**The Doctrine of Salvation, part 7**

**Eternal Security and the Assurance of Salvation**

Two questions are involved in this discussion: 1) Is the believer in Jesus Christ objectively secure in their eternal salvation? 2) Can the believer in Jesus Christ have subjective personal assurance about their salvation?

1. **Different view on security and assurance?**
2. One can never know if they are saved, therefore they should continually strive for and/or receive the sacraments necessary for salvation (Romans Catholic position)
3. One can have assurance of their salvation but can also loose their salvation based upon denying the faith and/or willful repeated sin (Arminian position: Typically in Pentecostal, Nazarene, and Methodist)
4. One can have assurance their salvation because of their profession of faith in Christ and because of that profession they are eternally secure and can never lose salvation (This is known as “once saved always saved” Typically Baptistic and some Non-denominational)

1. One can have assurance of salvation because of their profession of faith in the Christ, the promises of God’s Word and their experience of a transformed life, they are eternally secure in Christ (This is known as “perseverance of the saints” Typically Reformed, some Non-denominational and Baptist)
2. **The Biblical basis for eternal security**
3. The sovereign plan of God in securing our salvation

Romans 8:29-30

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. **30**And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified

1. The sealing of the Spirit as the deposit and guarantee of our salvation

Eph. 1:13-14

**3**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, **14**who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory

1. The eternal Priesthood of Jesus maintaining our salvation

Heb. 7:24-25

**4**but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. **25**Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

1. The promise of God to complete our salvation

Phil. 1:6

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus

1. The unconditional love of God to overcome any obstacles to our salvation

Rom. 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39**neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord

1. The clear teaching of Jesus promising us salvation

John 6:35-40

**35**Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. **36**But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. **37**All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. **38**For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. **39**And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. **40**For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

1. **Assurance of salvation**
2. Assurance is based on a biblical understanding of eternal security
3. Assurance is based on walking in the light of confession and forgiveness

1 John 1:5-10

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6**If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. **7**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**8**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10**If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

1. Assurance is based on living an obedient life

1 John 2:3-6

**3**We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. **4**Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. **5**But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: **6**Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

1. Assurance is based on the inward witness of the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:15-16

**15**The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, *“Abba,* Father.” **16**The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.