

Eternal Safety of the Believer

Introduction

"Grace shall complete what grace begins
To save from sorrows and from sins;
The work that Wisdom undertakes,
Eternal Mercy ne'er forsakes."

Isaac Watts

Can blood-bought children of God, ever lose their salvation? According to one popular teaching, it seems that yes, indeed they can. Still, others argue that no one can be certain of ever having salvation in the first place, so there is no need to make further inquiries.

Romans 8:35 asks the question; "*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*" Romans 8:38-39 gives the inspired answer. It says, "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."

Notice that nothing in heaven (the height), nothing in hell (the depth), nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Without doubt then, if we are in Christ, we are safe.

As the hymn writer said,

"I rest in Christ the Son of God,
Who took the servant's form:
By faith I flee to Jesus' cross,
My shelter from the storm.

At peace with God, no ills I dread,
The cup of blessing mine:
The Lord is risen, His precious blood
Is new and living wine."

When we speak of the everlasting safety of the believer, we mean that, since we have been chosen by God and regenerated by the Spirit of God, we cannot be lost. Once saved, never unsaved! Once elected, we can never be un-elected. A saved person has been acquitted from every charge that can and has been made before the throne of God. It is absolutely and utterly impossible that that person should ever again be lost.

What we do not mean!

Having said that, we do not mean it necessarily follows that if one professes to be saved, that one is eternally safe. It does not mean if one joins a church or is baptized, breaks bread, and takes part in Christian work, that that person is secure. It does not mean because one displays and exercises spiritual gifts that one is necessarily eternally protected.

Our Lord taught in Matthew 7:21-23, *"Not every one that says unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? And in your name have cast out devils? And in your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you that work iniquity."*

What a wretched scene! Here are people who have been very active in what they considered Christian work. They have preached and have cast out demons. They have accomplished many works; but at the Judgment day, they are found cringing among the lost. And worse than that, when they point to their activity and their earnestness in Christian work, the Lord says to them, "I never knew you." Notice, He does not say to them, "I used to know you, but you have lost my favour, and I no longer know you." He doesn't say, "You used to be saved, but you lost it!" No! He says, "I never knew you."