



# ETERNAL *Security*

*by L.M. Fontaine*

# Eternal Security – Is it Biblical?



What happens when we trust Christ alone to get us to heaven—are we eternally secure at that moment, or does our ultimate destiny rest upon our being faithful to God?

The answer could not be more important – either our eternal destiny rests totally on what was already accomplished on our behalf or it also rests upon what we do as well.

All those who call themselves Christians agree that they must believe in Christ to go to heaven. All agree that He did die to pay for our sins. But was that payment a down payment? Or was that one payment sufficient to cover all sins for all time?

The writer of Hebrews answers that question. He wrote, “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God” (Hebrews 10:12).

Salvation rests upon what was **DONE**, not on what we are **DOING**! Truly, if it were otherwise, it wouldn’t be salvation, but rather probation.

Before a person trusts Christ to save him, he is dead in trespasses and sins. But at the moment he places his faith in Christ alone to get him to heaven, he is made alive. And once a person is made alive he can never go back to being dead spiritually.

Ephesians 2:1, says, “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins....” Paul continues this theme in verses 4 and 5. He wrote, “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

Paul wrote we are saved by grace. What is grace? It is undeserved kindness. Paul explains in his letter to the Romans, “Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt” (Romans 4:4). Whenever you put forth effort to get something, what you get is owed to you – it’s like a paycheck. But eternal life is not something you can earn; it is a gift (Romans 6:23). Therefore, something that comes by grace is undeserved. And that’s what the word grace means - undeserved kindness.

Paul could not be clearer about what part we have in getting ourselves to heaven. Please just look at the following verses penned by Paul from the books of Romans, Ephesians, and Titus.

Romans 4:5 says, “But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.”

Ephesians 2:8-9, say, “For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Titus 3:4-7, say, “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

From the last verses quoted, it is clear that all people have to be washed and renewed to enter heaven. Clearly, this isn’t something we do, since Paul stated, “not by works of righteousness which we have done.” This is an explicit denial of human activity. This washing and renewing is the work of God alone. Regeneration

refers to the new birth produced by God, and renewing refers to the new nature that all receive when they believe.

The Apostle John explained, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13). Could that be clearer? When we believe in Christ alone for our salvation it is God who produces the new birth.

And just as we can be born only once physically, we can be born only once spiritually. The physical part of man can die at any moment, but those who have believed are promised that they can never die.

When Jesus was talking to Martha, He said, “And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.” Then He asked her, “Do you believe this?” (John 11:26).

My question to you is – do you believe this? Do you think it's possible to trust Christ alone to get you to heaven and know that you are going to heaven, regardless of how you conduct yourself in the future? If not, my friend, you have not trusted Christ as your Savior. Instead of placing your faith in the One who already paid your way, you are putting your faith in your own future efforts. But there is nothing we contribute to our salvation before we believe and there is nothing we contribute after we believe. It is Christ's finished work and His alone that gets us to heaven.

If someone told you he had received a brand new car as a gift, but then said he was worried that his car might be repossessed, or that it was rough making monthly payments on it, would that make any sense?

The point is that when people claim they believe heaven is a gift but that it is possible to lose that gift, they have not yet believed it is a gift, but rather a reward. Instead of putting their faith in the finished work of Christ, they are relying on their own feeble efforts.

The Bible does teach works, but the works are not to gain entrance into heaven. In order to have rewards in heaven and blessings here on earth, you must have works because rewards and blessings are earned. God's will for all of His children is that they be obedient to Him. But He doesn't threaten those who aren't obedient with loss of salvation, but rather loss of rewards. And just like any good parent disciplines his disobedient children, the Lord warns, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten" (Revelation 3:19).

How does God discipline His children? One way is mental misery. Ephesians 4:30 says, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Please note that it is possible to grieve the Spirit, but He can't be grieved away. All believers are sealed until the day of redemption. That means the believer is so secure that the only way he could go to hell is if the Spirit went with him. Impossible, you say. Exactly!

Earlier in the book of Ephesians, Paul explained that upon believing the Gospel, all receive the Spirit, and He is given to believers as a guarantee until they receive their new glorified bodies.

He wrote, "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who

is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:12,13).

Now what was the Gospel message they heard? Was it turn from sin? Was it ask Him into their heart and give their life to Him? Were they told to confess Christ? Although these messages are very popular, they are not biblical.

Let’s look at what the Apostle Peter said when presenting the Gospel to the first Gentile converts – Cornelius’ family and friends. It’s recorded in Acts 10:43 that Peter said, “To Him give all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

And what happened the moment they heard this message? It says, “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word” (Acts 10:44).

Later on in the book of Acts it is recorded that a dispute arose about whether believing in Christ was enough to be saved. Peter put an end to the discussion when he alluded back to his presentation of the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Please read this for yourself. Acts 15:7-11, say, “And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: ‘Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the

Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.’ ”

So how can people think it's possible to lose your salvation in light of how clearly the Bible says otherwise? The simple answer is they are misunderstanding and misusing verses that relate to service, not salvation. Serving God is work and God promises to reward His children according to their works. The Lord even said that if someone gave a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, he would never lose his reward (Matthew 10:42). The very fact there will be some believers in heaven without one reward shows that some believers never did anything for God, which proves salvation could not be conditioned upon obedience. (Please read First Corinthians 3:11-15.)

The Bible says that we become children of God by faith in Christ, but we become friends of God by obedience to Christ. Jesus said, “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (John 15:14). A relationship of friendship is conditioned upon continued obedience. It must be maintained. Therefore it can be lost, and with that loss comes loss of joy and the loss of answered prayer (John 15:7,11).

How different this is from God's promise of eternal security.

Jesus said,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (John 5:24).

“Do you believe this?” (John 11:26).

Published by  
**TEL-A-WORLD, INC.**  
P.O. Box 555  
Pompano Beach, FL 33061

[www.greatestnews.org](http://www.greatestnews.org)