

Conclusion, Summary and Recap

There are three ways of looking at endurance to the end.

- 1) We endure by our own efforts.
- 2) We endure by our own efforts supplemented by help from heaven.
- 3) We endure to the end solely by grace.

The truth is, we are saved totally by grace. It is nothing we deserve. If we have contributed anything towards our salvation, then salvation is not grace. Remember, Jesus +Something = Nothing.

We do not put confidence in anything we can do or in anything we can present as our obedience. Our hope is in Christ Jesus, His doing, dying and rising again. We endure by the grace of God and put no confidence in anything we do. Our confidence is in Christ alone. He will never fail. His work on Calvary is finished. All Glory to Him!

Jesus foresaw the entire catalog of our sins, past, present and future sins and died for them all.

If the Lord had not loved me I would not have loved Him. He initiated the love affair and will not end it. He is faithful. In fact, there never was a time when God began to love His people, and there will never be a time when He will cease to love them.

We are safe!

As I said earlier, on my best day, I'm a sinner saved by grace; on my worst, I'm a sinner saved by grace. It's grace, more grace and continual grace that is the lot of the believer. And of His fullness have we all received and grace for grace. (John 1:16).

Our safety is bound up in the gospel.

Back in the 1800s, the battleship, *Hotspur*, fired her big guns on the *Glatton* to test the strength of its armour. The shots struck the turret with frightful force but did no harm to the three weak, little creatures inside ... a goat, a fowl, a rabbit. They were alarmed, but unharmed. They were safe inside the armour of the battleship. They had no strength in themselves to withstand the violence of the guns. Had they been harmed it would have shown, not their weakness, but the weakness of the armour behind which they were sheltered.

Likewise, the believer is not safe in himself, but in CHRIST. Just as the guns of the *Hotspur* were aimed at the *Glatton*, so all the judgment of God against sin in all its terror fell on the Saviour on the cross, and He exhausted the wrath of God, which should have fallen on the believer, but which fell on our substitute, Christ, in order that God might save the believing sinner righteously.

Our safety lies in Christ and His accomplishments on our behalf. May we neither doubt Christ nor the sufficiency of His work.

Jesus said in John 10:27-30, “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my*

hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one .”

Paul echoed this truth of the believer’s safety in Christ when he, by the Spirit, wrote Romans 8:38 -39 saying, *“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.”*

“Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o’ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

“Jesus, my heart’s dear refuge,
Jesus has died for me;
Firm on the Rock of ages,
Ever my trust shall be.

Those whom the Saviour has rescued can never be lost otherwise His saving power is not very effective.

In Ephesians 1:13-14 we read that the Holy Spirit is given to believers as the earnest of their inheritance. An earnest is given as a pledge that that which has been promised is on the way. An earnest cannot be returned. If you, for example, are buying a property and you give an earnest of X Dollars or Euros and you then, for whatever reason, back out of the deal, the person to whom you paid the earnest gets to keep the money. Likewise, the believer has been given the Holy Spirit as an earnest of their inheritance. So if God has pledged salvation but changes His mind and disinherits you, you still get to keep the Holy Spirit. Imagine that! A person in the Lake of Fire with the Holy Spirit.

We are safe!

Salvation is the gift of God.
God’s gifts are “irrevocable.” Romans 11:29.
Christ gives His sheep eternal life.
Eternal life, therefore, cannot be temporary.
It’s everlasting life.
It’s not provisional life,
It’s eternal life.

We are safe!

We would do well to memorise this old hymn,

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand

Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."
Anon.

Just to stir up your pure mind by way of remembrance, when Christ Jesus hung upon the cross all the sins of His people ... past, present and future ... were put away forever. Satan was dealt a fatal blow. The work of redemption was finished. When Christ died, He actually died as the substitute for His people. If someone for whom He became a substitute can perish, then Christ is not very good at His job.

Remember Spurgeon's thinking about pre-mature rejoicing on the part of the angels. In Luke 15:10 the angels rejoice over the salvation of a sinner who has just been saved. But if that person can lose that salvation, then the angels may be premature with their rejoicing. Someone ought to have a word with them about this.

We are safe!