

Eternal Security and Perseverance of the Saints

Part 1 – TRF Adult Bible Study

Our *Gospel Project* book has a lesson on “Perseverance of the Saints, a worthy topic. But, the material skips over too much in addressing this issue, and I think we need to take a step back, and get really deep into the question of eternal security, and through that doctrine address the perseverance of the saints. These doctrines are really opposite sides of the same coin – really addressing the same issue but from different perspectives.

Can you offer a defense for the belief in eternal security? Can you explain the verses relied upon by those who believe we can lose our salvation?

You will see that the concept of eternal security is replete throughout Scripture. It is not isolated, and is taught by many. We will then address the primary verses that “opponents” of the eternal security doctrine rely on, dealing with them “head on,” to equip us to explain what these verses really mean, and how they are misused.

Our beginning text will be Romans 5:1-11. This text gives us six foundations for a firm belief in eternal security, so we will use it as a launching pad to address all the other Scripture that teaches this doctrine. We need to understand the bases, the theory as it were – then the practical reality of the various verses will be driven home as we read them.

Romans 5:1-11 – Six Foundations of the Doctrine of Eternal Security

1. Verse 1 – By justification, we have _____ with God.
What is the effect of this?

Isaiah 32:17

2. Verse 2 – We stand in _____.

We learned last week that where sin does abound, grace does _____ abound. Romans 5:12-21.

What problem did Grace deal with? _____.

3. Verse 2 – we rejoice in the hope of the _____ of God

Why is this important? Where is the focus?

Security of the believer is premised upon attributes of _ _ _ - not us.

God has promised future glory:

Romans 8:28-31

John 6:44.

Philippians 3:20

Colossians 3:4

Philippians 1:6

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

4. Verses 3-5 - We prove ourselves to belong to God by holding fast

Hebrews 3:6.

Hebrews 10:23

1 Corinthians 1:7-9

1 Peter 4:19

5. Verse 5 - 10 - Possession of love of God (God's love – not love for God)

This says who allows us to receive and understand that love? The _____

God assures us we belong to him by pouring out life for us - gives believer sense that God loves him

Disobedience causes a forfeiture of the _____ of assurance

Ephesians 3:13-19

Romans 8:35

What is the logical problem these verses present for those who do not believe in eternal security? _____

_____ .

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

6. Verse 11 – We _____ in God

Ephesians 1:13-17

1 Peter 1:3-5

A thought from Charles Spurgeon to ponder as we complete this study:

'...nor can I comprehend a gospel which lets saints fall away after they are called, and suffers the children of God to be burned in the fires of damnation after having once believed in Jesus. Such a gospel I abhor. If one dear saint of God had perished, so might all; and then there is no gospel promise true, but the Bible is a lie, and there is nothing in it worth my acceptance... If I did not believe the doctrine of the final perseverance of the saints, I think I should be of all men the most miserable, because I should lack any ground of comfort.' **Charles Spurgeon.**

Eternal Security and Perseverance of the Saints

Part 2 – TRF Adult Bible Study

Okay, we have talked about the theory –the foundations of a belief in eternal security. Let's move to the practical, and then look at three passages which clearly teach eternal security for a true believer. I want to start with three questions that you may, at first, think have absolutely nothing to do with Grace and perseverance of the saints.

1. *Why does the nation of Israel (the people) still exist?*
2. *Why is there a physical country called Israel?*
3. *Where are the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite of Deuteronomy 20:17, who were more numerous and often more powerful?*

The answers to these actual questions have a lot to do with eternal security because they show the faithfulness of God to keep his word even when his chosen people are in a state of unbelief and sometimes outright rebellion.

Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-17

Genesis 15:6-21

Romans 11:25-29

Why is this important? _____

_____.

It is God who has promised to keep our salvation safe and secure to the end. Has God called you? Have you been given the gift of the Holy Spirit? Then if so, believe in the faithfulness of God because the gifts

and calling of God are irrevocable! He will not change His mind or go back on those He has called!

Focus on Three Passages Teaching Eternal Security

Although there are many passages concerning eternal security, I want to focus on three initially.

Romans 8:30-39

Question: In verse 30, who is the 'He'? _____.

What tense does Paul use to describe our glorification? _____.

Question: Where in this passage is there any possibility of a true believer losing his salvation? _____.

Question: What does Paul's question in verse 32 tell us about his confidence in what God has done?
_____.

According to verse 33, as a result of God's work, who can bring a charge against us, and just as important, what happens when they do? _____.

Question: In verses 37 – 39, come up with something not included in that list? _____ . Are you included in that list? _____ .

John 6:37-40

Verse 37 combines Gods _____, man's _____, and eternal security for those who do come to Him.

Question: Verse 39 tells us the will of God in this context. What was the will of God that he had to do?
_____.

Question: Will Jesus ever fail to do God will? _____.

John 10:27-29

Question: In verse 27, what does Jesus call his true followers?
_____.

Question: In verse 28, speaking of those who are truly his sheep, what does Jesus go on to say?
_____.

Question: When do you receive eternal life and how long does it last?
_____.

Question: In verse 29, who does Jesus teach us is capable of snatching true believers away?
_____.

Question: Even though no one can snatch a true believer out of Gods hand, can they – once being a true believer – snatch themselves out of God's hands? _____.

And, yes, another quote from Charles Spurgeon

'No doctrine is so calculated to preserve a man from sin as the doctrine of the grace of God. Those who have called it 'a licentious doctrine' did not know anything at all about it. If they knew the grace of God in truth, they would soon see that there was no preservative from lying like knowledge that we are the elect of God from the foundation of the world. There is nothing like a belief in my eternal perseverance, and the immutability of my Father's affection, which can keep me near to Him from a motive of simple gratitude... Of all men, those have the most disinterested piety, the sublimest reverence, the most ardent devotion, who believe that they are saved by grace, without works, through faith, and that not of themselves, it is the gift of God. '

Why are we secure? Consider the words of this Hymn:

*Great is Thy faithfulness, oh God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*