

Chapter 5

OUR SECURE SALVATION

The certainty of our salvation is one of the great comforting promises of Scripture. It is our hope!

Explore the reason Christians should never lack confidence in their relationship, and their position, before the Father.

WHY IS ETERNAL SECURITY SO IMPORTANT FOR OUR WELL-BEING?

Our eternal security helps us throughout life by:

HOPE

The knowledge of our salvation and a better future life helps us through every step of our lives to maintain joy despite difficult times.

PROTECTS OUR MINDS

Knowledge of our salvation provides good well-being, as our Foundation, Teleios shows.¹⁻³ It's challenging to have hope for the future and good well-being if you don't know you are genuinely saved. Our eternal security is the helmet of our salvation, protecting our minds (Ephesians 6:15) and the anchor for our souls (Hebrews 6:19).

SERVICE

Eternal security also allows us to serve God better. Doubt saps our energy and turns our thoughts from serving God to ourselves. We can only serve fully with a confident secure foundation (Colossians 1:9-14).

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Knowledge of our security is necessary for progressing to maturity in the Christian life, as exemplified in 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7. We may not feel we deserve salvation (actually, we do not – it is God’s gift through Christ), but we must live by the facts of Scripture and its blessed truth.

**WHAT ARE THE EVIDENCES OF
OUR ETERNAL SECURITY?**

EVIDENCE 1

DIRECT STATEMENTS

There are several key verses that directly indicate that a believer, who has trusted in Jesus Christ by faith for salvation, is eternally secure.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and my Father are one.

JOHN 10:29-30

*⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

1 PETER 1:4-5

¹⁰ *He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.*

¹¹ *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

¹² *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

¹³ *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

1 JOHN 5: 10- 13

²⁸*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

²⁹*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

³⁰*Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

³¹*What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

³²*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

³³*Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

³⁴*Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

³⁵*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶*As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷*Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹*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.*

ROMANS 8:28-39

EVIDENCE 2

POSITIONS IN CHRIST

By the results of our glorious salvation, we obtain irreversible positions in Christ on both a legal and a morphological basis. When we believe, we obtain the amazing unchangeable positions listed below. These positions add strong evidence to our eternal security.

There are a number of these positions but several pertinent ones are:

SPIRITUAL BAPTISM

The Holy Spirit regenerates us into a new person, and our old self dies (Romans 6:2-9). We become identified (the meaning of the word 'baptism') with Christ's death and resurrection. This marvelous spiritual truth speaks to the importance of the resurrection because it is the vehicle for our new life in Christ and eternity (Romans 6:9, 10:9-10). Indeed, we are a new people, and the old sinful self is gone forever.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

(1 Corinthians 12:13)

The Spirit places each believer in the church universal (the fellowship of all believers under the headship of Christ (Colossians 1:17-18). We serve others, and God, typically through a local church assembly.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

He is partly given as a down payment to our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:21) that we cannot lose (Romans 8:28-39; 1 Peter 1:4-5). He maintains us until the day of our redemption when Christ comes again (Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:10).

ADOPTION

Each believer is a child of God, adopted into His family. As generally in first-world cultures today, when a child was adopted in the ancient Greek and Roman world, it was a legal right that could not be overturned (4). In other words, the adopted child received all the rights and privileges of a natural-born child, so also it is with a believer as a child of God (Ephesians 1:5).

JUSTIFICATION

Before, we believed we were guilty of sin, for which Christ died on the cross to provide his forgiveness and to declare us innocent (Romans 3:24-25). The word for justified in Greek (δικαιος, dikaios) means legally found innocent, as in a court of law. In other words, there is no double jeopardy: once found innocent, no one can bring a charge against us (Romans 8:33).

POSSESSION

We are the possession of God (John 10:27-30; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:10). No one can take us out of His hand (John 10:27-30).

EVIDENCE 3

PERSEVERANCE

This theme is vital because it indicates that God alone, not us, causes us to endure our salvation. Even if we want to change our position in Christ, or if we make mistakes, He causes us to persist to eternal life. Thanks be to God – it's all based on Him, not us! Here are some key verses (KJV):

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2 TIMOTHY 1:12

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:8

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23

EVIDENCE 4

ELECTION

The fourth position of our wonderful salvation is that God chose us for Himself. Again, this was all God's doing and not from our efforts and work. Although some think this doctrine is controversial, let's look at the scriptures so you can decide for yourself:

GOD CHOSE US

God elected us for salvation before all time to come to faith (Ephesians 1:4; Ephesians 5,11; Romans 8:28-30).

GOD'S DRAGGING AND CONVICTING

After choosing us, God had to convict and drag us to Himself, or we would not have come (John 6:44; John 16:8; Romans 3:10-12). The Bible uses the imagery of having to 'drag' fish into a boat using a net. The fish, like us, do not come willingly!

THE CHOICE WAS INDIVIDUAL

God did not choose a group, such as the church, but each of us distinctively (John 6:37,44,65; John 10:28-29; 2 John 1:1).

GOD'S CHARACTER

Choosing is consistent with God's character and past actions. To accomplish His magnificent work on earth, He has always had to choose those who would serve Him (e.g., Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Israel).

NO OTHER WAY

We never would have chosen, understood, or desired God because of our fallen nature into sin (Romans 3:10-18; Ephesians 2:1-3). Although some think that God's choosing is unfair, there was no other way, and scripture says it was done out of love and knowledge (Ephesians 1:4-7). If God had not intervened, all would have perished!

EVIDENCE 5

CHRIST'S SUFFICIENCY

God's glorious salvation, accomplished on the cross that we can be saved by faith alone and not our own work. Every aspect of salvation is God's, all to His glory.

CHRIST ALONE IS SUFFICIENT

God not only endorses eternal security with beautiful promises, as we've just seen, but also expresses His displeasure to those who do not believe it. This is expressed in two main passages in Hebrews, Chapters 6 and 10.

Let's examine briefly the main passage in Hebrews 6, which although it can be controversial, is an exciting proof of our eternal security. Here are the main points:

HEBREWS 5: 12 -14

The author tells the young Hebrew believers that they should be mature by now, being teachers and able to judge quickly between right and wrong.

HEBREWS 6: 1- 3

He urges them to leave the rudimentary principles of the faith dealing with issues related to their salvation.

HEBREWS 6: 4-7

How could those who were saved (have known God's gift and enlightenment and receive the spirit [all words or events consistent with salvation]) and have believed their sins were forgiven have another means to salvation apart from Christ? Indeed, their insistence that some sin was not forgiven indicated they would want Jesus to return to the cross and submit to public humiliation again. This is not viewed favorably by God.

HEBREWS 6: 9 -10

The Hebrew Christians should recognize their salvation as evidenced by the acts that they have already done.

HEBREWS 6: 13-20

Accordingly, our security is based on Abraham; God's promises to him and His confirmation by an oath are two things that provide a sure anchor for our souls.

Hebrews 10 also indicates that for those unsure of forgiveness, there is no other means for salvation except by Christ. The author urges those who doubt forgiveness to progress in their faith (Hebrews 10:19; 10:26-39).

SUMMARY

Certainly, we have a wonderful salvation by which Christ is sufficient to cover every one of our sins, past, present, and future. For us to say that somehow His painful, long, suffering, humiliating, and unjust death is not enough to cover every one of our sins is an offense to God.

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