

How secure are we? Let us count the ways.

Part 14

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.

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** *Eph 2:8-9*

We have been saved by **hearing the gospel (good news) preached....***Eph 1:13-14 Rom 10:14-17*

.....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. Our salvation therefore rests solely on the character of God.

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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's death **completely satisfied the claims of God's righteousness against the sinful human race.**

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

Eph 2:3

1 John 3:1

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

Rom 8:2

Domain of darkness → Kingdom of God's beloved Son

Col 1:13-14

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. No list is exhaustive. He has not revealed everything about Himself. He is more than the sum total of His attributes.

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.

Ps 33

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.

For example, His truth operates with His justice, faithfulness (immutability), power, and sovereignty to guarantee that He will fulfill all of His promises to us.

Love

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

The love of God guarantees our security from the beginning to the ages to come:

Eph 1:3-6

Rom 5:8-11

Now this is a tremendous passage that guarantees our eternal security.

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

Note carefully the expression "much more", which appears twice in this passage. It means that if the greater thing can be demonstrated to be true, with even stronger reason it follows that the lesser thing is most certainly true.

For example, if it can be shown that a father is able to give his son \$1,000, it follows with greater certainty that he is able to give his son \$5.

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 His death and resurrection, God may justly credit ungodly sinner who believes with His righteousness.

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

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 God's acting righteously upon the basis of Christ's redeeming work. (Newell "Romans verse by verse", page 23)

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.

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.

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.

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, not with righteousness. 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.

Titus 3:4-7

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 is unending. It is God's life that He shares with His children.**

Ps 90:1-4

God has always existed, and He will always exist.

Ps 106:48

Heb 1:8-12

Gen 1:1

Rev 22:12-13

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

John 17:3

3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

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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.

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Knowing the Lord and Eternal Life:

Phil 3:8-11

Eph 3:14-19

Rom 11:33-36

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

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 infinite. He rules over all things in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth.

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

He has a plan which is all-conclusive 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.

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, 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