

MILILANI COMMUNITY CHURCH  
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

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LESSON 6: THE ORDER OF SALVATION (Part 4): Security of the Believer

Memorize Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the Day of Jesus Christ."

Memorize John 10:27-28: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."

DEFINITION OF THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL SECURITY

Negatively: The doctrine of eternal security is not the teaching that someone professing to be a Christian is saved no matter how he lives. The idea of a true child of God continuing to live a life of willful disobedience to God is contrary to the spirit of the New Testament. It overlooks the fact of our new nature (I John 3:9), and the fact of family discipline (Hebrews 12:6).

Positively: The doctrine of eternal security teaches that God secures in grace the salvation of true believers, keeping them from sinning as a practice and from apostasy. Thus the one whom God has brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ will never be lost.

Jonathan Edwards said: "The sure proof of election is that one holds out unto the end." See I John 2:19.

DEFENSE OF THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL SECURITY

(SEVEN REASONS WHY A TRUE BELIEVER IN THE LORD JESUS CAN NEVER BE LOST)

1. A believer is secure because of the PURPOSE of God the Father

What is God's purpose?

In Romans 8:29-30 God's purpose is unfolded. Some have called this "the five links in the golden chain of salvation":

"...For those God \_\_\_\_\_ he also \_\_\_\_\_ to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also \_\_\_\_\_; and those he called, he also \_\_\_\_\_; those he justified, he also \_\_\_\_\_." See also John 6:39-40.

2. A believer is secure because of the POWER of God the Father

Read: I Peter 1:3-5.

In your own words, what does I Peter 1:3-5 tell you that gives you confidence concerning your eternal security in Christ?

Though through the strain and stress of life,  
my thread of faith may break;  
the cable of His faithfulness,  
no strain can ever shake

3. A believer is secure because of the PROMISE of God the Son

Read John 10:27-30

Note that when Jesus says, "they shall never perish" the English word "never" is actually two words in Greek pronounced "oo may." It is a double negative and could be literally translated, "they shall never no never no never perish." It is the strongest way of making a negative statement in the Greek language.

There has never been a shepherd like Jesus. He is the greatest of all shepherds, and when you are one of his sheep you have his everlasting, eternal, all-powerful care guaranteed by His word!

4. A believer is secure because of the PRAYER of the Lord for us

Read: Romans 8:31-39

In your own words, explain Paul's logical argument concerning the security of the believer in these verses.

Note: The words "interceding for us" refer to the prayer of the Lord for us at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus is always busy at the right hand of the Father, praying for all of us whose faith wavers and fails (Luke 22:31-32). That is why, if we are of those ones whom the Father has given to the Son (John 6:37), we shall surely be in heaven someday, because His faithfulness cannot fail.

5. A believer is secure because of the PRESENCE of the Holy Spirit

Read John 14:16-17

When the Holy Spirit comes to indwell us He comes to indwell us permanently. In the Old Testament times the ministry of the Spirit was for empowerment. He was unable to indwell us permanently because the work of redemption was not yet completed. Since Christ has come and shed His blood, the Spirit has come and he indwells us forever.

It is an amazing thought that I am indwelt by the third person of the Trinity. I cannot go anywhere that He does not go. I may grieve Him but I cannot grieve Him away. I cannot extinguish His presence in my life as a believer.

How does Ephesians 4:30 confirm this truth about the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives?

#### 6. A believer is secure because of the POSSESSION of a new nature

Read II Peter 1:4; I John 3:9

I John 3:9 teaches two facts about every born again child of God: (1) The presence of the divine nature within us (2) The incapability of believers continually practicing sin.

This does not mean that a Christian cannot sin, but we cannot go on sinning as a habitual way of life because we now have a new nature given to us at the time of our new birth.

Two things go together:

- (1) Our new nature: When we believe in Christ we are given a new nature. Therefore we cannot live the same old life.
- (2) The fact of family discipline: God will not let us live the same kind of life. We cannot go on sinning without God doing something about it.

See Hebrews 12:5-6.

#### 7. A believer is secure because of CHRIST'S RECONCILING WORK

Read Romans 5:10

This evidence of our eternal security is one of the most significant in the whole New Testament.

Paul is talking here about our salvation and security. He says that if when we were God's enemies He sent Christ to die for us and moved in our heart so that we became His friends, how much more will He now that we are friends, assuredly keep us to the end!

If He has done the most for us, He surely will do the rest. He surely will complete the job! This is a tremendous logical argument: If He saved you when you were an enemy, He will keep you, now that you are a friend.

In efficacious grace he moved in your heart and through His saving work by the Spirit He brought you into the family of God and gave you life. Now that He has done that He surely will keep you, He surely will save you into His presence from the wrath to come!

What a wonderful Savior we have!

## DESIGN OF THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL SECURITY

1. It is designed to be an incentive to HOLY LIVING

Read Ephesians 4:30

2. It is designed to be an incentive to SERVICE

Read II Timothy 1:12; Philippians 2:12-13

3. It is designed to be an incentive to WORSHIP

Read Jude 24,25; I Peter 1:3-5

## PROBLEM PASSAGES RELATED TO THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL SECURITY

There are a few "problem passages" that those who deny the doctrine of eternal security bring up as objections to this doctrine. We are not taking time in this study to discuss those passages. However, we must always keep a basic hermeneutical principle in mind: the unclear passages of Scripture must always be interpreted in light of the clear teaching of God's Word. The clear teaching of God's Word as laid out in the Scripture references above is that no true child of God can ever be lost.