be God and His grace.

### ***(7) Eternal Security Humbles The Flesh***

Paul writing about himself in Romans 7 said; ***For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 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.*** (Rom.7:14-20)

Paul paints a picture of the struggle every Christian has with the flesh in these verses. Our flesh is so corrupt that God had to give us eternal security to keep us from losing our salvation. If it were up to you and your self efforts to keep and maintain your salvation, you would lose it within 24 hours. The greatest Christian who ever lived said; ***For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.***

Our flesh is so corrupt that it will not obey God and cannot please God. With flesh like that who could possibly keep and maintain their own salvation? We are so bad and corrupt God had to give us eternal security, for if He didn't, His Kingdom would be unpopulated in the ages to come.

Eternal security is not given to good people, it's given to people who are so corrupt they could not possibly keep and maintain their salvation on their own. This is why it is such a hated doctrine, for when you claim eternal security, you are admitting you are corrupt. Those who hate the doctrine do not believe they are corrupt. They believe they can do what Paul said he could not do. They believe the flesh is good and capable of gaining and keeping salvation. Eternal security is an enigma to self righteous people, but it is a blessing to sinners like Paul and us.

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