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3

► Four things are covered in this chapter:

1. Assurance, salvation
2. Answered Prayer, boldness in prayer, confidence in where you stand.
3. Abiding, obedience
4. What is love.

1 John 3:1-24

4

1 John 3:22-24 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

5

► What does it mean that whatever we ask, we receive?

► Is salvation revokable?

1 John 3:22-24

6

**Eternally Secure –
No one will snatch them out of
my hand John 10:28**

The following slides are taken from www.Knowing-Jesus.com

7

What does it mean to be eternally secure?

- Christians are “saved”.

There is a sense in which we have been saved, are being saved and will be saved but all of these are not talking about the same thing.

8

Salvation is an event

For it is by grace you have been saved [Eph. 2:8]

Over an over salvation is described as an event that happens at a specific time and place (Born-again [John 3], new creation [2 Cor. 5:17], Adopted heirs [Rom. 8:17]). All of these descriptions describe a time when a person who was categorized as “lost” is now “found”.

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Salvation is a process

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you...by which you are being saved [1 Cor 15:2]

In a different sense salvation is also described as a process that takes place in stages. It is a journey that is walked [Matt. 7:13-14] and a race that must be finished [1 Cor. 9:24-27]

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What are we being saved from?

To understand how salvation is both an event and a process we have to look deeper into what we are being saved from?

- 1. Sin
- 2. Death
- 3. Separation

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We are saved and being saved from sin

When we come to Jesus in faith His sacrifice on the cross saves us from our sin [Heb. 7:25] yet we still have a sin nature [Rom 7:14-25]. It isn't until we are glorified after His return that our sin nature is done away with and our salvation from sin is completed [Phil 1:6].

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We are saved and being saved from death

Before our salvation we were dead in our sin [Eph. 2:1] and have been made spiritually alive in Christ but our spiritual and physical salvation from death is not complete until the return of Christ and the 1st resurrection [1 Thes. 4:13-17].

13

We are saved and being saved from separation

At the moment we confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior we are no longer separated from God and as He literally "indwells" within us [1 John 4:15]. From that moment nothing can separate us from God's presence [Rom 8:31-39]. However, we do not experience the fullness of God's presence until we join Him in heaven [Rev. 22:1-4].

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Event vs. Process

Recognizing the race has a finish line does not negate that it also has a definitive starting line. Saying that salvation is a journey down the narrow path does not mean that you don't have to enter through the gate to get there.

15

What does it mean to be eternally secure?

- **Salvation cannot be undone**

It is a gift from God. It cannot be removed by a person or accidental action. People, however, have free will and may reject this gift. If God knows a person has rejected the gift, He also has the power to withdraw His gift. [Rev. 22:18]

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Secure Because:

- **Salvation is a Work of God**

For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, He also glorified. [Rom. 8:29-30]

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Knowing is Not Doing

Stating that God knows everything is not the same as saying that no one has a choice.

If I get to a scene in a movie I have seen before I know what will happen next but it doesn't mean I made them do it.

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Predestination is Not Desire

Saying that God has predestined some for salvation and some not [Rom. 9:20-24] is not the same as saying God doesn't desire all to be saved [1 Tim. 2:4].

It is like a mail in rebate. Anyone could have sent it in to get their money back but the company know that most people won't.

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Salvation is a Work of God

- **God Calls To Service**

Based upon God's predestination God draws those to service that He knows will accept

20

Calling is Not Revealing

While God calls the elect to service that doesn't mean that He has not revealed Himself to all of humankind. People have seen God at work know what He expects of them and have chosen to reject Him anyway [Rom. 1:18-22].

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Calling is Not Compelling

While God does call us to salvation and His foreknowledge and predestination is perfect it does not remove the necessity for response. God calls us first, but we still must respond by calling upon the name of the Lord to be saved [Rom. 10:13]

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Salvation is a Work of God

- **God Justifies**

We are justified not by our works but the work of Christ [Gal 2:16-21].

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Justification is Not Sanctification

While we are no longer held to account for the eternal consequences of our sin it does not mean we will not still sin or that there will not be temporal repercussions of our sin. Justification is not an excuse to continue sinning [Rom. 6:1]. Justification begins the work that Christ will continue to do [Phil 1:8] that begins with changing our desire to continue to sin [Rom 7].

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Salvation is a Work of God

- **God Glorifies**
The end result is not in our hands but we are being prepared for eternal glory (1 Cor. 4:7-18).

25

Secure Because:

- **Salvation is not a work of man**
Since we are not saved by our works it also stands to reason that our works cannot undo what we didn't do in the first place [Titus 3:3-7].

However....

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Salvation is not a work of man

There are many passages of scripture that when read in isolation or out of context would seem to indicate that the works of humans can undo or thwart the work of God. While we can't address every passage individually, we will address them by category.

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Will not inherit the Kingdom of God

- Rom. 1:18-32; Rev. 22:15; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:9; Heb. 12:14

All of these passages say something to the effect that if you do these bad things you won't inherit the kingdom of God. Some have taken this to mean that if Christians do these things they will "lose their salvation".

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Will not inherit the Kingdom of God

These passages are clearly differentiating between believers and non-believers.

These passages are descriptive not prescriptive.

These passages talk about a lot more than murder and sexual immorality.

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The Unforgivable Sin

- Mark 3:22-30; Mat. 12:22-32; 10:26, Rev. 14:9-12, 22:19.

Whether it is blaspheming the Holy Spirit, deliberately sinning, taking the Mark of the Beast or taking away words from Revelation. Each passage seems to indicate that there are sins that cannot be forgiven.

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The Unforgivable Sin

Saying that those who take the mark aren't going to heaven isn't the same as saying that a Christian will lose their salvation.

It is unclear what "blaspheming the Holy Spirit" actually means. **Not believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who came to earth in human form, as part of the triune God, and as Lord and Savior.**

It is hard to build a clear doctrine on one passage of scripture especially when it seems to contrast other passages that are more clear.

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Falling Away

Hebrews 6 is not addressing "the elementary message" of salvation but our "maturity" in Christ. It is a call to no longer be spiritually lazy and immature but to produce the fruit that brings blessing. It is also warning that when immature believers fall away they harm themselves and mock Christ.

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Secure Because:

- We Belong to God

We can be confident that we are secure because the power of our security rests in God's hand.

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Secure Because:

God seals us 1 Cor. 1:22, Eph. 1:13

God has bought us 1 Cor. 7:21, 1 Cor. 6:20

God secures us in His hand Jn. 10:28-29

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How can we know if we are eternally secure?

Evaluating Ourselves:

You will know them by their fruit- Mat 7:15-20, Gal. 5

Disciplined as children- Heb. 12:7

Being a doer- James 1

Endurance- Mat. 24:13

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How can we know if we are eternally secure?

Evaluating Others:

Not everyone who claims to be saved or thinks they are saved are actually saved- Mat. 7:21-23, 1 John 2:18-19

God is the judge not us- Rom. 14:4

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1 John 3:22-24 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

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- ▶ Why do some Christians lack assurance of salvation?
- ▶ What must we understand about what happened when Jesus saved us?
- ▶ What is Jesus' commandment?
- ▶ What exactly does believing on the name of Jesus entail?

1 John 3:22-24

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Wrap Up

Further comments?
Closing prayer.

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