

“The Security of the Believer”

Romans 8:31~39, part 1

Paul wraps up his argument for faith, by asking a series of questions... Questions to which all the answers point to one TRUTH...which Paul declares in one sweeping statement in verses 38~39...

³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature...

^{39 b} **Nothing**...shall be able to separate us from the *love* of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul is speaking to “The Security of the Believer.” The teaching that those who come to faith in Christ Jesus, are *eternally saved*. It is the doctrine of “Eternal Security,” or what many refer to as “Once Saved, Always Saved...”

A subject that has sparked great controversy among evangelical Christians... As a matter of fact, it may well be one of the main reasons why there are so many different denominations. As a given, I don’t think you’ll find in any of the various denominations, in disagreement that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He is the Messiah. They all agree on that, but when it comes to the matter of “Eternal Security,” there is a great division.

There are those who argue against it, saying you can be lost again. A debate that has been going on for centuries. And tragically, which side you are on, depends largely in part to how you were raised. If you were raised in a Baptist church, you probably believe in “Once saved always saved.” But if you were raised in a Holiness Church, you probably believe “you can be lost again.”

But what SAITH the SCRIPTURE? What is the truth? We need to be reminded some times, that regardless what we believe, if it’s not scripture, it’s not true! Many are walking today, in a sense of Security, based on a false teaching! For that reason, Lord willing, I will be doing a 3 part series on the subject. Starting today, and continuing the next two Sunday mornings, we will take a close look at what the scriptures say about this subject!

My goal isn’t to argue from a “Baptist Perspective”...but a “Biblical Perspective!” Just simply allow the scripture to speak for itself. I don’t want to argue that “We” are right, but rather to find the TRUTH.

The CLEAR and UNMISTAKEABLE TRUTH that Paul declares in this section...is that of the “Eternal Security of the Believer!” An undeniable, irrefutable teaching of the scripture...Every question he ask, every statement he makes here, all point to his climatic declaration he makes in verse 39...listen again...

^{39 b} **Nothing**...shall be able to separate us from the *love* of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

T: Beloved, we who are “In Christ,” are in the “clutches” of God’s love...and there is NOTHING or NO ONE who can remove us for His grasp!

(John 10) Jesus said the same thing...²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: ²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.

Beloved, we who are “In Christ,” are in the “clutches” of God’s love...and there is NOTHING or NO ONE who can remove us for His grasp!

Those who teach otherwise, argue on the basis of either one of two things.

1) They have NO FAITH in God... Which they would assure you they do, and that they are not saying that. And I'm sure they do have faith in God. I'm only saying, that to argue against "*Eternal Security*" is to hold one of only two teachings... **Is God NOT ABLE to keep man?** To which, they would answer sure He is...acknowledging that God can do anything, that the problem is not with God, but man! Thus revealing the only other possible argument against "*Eternal Security*."

2) The problem is certainly not God...but Man...*they would argue*. The argument against "*Eternal Security*" finds then, as its basis, sinful man. They believe and teach, that if you sin, you are lost again, therefore, if you die in that condition, you will go to Hell.

Now listen very closely to me... To hold to such a belief, is to clearly hold to a salvation based on works...not faith! Let me explain... They are BASING their salvation on their deeds, they are basing their salvation on their works! And to do so, reveals that one is "TRUSTING" in themselves and their adherence to the Law, rather than trusting in Christ!

Listen to me... My HOPE is not in my GOODNESS! My HOPE is not that I LIVE GOOD ENOUGH to "*make it!*" My HOPE is that Christ is the Messiah, my HOPE is that His Blood atones for my sins, My HOPE is that He makes me right with God, and that I am no longer the enemy of God, but rather now, that "In Christ" I am the "*Object of God's Affection!*"

My HOPE, my FAITH, is that God SAVES old SINNERS! Because truth of the matter is, if He doesn't, by His Mercy, by His Grace hold on to me, I'm gone! I have NO HOPE! He's my only HOPE!

The "Key" to being able to comprehend and understand this teaching of "*Eternal Security*", is to fully grasp what Paul has been saying leading up to this section.

In introducing this section on the "*Security of the believer*", in verse 31, Paul says...

31What shall we then say to these things?

What things? The truths that Paul has been declaring... Truths, which he "*sums up*" in verse 30! Listen very closely...what Paul says in verse 30, serves as the "Foundation" for what he is about to declare concerning the "*Eternal Security*" of the believer!

³⁰Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

The reason Paul can so boldly proclaim the "*Security of the believer*" is due the fact, that God is the source of every aspect of man's salvation!

