

MORE ON ETERNAL SECURITY

CLIP #1

Question: How do you know you are saved?

Answer: *Because I believe*

Question: How can you be sure you believe, when millions of others who say they believe obviously don't?

Answer: *The tests found in I. John chapters 1 and 2*

CLIP #2-3

The doctrine of "*The Security of The Believer*" is that every person who has truly believed in Jesus Christ is born again and they are secure. The very God who saved them will keep them saved. Every true believer is kept by the power of God.

The doctrine of "*Assurance*" is: How can you be assured that you are a true believer? How can you know that you are a true believer?

I know that I know I am saved

I know in my heart of hearts that I am saved

I know I am saved because the preacher told me I am saved

Answer: *The tests found in I. John chapters 1 and 2*

Nowhere does he mention Romans 8:16 or I. John 5:10

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Romans 8:16

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

I John 5:10

CLIP #4

*I know I am saved because I **have** walked with God.*

False: If you are not walking with God now, you can have no assurance that you were **EVER** saved.

True: If you are not walking with God now, you can have no assurance that you **ARE NOW** saved.

We're not teaching here tonight that if you walk with God and you are saved, and then you stop walking with God that you lose your salvation....

He is not teaching this because he doesn't believe a true Christian can lose his salvation. That's why he says: "*He who began a good work will finish it*".

Let's look at the CONTEXT of that verse.

*Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For **your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now**; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work **in you** will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: **Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart**; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.*

Philippians 1:4-7

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy **because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now**, 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. It is right for me to feel this way about **all of you**, since **I have you in my heart**; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.*

Philippians 1:4-7 (NIV)

Paul was confident God would finish what He had begun IN THEM. He is talking here to a specific group of people, not to everyone in all ages who names the name of Christ. He is talking to brethren he knows personally. He is talking to brethren who have shown themselves to be faithful to God from the beginning of their confession (or conversion) until the hour Paul wrote to them. Paul is looking at THEIR track record of faith, and based on THAT track record, he says he is confident they will continue in the faith, and as a result of continuing in the faith, God will be able to complete the work He began IN THEM.

Paul is not applying this as a blanket statement to any and all who claim to be a Christian. He is not even making this statement to all those who really are a true believer. He is talking to a specific group of people who he personally knew through the Spirit. He is talking to those who have proven over time their loyalty and faithfulness to Jesus. It is to these kinds of Christians...and these alone...that his words apply.

CLIP #5

If I see someone who SEEMS to have walked with God....and then they begin to fall away...I don't go to them and say: you know you are a Christian, and you need to avoid backsliding. I go to them and say...it is very, very possible you NEVER knew Him.

Error #1.

Notice that when referring to a person who had once walked with God, but then back-slid, he says they “*seemed*” to walk with God. The reason he says they seemed to be saved is because he is preaching the same tired logic as John McArthur, Charles Stanley and all the rest of Once Saved Always Saved crowd: The logic is this: *those who back slide were never really saved in the first place...they just thought they were saved.*

It's very possible that up until this point, you're whole salvation experience has been a very deceiving work of the flesh...because if a work of God does not continue, it never was a work of God.

Error #2.

If a work of God does not continue, it never was a work of God.

Oh really?

Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world. Does the fact that the whole world will not be saved mean that the His “work” was not of God to begin with? Of course not. It's not God's work that is in question. Rather, it is a question of whether or not *we will continue in the work* He is doing. Let's look at the “work” God said He would do for Israel. In Exodus chapter six we find seven “I will's” coming from the mouth of God, concerning Israel;

Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.

Exodus 6:6-8

God said I will:

- ~ *Bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians*
- ~ *Rid you out of their bondage*
- ~ *Redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments*
- ~ *Be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God*
- ~ *Bring you in unto the land*
- ~ *Give it you for an heritage*

God made that promise to the WHOLE nation of Israel (*the children of Israel*). This was a WORK of God for them. This was a PROMISE of God to them. Yet, the Scripture tells us that the WHOLE NATION only experienced the FIRST FIVE promises. Only a very small remnant of the “children of Israel” experienced the last two parts of God’s work.

That’s exactly why the Psalmists says:

*How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and **limited the Holy One of Israel**.*

Psalms 78:40-41

- ~ God’s work will never fail. But we can fail to continue in that work through unbelief and rebellion.
- ~ God’s promises will never fail. But we can fail to avail ourselves of those promises through sin.
- ~ God’s love will never fail. But we can fail to “keep ourselves” in that love. (See: Jude 1:24)
- ~ God’s goodness will never fail. But we have to keep ourselves in that goodness. (See: Rom. 11:22)

And what advise can this brother give to the people who thought they were saved, but who want to get really saved for the first time. If they were never really saved in the first place, then all their past Christian experience was a lie and a counterfeit. Whenever they:

- ~ Read the Bible
- ~ Prayed
- ~ Gathered together with other believers
- ~ Witnessed for Jesus
- ~ Sang and worshiped the Lord
- ~ Engaged in any kind of Christian ministry

It was all a deception! It was all a work of the flesh! If they were in total deception regarding all these desires then, how could they ever trust any of them again?

Conclusion:

More than any doctrine, the teaching of Eternal Security has set the stage for the great falling away, we are now seeing. It is a major, if not *the* major problem that keeps God’s people from staying sober and faithful to Jesus. Therefore, it seems a bit self-defeating (*at least to me*) for this brother to stand behind a pulp[it and present the PROBLEM as the SOLUTION to the current apostasy!

The Vine And The Branches.....John 15: 1