

The Strongest Hands: The Doctrine of Eternal Security

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June 11, 2023

John 10:28-30

QUESTION of the WEEK: *Can a Christian lost their SALVATION?*

Jesus says *That a TRUE SHEEP cannot lose their salvation.*

- The REASON being: *Is that the person of CHRIST keeps you. And the person of GOD the FATHER keeps you.*
- *No one is able to snatch the sheep out of either's hand.*
 - The HAND of GOD – is an IMAGE of the POWER of GOD.
 - The REASON GIVEN – **the INFINITE POWER OF GOD!**

Many believe that they are in DANGER of LOSING their SALVATION. Sometimes the reasons for thinking that you can lose your salvation are theological!

- CRITICAL MISTAKE #1: *Many have based their theology of salvation on man's free will.*
 - They emphasize the fact that if it is man's free choice which puts you into salvation, then by man's free choice you can LOSE your SALVATION.
 - Rome – Paragraph 1861 of the Catholic Catechism – “Mortal sin is a radical possibility of human freedom, as is love itself. It results in the loss of charity and the privation of sanctifying grace, that is, the state of grace. If it is not redeemed by repentance and God's forgiveness, it causes exclusion from Christ's kingdom and the eternal death of Hell, for our freedom has the power to make choices for ever, with no turning back.”
 - Protestant Arminians. “Persons truly regenerate, by neglecting grace and grieving the Holy Spirit with sin, fall away totally, and at length finally, from grace into eternal retribution.”
- CRITICAL MISTAKE #2: *Believing that those who fall away from the faith lose their salvation.*
 - 1 John 2:19 – [19] *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become lain that they all are not of us.*
 - John says that those who depart from the faith were never of us.
 - The ARMINIAN would say – oh you see. He left his profession. Therefore... he lost his salvation.
 - This is Paul's point in Galatians 5:4 – [4] *You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.*
 - Paul's point is that you have departed from your original profession of FAITH – which is by GRACE.
 - He had a CONFESSION of FAITH but not the REALITY of FAITH.
 - The BIBLE says... “NO. He never possessed salvation.”
 - The EVIDENCE of SAVING GRACE is PERSEVERING FAITH.
 - 1 John 5:4 – [4] *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes this world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*
 - Matthew 24:13 – [13] *But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

- Paul says in 2 Timothy 4:7,8 [7] *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will award to me on that day...*
 - Faith that perseveres is FAITH that produces FRUIT!
 - 1 John 2:4 – [4] *Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*
- CRITICAL MISTAKE #3: *Forgetting that Salvation is ultimately a work of divine grace.*
 - Jonah 2:9 – [9] *Salvation belongs to the Lord.*
 - Roger Nicole – “The key to perseverance is *the preservation by God of his saints*, that is, the stability of his purpose and the fixity of his design.”
- John 6:37-39 – [37] *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*
- Romans 8:29 – [29] *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*
 - The PURITANS – WILLIAM PERKINS “The GOLDEN CHAIN of SALVATION.”
 - God set His affections on a CERTAIN PEOPLE (Foreknow – proginosko)
 - God predestined them to be conformed to CHRIST.
 - Those whom God predestined He also CALLED (the EFFECTUAL CALL).
 - Those whom God CALLED, HE JUSTIFIED.
 - Those whom GOD JUSTIFIED, HE ALSO GLORIFIED.
 - Notice the LOGIC of the PASSAGE. The SAME PEOPLE who GOD FOREKNEW are the SAME PEOPLE WHO ARE GLORIFIED.

1) Eternal Life is Certain because of the Nature of the Gift

John 10:28: [28] *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish*

- SALVATION can be understood in the LANGUAGE of GIFT.
 - It is something that is GIVEN not EARNED.
 - Ephesians 2:8 – [8] *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*
 - All of SALVATION is a GIFT given by GOD.
 - FAITH is the INSTRUMENT by which it is received.
- The NATURE of the GIFT
 - It is eternal life. *ainion* – a period of time without beginning or end.
 - John 3:16 – [16] *For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*
 - God gave His Son so that we might receive the gift.
 - The GIFT means that we will not perish... but have “eternal life”
 - John 6:47 – [47] *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*
 - 1 John 2:25 – [25] *And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.*
 - 1 John 5:11 – [11] *And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

2) Eternal Life is Certain Because of the Power of Christ

John 10:28b – [28b] *and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*

- It is CERTAIN because of the GREAT POWER of CHRIST.
- Jesus says, “No one is able to snatch the sheep out of His hand.”
- This is JESUS’s PRAYER for us.... John 17:11 – [11] *Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.*
- We WILL NOT FALL AWAY because CHRIST is INTERCEDING FOR US.
- It was Jesus’s PRAYER for PETER that kept him from FALLING away and led to his restoration. LUKE 22:31-34.
 - Story of Jesus and Peter.
 - What SUSTAINED PETER’s FAITH is the KEEPING POWER of CHRIST. The Prayer of Christ.
 - M’Cheyne – If I could hear my Savior praying for me in the next room, I need not fear a million enemies. Yet the distance makes no difference; he is praying for me.
 - John 6:39 – [39] *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*
 - JESUS says that I WILL KEEP YOU. I WILL RAISE YOU UP.
- Paul at the END of HIS MINISTRY... must have been thinking about this. In a ROMAN PRISON. 2 Timothy 1:12 – [12] *But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.*
- One of the LAST things that the apostle Paul said in a Roman prison. 2 Timothy 4:18 – [18] *The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom.*

3) Eternal Life is Certain Because of the Power of the Father

John 10:29 – [29] *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of my the Father’s hand.*

- The Divine PURPOSE of the FATHER.
 - The One who GAVE the SHEEP to HIM.
 - Of course HIS PURPOSE and INTENTION is to KEEP the SHEEP.
- He’s GREATER than ALL.
 - Luke 1:37 – [37] *For nothing will be impossible with God.”*
 - Isaiah 40:28 – [28] *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.*
 - Jeremiah says Jeremiah 32:17 – [17] *‘Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.*
 - Isaiah 40:12 – [12] *Who has measured the waters in the hallow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span (a hand’s breadth), enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighted the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?*
- The POWER of GOD keeps HIS SHEEP.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24 – [23] *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the*

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [24] He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

- 1 Peter 1:3-5 – [3] *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, [5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- God's POWER doesn't NEGATE our RESPONSIBILITY.
 - Philippians 2:12 – [12] *...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, [13] for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

4) Eternal Life is Certain because of the Unity of the Godhead

John 10:30 – [30] *I and the Father are one.*

- These are masculine nouns, but *one* is neuter.
- This speaks to the personhood of the individual members of the Trinity and yet their unity in the Godhood.
- What JESUS is referring to here is the divine UNITY in PURPOSE!
- The DIVINE GODHEAD will bring about the SALVATION of the SHEEP.
- NOT ONE OF THEM SHALL PERISH.