

How secure are we? Let us count the ways.

Part fifteen

handout

We are doing a comprehensive study of eternal security by examining twelve ways in which our salvation is eternally secure:

1. Across time ✓
2. How our salvation was secured ✓
3. The perfection of the death of Christ (complete, all-sufficient) ✓
4. Where – the security of our position ✓
5. Who accomplished our salvation and ensures security ✓
6. What changes occurred that can never be undone ✓
7. What guarantees our security
8. How our salvation is preserved
9. Who we are
10. What God freely and permanently gave us
11. Why God saved us
12. Who God is

#1: WHEN: Our salvation has been secured across all time.

Our salvation has been secure since **before the foundation of the earth,**

Accomplished **when Christ died on the cross and was raised:**

Applied **when we believed in Christ:**

Preserved **every day of our lives:**

Looking forward to **the day of redemption at the Rapture** (the day of Christ Jesus):

Throughout all of the ages to come – **forever:**

Bottom line: our salvation has been secure from all eternity past and is secure for all of eternity future.

#2: HOW: The way that we have been saved makes us secure. It cannot be reversed.

We have been saved by **the death and resurrection of Christ.**

We have been saved by **God's grace**

We have been saved by **hearing the gospel (good news) preached....**

....through **faith – by believing the good news about Christ.**

We have been saved **by God foreknowing us, predestining us, calling us, justifying us, and glorifying us.**

Our salvation is **God's work** from start to finish. God's work is perfect. (see #3). We contribute nothing. Our salvation therefore rests solely on the character of God. See #12 below

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#3: The perfection of the death of Christ (complete, all-sufficient)

Christ's death on the cross is the **one perfect sacrifice** for all time and for all of the sins of mankind.

Christ **defeated the enemies of God** at the cross.

Christ **reconciled the world to God** at the cross.

All sins were forgiven by the blood of Christ

He accomplished **eternal redemption**

He made us complete

#4: Where – the security of our position

At the cross: we have been placed into His death. We were crucified with Christ. We were buried with Him and raised with Him.

In Christ : Our position now and forever is in Christ.

In the hands of the Father forever.

Seated with God in Christ in the heavenlies.

#5: Who accomplished it

God the Father:

Our Lord Jesus Christ:

The Holy Spirit:

All three:

#6: What changes occurred that can never be undone

Dead → Alive (given eternal life):

Guilty before God → redeemed & forgiven

In Adam → in Christ

**Ungodly, unrighteous, & condemned → declared righteous
by God : justified**

Enemy of God → Reconciled to God

Under law (which results in wrath) → Under grace

Born of the flesh → Born of the Spirit = born again

The old man → the new man

Darkness → Light

Children of wrath → Children of God

**Governing power of sin and death → Governing power of the
Spirit of life in Christ Jesus**

Domain of darkness → Kingdom of God's beloved Son

**You will search in vain for any scriptures that say that any of
these changes can be reversed (ie, the New Man being
transformed back to the Old Man).**

#7: What guarantees our security

God's character and nature

God's attributes describe God's character and nature as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures.

His attributes are not parts of who God is. He doesn't have these things -He is these things. He is all of these things all of the time.

We will look at God's attributes one at a time. Yet all of them operate together. His attributes work together to guarantee our eternal security.

Love

Love seeks what is best for the one loved regardless of what it costs.

God is love.

1 John 4:8

How does the love of God guarantee our eternal security?

1 John 4:9-10

The **love of God** was demonstrated by the death of Christ for us when we were sinners, and God's enemies. We were justified by His blood while we were ungodly sinners.

Since God has done the greater thing – justifying sinners and reconciling his enemies to Himself, it is even more certain that He will do the lesser or easier thing. The easier thing is to protect our salvation for the day of redemption.

Justifying sinners and reconciling His enemies to Himself were greater acts because they required the death of His Son. Nothing was more difficult for God the Father to allow than that.

Since He justified us when we were ungodly sinners, He will certainly save us from wrath through His risen Son. Since He reconciled us to Himself while we were enemies, it is certainly true that we will be saved by the power of Christ's indestructible life now that we are His adopted sons (Rom 8:15).

Eph 2:4-9

All of this because of His great love with which He loved us. God's love for lost sinful men motivated Him to give His Son to die as mankind's substitute at the cross.

