

In this week's podcast, we will be looking at eternal security. You may not be sure what eternal security is. You may have been taught you can only have eternal security **IF** you follow certain rules and regulations. **IF** you perform to a certain church standard.

Let's start with this question: How many of our sins were in the future when Jesus died on the cross?

Hm, that's a good question to think about. But obviously, the answer is, all our sins were.

God looked forward and saw **ALL** our sins and He forgave **ALL** our sins. At the moment we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ we are saved. At the moment we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ He forgives **ALL** our sins.

The sin of Adam that was counted against us. And every sin we committed in our past, every sin we commit in the present, and every sin will commit in the future.

If you're not sure about this, if this sounds contrary to what you've heard preached, let's look at Acts 10:43 "All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His Name".

This scripture makes it very simple and understandable. When we believe in Jesus Christ we receive forgiveness of sins.

We have been trained up to look at sins committed in the past, sins we are committing in the present, and sins we will commit in the future.

But God doesn't look at sins that way. When He looks at sins He knows He did a complete work, a finished work, on the cross. Little wonder before He died He said, "It Is Finished".

Many believers don't believe in eternal security. They believe every sin, from when they were born to when they were born again, was forgiven.

But after, when you commit a new sin, you must repent of it and ask forgiveness. If you believe this must be done, then your salvation is conditional. It is not eternal but only good for a short time.

Maybe some of you might think this way.

And anyone who thinks this way is trying to undo what Jesus accomplished on the cross. So let's look at scriptures that declare we have **ETERNAL** security not conditional security.

I believe in eternal security. Eternally secure **without** any conditional clause, clarifier, or addition.

I was at a service and the speaker was a retired pastor. He made a comment while preaching that there is no such thing as being eternally secure **UNLESS** you stay "in Christ".

So his statement could be summed up as this: "I believe in eternal security **AS LONG AS I** stay in Christ. As long as **I** remain in the vine. As long as **I** don't sin. As long as **I DO, DO, DO**....And as long as I **Don't, Don't, Don't.**"

My statement to him after the service was this, "I, for the record, do believe in eternal security". He replied, "I believe I'm eternally secure **IN CHRIST**".

I replied, "When Jesus died He did a **FINISHED WORK.**"

There was no point getting into a discussion with him. I don't believe there could be any discussion as he had preached conditional eternal security for too many years.

I do feel empathy for the congregations he'd pastored. They are all out there **DOING** their best and **TRYING** not to lose their salvation. A salvation that isn't theirs to get and isn't theirs to lose.

I have read many scriptures that make it very plain that Christ will keep us. That He will make us stand. That He will reward us at the judgement seat of Christ. That He is able to keep us from falling. That there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. That no one can take us out of Jesus's hand or the Father's hand.

Many people point to Heb. 6:4-6 when eternal security comes up. But a number of years ago the Lord gave me a revelation about that. The passage says, "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame."

The revelation the Lord gave me from this passage was this: "It is impossible...if they fall away, to renew them again unto repentance". In other words, if it **IS** possible for them to fall away, then it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for them to be renewed again to repentance. And it's impossible for them to be born again **AGAIN**.

How did we become born again? By Jesus shedding His blood on the cross. "There is no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood" (Heb. 9:22). So for a once born-again-person-who-lost-his-salvation-and-is-now-a-sinner to be born again **AGAIN** Jesus would have to shed His blood **AGAIN**. And that is just impossible.

"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?"
Luke 14:34 NIV

When salt loses its flavour, it's saltiness, what happens? It is thrown onto the dump.

We are the salt of the earth. We were made "salty" by salvation. If we could lose our saltiness - our salvation - we can never be made salty again. We can never get saved again.

If we are born again, and we could commit a sin that God would hold against us, then we would become a sinner **again**. And we would need salvation **again**.

And Romans 8:1 would have to say we **ARE** back under condemnation. And if we are back under condemnation, then we are destined to go to hell!

How many sins does it take to be classified “a sinner”? How many sins does it take to become “a sinner”? Is it ten? A hundred? A thousand?

Or is it just **ONE**?

If we **are** born again, and we sin **once**, and we have it counted against us, it means we can no longer be born again. We become a sinner again. And we must get saved again.

If that **was** the case, then no born again person, committing at least one sin in their life, could be made perfectly clean again. Because if **ONE** sin makes us a sinner and causes us to lose our salvation, we are either continually in a state of sin or we are continually flip flopping between being born again and losing our salvation.