God established the plan before the foundation of the world, God determined men would be saved by faith, through the hearing of his word. God calls man, he draws man through the Spirit to Himself. God justifies man, and He did so by offering up His Son on the tree! And God, through the spirits work in mans heart, changes the man... As Paul has just explained, through the work of the Spirit of God in our hearts, those of us in Christ, are being transformed into His image!

I'll say again... The reason Paul can so boldly proclaim the "*Security of the believer*" is due the fact, that God is the source of every aspect of man's salvation! And beloved, God is ETERNAL! What He does last forever! What He does is sure!

(Vs 31a) "Understanding those truths...Do you understand what that means to those of us IN CHRIST?"

³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I want to say this...and I want to make it perfectly clear... According to SCRIPTURE, “*The Security of the Believer*”, “*Once Saved always Saved*” is WITHOUT QUESTION...TRUE! The scriptures clearly affirm that... Because the “*Security of the Believer*” is found in “*Keeping work*” of God!

(2Timothy 1:12) ¹²For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Listen... Whether God is able or not to “*Keep Men*” is not in question...
The question...is whether or not one has truly surrendered his/her LIFE to Christ!
The question, is whether or not the individual is a “*A follower of Christ*...”

I’m concerned over the fact that we have lost much of what it means to be a *believer*! In our day, if you attend church, or if you “*get baptized*”, or “*join a church*”... than you’re a Christian...

We have forgotten, that the Christian life is the “supernatural work of God” in the human heart!
A work that results in changing the heart of the individual, resulting in a life of following Christ!

Like Paul, I want to warn men...that keeping the moral law, to simply attend church is not enough! Every person born into this world is born a sinner! And as Jesus said...Must be born again! A reference to New Life...the life of Christ! Living clean, living morally good lives won’t help!

There is only ONE solution...The way of the Christ! The way of Christ is the way of the cross! Christ came to show us the way! Jesus said, “*If any man come after me, let him “Deny himself, take up a cross and follow me*...” In our day, in the western culture, Jesus’ words are seen as an option! But it’s not, according to scripture, it is a way of life! Listen to me, all who do not go “*this way*”, the “*Way of Christ*”, all who do “*live by faith*”, will perish...

One of the greatest arguments opponents of eternal security have, are those who propagate *living a life to self*, living to self will, and that this person is saved. Not true... According to verse 30, the same person who is “*Justified by Faith*” is “*Glorified by Faith!*”

The Cross is a way of life...The “*way of faith*” is described as laying down the law, and take up the cross, and live a life of crucifying self-will, submitting our lives to the will of God...that Paul speaks of here in verses 12~16...

¹²Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. ¹³For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

My concern is, that many...Have made “Church” a part of their life...rather than having “Christ” as their life!

Here in Romans 8:31~39...Paul is speaking to “*Born again believers*”, to those who walk after the Spirit, to those who are led by the Spirit, followers of Jesus Christ...to encourage them of the security they have through faith!

First, he speaks to *God’s Protection and Provision* in our lives...
If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

What's the OBVIOUS answer to that Question? **No One!**

If God be on our side...if God is fighting for us...is there anyone or anything, any spirit that can overcome us?

Beloved, we are "Safe & Secure" in the arms of God!

Paul says, **think about it**... If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

Consider what He did... ³²He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Again, What's the OBVIOUS answer to that Question?

If God was willing to go as far as to "Give up" His own Son...**FOR US**...don't you realize that means there's NOTHING He wouldn't do for us?

Beloved...the "Cross" declares the "Unconditional" love of God for us!

As "followers of Christ", we enjoy the "Limitless Love" of God!

There are NO BOUNDARIES, there's NO LINE... NO STOPPING POINT.

Illustration: There's nothing the FATHER wouldn't do for his children...

If God offered up His Son for us, when we were yet His enemies...when we were living in transgressions, when we were DEAD in sin...don't you think he'll love you no matter what?

To those of you who are "walking by way of the Cross..." I want you to know, that this world may see you as a FOOL... To give up this world, to live a life of devotion to Christ, denying yourself, seeking God's will... This world may see you that way...but I want you to know, God sees you as precious!

You can rest, and walk in the security of KNOWING...that you are in the favor of GOD! That God thought so much of you, He offered up His Son! And knowing that, you can be rest assured, God is going to TAKE CARE OF YOU the rest of your life!

Let this world do what it may... Let all the foes of Hell come against me...Regardless of what LIFE may bring my way... God is going to take care of me! I trust Him!

³¹What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? ³²He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Beloved, do you realize..."We have nothing to FEAR!" ...If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

"Realizing, through the Cross...There's NOTHING God wouldn't do for us!"

We are "Safe & Secure" in Christ Jesus our Lord...