John 3:16

Because He loved us, He made us alive when we were dead.

Because He loved us, He raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ.

Because He loved us, He will show us the surpassing riches of His grace in the ages to come.

And all of these things guarantee that we will be secure in our salvation for all of eternity.

Rom 8:38-39

Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Justice

What is justice according to the Lord?

Ps 146:5-9

God has never been and will never be unfair.

How does His justice guarantee our eternal security?

Justice prosecutes the guilty and justifies the righteous.

We were all the guilty ones, sinners by birth as well as conduct. But Jesus Christ died for us. He became our guilt offering.

1 Peter 3:18

So now, on the basis of Christ's death and resurrection, God may justly credit with His righteousness every ungodly sinner who believes in Christ.

2 Cor 5:21

God can now be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Rom 3:21-26

Our justification guarantees our eternal security.

Rom 5:6-11

Those whom He justified, He glorified.

Rom 8:30

And the glory that He promises is **eternal** glory.

2 Tim 2:10

Righteousness

The Bible speaks of righteousness in relation to God and also in relation to men.

Here we focus on God's righteousness. **In relation to the character of God, it means His absolute moral perfection.** What is right or proper or fit. It refers to absolute goodness and purity and holiness.

Ps 71:19

God's righteousness is his holy character as Judge.

The righteousness of God is His self-respecting quality of holiness. It manifests itself in his condemnation of sin. Righteousness in this sense expresses itself in divine wrath.

The opposite of righteousness is wrong-doing, wickedness, lawlessness and depravity.

The righteousness of God is God's acting righteously upon the basis of Christ's redeeming work.

God can never make a mistake. He will never do anything wrong or evil.

God's righteousness is His faithfulness to His own nature and promises. He is absolutely good, and therefore totally separate from all that is sinful and wrong.

How does the righteousness of God guarantee our eternal security?

Rom 4:5

God has credited His righteousness to us on the basis of faith, not works.

Rom 5:17-21

Those who receive the gift of righteousness will reign in life.

Grace will reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sin and death no longer reign over the believer. We have died to both. Grace reigns, and reigns through righteousness to eternal life.

1 Cor 1:30-31

We are not righteous in our own standing before God. Our position is in Christ.

2 Cor 5:21

It is the righteousness of God in Christ.

Gal 3:27

We are clothed with Christ. He is our righteousness.

Heb 10:12-15

God has perfected the believer for all time on the basis of the one sacrifice of Christ for sins for all time.

When God declares us righteous by means of His grace, He makes us heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Ps 119:142

Eternal Life

What is eternal life? **It is a life that has no beginning and no end. It is God's life that He shares with His children.**

Ps 90:1-4

God has always existed, and He will exist always.

Ps 106:48

Heb 1:8-12

Rev 22:12-13

Gen 1:1

The only direct definition of eternal life is found in the Gospel of John:

John 17:3

Admittedly, this is a surprising definition.

But the word “know” does not mean simply to know facts about God.

The Greek word is *ginosko* and here it means

ginw/skw

c: to learn to know a person through **direct personal experience**, implying a continuity of relationship - 'to know, to become acquainted with, to be familiar with.'

In John 17:3, it is important to avoid an expression which will mean merely 'to learn about.' Here the emphasis must be on **the interpersonal relationship** which is experienced.

This refers to our **eternal fellowship** with God.

1 Cor 1:4-9

2 Cor 13:14

We can experience this eternal life from God now. As we come to know Him better, our experience of eternal life deepens.

Eph 3:14-19

How does God's eternal life guarantee our eternal security?

First, what good would it be for someone to promise us eternal life if He will cease being at some time in the future?

Second, He promises to **share His life** with us. Since that life is eternal, our life will be **eternal**.

John 3:16

Third, God promises eternal life to whoever believes in His Son.

John 5:24

John 10:25-30

John 6:40

John 11:25-26

Fourth, He has given us eternal life, and **that life is in His Son**. Christ is our eternal life as well as our righteousness. If He was not eternal life, He could not provide eternal life to us.

1 John 5:11-13

Notice that the believer possesses eternal life now.

1 John 5:20

Finally, the sacrifice of Christ on the cross has secured other eternal things for us:

Heb 9:11-16

Sovereignty

God is sovereign.