And we are making a mockery of what Jesus died to do.

Are there any scriptures saying we are eternally secure?

Jude 24 “He is able to keep you from falling and present you unstained, blameless, and faultless”. Falling from a position of having been made perfect and acceptable to God.

Romans 8:29-30 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”

When we were born again, we were justified (means, “just as if we never sinned”), and we were glorified. A sinner cannot be glorified).

Notice: every verb is the past tense. He foreknew, He predestinated, He conformed, He called, He justified, He glorified.

Not one verb is present or future.

Romans 8:33-35 “Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is the one who will condemn? Christ is the one who died (and more than that, he was raised), who is at the right hand of God,

and who also is interceding for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?"

Something interesting here: it asks, "**WHO**..."; it does not ask "**WHAT**".

And Romans 8 continues. Vss 38 & 39, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor 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."

In all of the above mentioned things, they are all "what" except for one which is a "who".

Every version I have read states that there is nothing created that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Nothing can.

But people who would teach we can lose our salvation would say, "Ah yes, but **WE** can separate ourselves from the love of God. **WE** have the power and the will and if we are determined **WE** can separate ourselves from the love of God in Christ Jesus".

Really? What part of Romans 8 did you read that in? You won't find it. It's not there.

And are you part of "all creation"? Yes. Then there's nothing you can do.

How about Eph. 1:13? "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,"

Notice the past tense again: you **were** included; you **heard** the message; you **believed**; you **were** marked in Him.

And then what happened? God gave us His Holy Spirit.

Why? So we would be marked and sealed.

2 Cor. 1:21-22 “Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

Past tense again: we **were** anointed; He **set** His seal; He **put** His Spirit; He **guaranteed** what is to come.

Why? As a deposit. As a guarantee of what He will give us.

A deposit or a guarantee, from God is not temporary; it is permanent.

God **put** His Holy Spirit in us and only God can **take** His Holy Spirit out of us.

Will He do that?

If He did, then He is removing Himself **from** us. He would not be with us and would not be in us. And then He would be going against what He said in Deut.31:6 and Heb. 13:5 “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

He also said, “He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 1:8

Do **YOU** have to keep yourself firm to the end? Do **YOU** have to keep yourself blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ?

No, Jesus said He will keep you firm so you **are** blameless and you **will** be blameless.

If on the day you have something you could be blamed for, then Jesus didn't do what He said He would do.

And I **NEVER** worry that Jesus cannot do what Jesus said He will do.

In 2 Tim. 2:13 it says, “If we are faithless”, then “He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself.” If He was to deny us, He would be denying Himself.

And, again, He cannot do that.

John 10:28-29 “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

Jesus has given us eternal life. We shall never perish. We will not be snatched out of His hand. No one can snatch us out of the Father’s hand. And **WE CAN NEVER SNATCH OURSELVES OUT OF THE FATHER’S HAND!**

The Expanded Translation says, “I give to them life eternal. And they shall positively not perish, never. And no one will snatch them by force out of my hand. My Father who gave them to me as a **permanent** gift is greater than all. And no one is able to be snatching them by force out of the hand of my Father.”

When Jesus comes again He is bringing salvation to us. But if we have even one sin counted against you, the one sin we forgot to repent of, He is not going to be bringing salvation to us.

Eph. 5:25-27 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

These verses illustrate what Jesus has done. He sanctified us and He cleansed us. Notice the past tense again: He **sanctified** us. He **cleansed** us.

1 Cor. 1:8-9 “He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The Expanded Translation: “...who also will make you steadfast and constant even to the end, in character such that you cannot be called to account in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

Jesus **will** keep us firm to the end. Jesus **will** make sure we are blameless.

He **will** make us steadfast and constant so we cannot be called into account on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What account will that be? The day when we will stand before Jesus Christ who will be on “the judgment seat of Christ”,

And we’re going to be judged and punished, right?

Not according to 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

The one thing that’s preached the most, the one thing that stands out the most, is that word, “**bad**”.

Two questions: what is the judgment seat and what do good and bad actually mean?

We must understand these words from the Greek as in the English they don’t sound good nor does the English language do them justice.