Ps 103:19

His sovereignty rules over all. This is what sovereignty means. God's rule is all-encompassing, eternal, and infinite. He rules over all things in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth. He always has and He always will.

Ps 146:10

How does the fact that God is sovereign guarantee our eternal security?

Ultimately, God is in complete control of all things.

Isa 46:8-10

No one can overrule his decisions. He has declared us to be righteous in Christ, and that will never be overruled. Further, He has decided to save us forever.

He has a plan which is all-inclusive and includes our eternal salvation.

Eph 1:11-14

His purpose for the saints is to provide many brothers and sisters in glory for His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. That can only happen if we are saved eternally.

Rom 8:28-30

Omnipotence

God is all-powerful.

He is able to do anything consistent with His own nature.

Nothing can thwart His plans.

Gen 18:14

Jer 32:17

Jer 32:26-27

How does God's omnipotence guarantee our eternal security?

1 Cor 6:14

The greatest display of the power of God was the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Eph 1:19-23

God will enable us to live with Him forever because of the power of God directed toward us.

2 Cor 13:4

One day He will exert His power to **redeem our bodies**. He will transform our bodies of corruption into bodies of **glory** through His infinite power.

Phil 3:20-21

Nothing will ever separate us from His love in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:38-39).

1 Peter 1:3-5

We are protected by the power of God for the eternal salvation which will be revealed when Christ returns for us.

John 10:27-30

Omniscience

God knows everything. He knows everything that ever happened or ever will happen. He knows all of our thoughts. He even knows things that would have happened if things had taken a different turn.

Nothing ever takes God by surprise.

He has known us from all eternity. He sees the end from the beginning.

Ps 139:1-6

Every event that is promised by His word to happen in the future will happen just as He said it would.

Rom 11:33-36

Heb 4:13

How does God's omniscience guarantee our eternal security?

He has a special and intimate knowledge of the saint in Christ. From all eternity He has known us.

Those whom He foreknew He predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son. He called us, and justified us, and glorified us, and He knew all about it in eternity past before earth or heaven even existed.

He did this with full and complete knowledge about us. He knows everything on the past, the present and, importantly, the future.

Therefore, He knew about all of our sins and failures and evil desires - past, present, and future. He knew each time we would be faithless, each way we would be weak, and with all that He saved us as His enemies and declared us righteous in His Son.

Yet He decided to call us, justify us and glorify us anyway.

This is why nothing can ever separate us from His love for us.

Omnipresence

Omnipresence is an attribute of God and God alone. It's the quality of being present in all places at all times.

Jer 23:23-24

God fills the heavens and the earth but He is separate from the heavens and the earth because He created the heavens and the earth.

God is present everywhere He wants to be present.

Ps 139:7-12

No matter where the saint goes, God will be there with him or her.

How does God's omnipresence guarantee our eternal security?

Heb 13:5

Ps 94:14

God says that He will never forsake us. Never means never. We will always be with Him. Or rather, He will always be with us.

Isa 49:14-16

Veracity

Veracity means that God is absolute truth. His word is completely reliable and 100% true.

Titus 1:2-3

How does God's veracity guarantee our eternal security?

Since God is absolute truth, every statement in His word is true. God stands behind every promise, every declaration, every fact in His word.

In particular, the veracity of God secures or makes certain all of His promises.

Num 23:19

One of His promises that He has made to each believer is eternal life.

1 John 2:25

Ps 117

Immutability (faithfulness to us)

Immutable means unchangeable. The immutability of God means that God does not change. He is the same today as He was a thousand years ago.

Mal 3:6

God's character never changes. His nature never changes.

Ex 3:14

God is absolute, pure existence. He has always been sovereign, righteous and just, truth and life. And He always will be.

1 Sam 15:29

Jer 4:28

How does God's Immutability guarantee our eternal security?

Rom 11:29

He will always be gracious to us, and He will never take back any of His gifts to us.

Including His righteousness, love, and most of all, His eternal life. Salvation itself is a gracious gift from God. (Eph 2:8-9)

Heb 13:8

God will not change His rulings or take back His promises.

1 Cor 1:7-9

Heb 10:23

He will always be faithful to His word, His promises and to us.

1 Thess 5:23-24