I quote from Vine’s Expository Dictionary:

“In two passages the word (*judgment seat*) is used of the divine tribunal before which all believers are hereafter to stand. In Rom. 14:10 it is called “The judgement seat of God,” according to the most authentic mss. The same tribunal is called “the judgment seat of Christ,” 2 Cor. 5:10, to whom the Father has given all judgment, John 5:22, 27. At this *bema* judgment believers are to be made manifest, that each may “receive the things done in (or through) the body,” according to what he has done, “whether it be **GOOD** or **BAD**.” There they will receive rewards for their faithfulness to the Lord. For all that has been contrary in their lives to His will they will suffer loss, 1 Cor. 3:15.” End of quote.

Two things we must see and we need to understand: we are **REWARDED** for the good things we have done. The bad things **DO NOT** bring punishment or loss of salvation.

So what do the **BAD** things bring to us?

The judgment seat is the Greek word *bema*. *Bema* is a seat of **REWARD** not punishment. So if we do not get rewarded what happens? We lose rewards. We do not suffer punishment but suffer loss of reward.

What about loss of salvation? That just does not happen.

There is **NO** loss of salvation. You are not going to stand before Jesus and have Him tell you, “Sorry, too bad. Close but no cigar. And no salvation, either.”

He is going to say to you, “Well done, good and faithful servant”.

You will enter into heaven and receive some rewards. And you may have lost some rewards. But **YOU WILL** be entering heaven.

To finish we’ll look at two more verses. In the previous podcast, “*It Is Finished*,” we looked very closely at the word “finished” that Jesus cried out on the cross.

We learned about Strong’s Concordance description of the verb tense, voice and mood. And we found out the word “finished” meant “an action had been completed in the past, once and for all, not needing to be completed again”.

I said we would look at two other scriptures with the same verb tense, voice and mood. We’ve seen these in almost all scriptures in this teaching.

The two verses are from Eph. Chapter 2. We know them well. But I find we don’t not know what they’re actually saying. Why? Because we read them in English without actually knowing the meaning of the Greek.

We **will** understand them when we finish.

We’ll read both from the NIV. The first one is vs 8: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God”.

The second one is vs 5: “made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”

In both verses it is saying we **HAVE BEEN** saved.

The NET bible says the same thing but it has a note on the word “saved” that is very interesting. I quote “The perfect tense in Greek connotes both completed action (“you have been saved”) and continuing results (“you are saved”).

Strong’s Concordance says the same thing about the perfect tense in Greek: “The perfect tense in Greek corresponds to the perfect tense in English, and describes an action which is viewed as having been completed in the past, once and for all, not needing to be repeated”.

Oh we’ve heard that before. And we’ve heard it in multiple verses. But when we hear the perfect tense in English, all we hear is “we have been”.

And we think it is something that happened in the past and that’s all.

But the Greek is saying, “Yes, it happened in the past, but it continues in the present, and continues in the future”.

Finally, we’ll read Eph. 2:5, 8 in The Expanded Translation. This is a translation that uses as many English words as necessary to bring out the full meaning of the Greek.

Ephesians 2:5 “and we, being dead with respect to our trespasses, made us alive together with the Christ; by grace have you been saved completely in past time, with the present result that you are in a state of salvation which persists through present time”

Ephesians 2:8 “For by the grace have you been saved in time past completely, through faith, with the result that your salvation persists through present time; and this [salvation] is not from you as a source; of God it is the gift”

We have been saved COMPLETELY in past time. The result is we are in a state of salvation which persists through the present time.

These two verses, and their verb tense, voice and mood, completely sum up what God said in them.

What God wants us to know.

These two verses are saying your salvation **IS** eternal. You **DO** have eternal security.

When you were saved, you **were** saved in the past. You **are** saved in the present. You **will be** saved in the future.

And it's all because of what **JESUS** did. Not because of what **YOU** do.

Yes, I believe in eternal security. I have been placed **IN** Christ. There is **nothing** that can take me out of Christ. I will never **fall** because Jesus keeps me from falling. He keeps me from stumbling. He keeps me without spot, wrinkle or blemish.

Eternal security **without** any conditional clause, clarifier, or addition.

I hope you have learned just who you are **in** Christ. Because what we've read refers to you. It tells you what Jesus says about you. It tells you what the bible says about you.

If you have any questions or comments, you can go to our web site www.truthministries.ca and send us a message. We do want to know what you think. And we will get back to you. God bless.

We hope you have learned from this week's A Pinch of Salt podcast. We hope you have received God sharing His grace and truth. Look forward to sharing more with you next time. Take care.