

Basic Discipleship

A Course On New Testament Discipleship

Topic #1

THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE CHRISTIAN

Objectives: As a result of the study of this topic we want to be able to:

- 1. Distinguish between assurance of salvation and eternal security.**
- 2. Understand the promises of Scripture as they relate to having assurance of salvation and knowing that we are eternally secure.**
- 3. Be able to state three New Testament evidences for true conversion.**
- 4. Understand how salvation by grace serves as a motivation to godly living.**
- 5. Understand the difference between those who simply profess Christ as Lord but who do not possess Christ as Lord.**
- 6. Memorize two verses of Scripture dealing with our assurance and security.**

Introduction

I. The Provision of Salvation

The reason we can know that we are eternally secure is based on the truth that salvation is not earned or achieved but by the grace of God found in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

A. John 3:1-16; Numbers 21:4-9

Jesus made it very clear that the new birth is essential both to understanding and to entering the kingdom of God. In this passage Jesus affirms to Nicodemus from his illustration found in Numbers 21 that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone.

- 1. Verses 1-4 - - Some key truths to observe from these verses:**

2. Verses 5-8 - - Some key truths to observe from these verses:

3. Verses 9-13 - - Some key truths to observe from these verses:

4. Verses 14-16 - - Some key truths to observe from these verses:

B. Romans 3:19-28

1. Verses 19-20 - - Some key truths to observe from these verses:

2. Verses 20-26 - - Some key truths to observe from these verses:

3. Verses 27-28 - - Some key truths to observe from these verses:

C. Galatians 2:16, 21

1. Verses 16 - - Some key truths to observe from this verse:

2. Verses 21 - - Some key truths to observe from this verse:

D. Titus 3:4-8

1. Verses 4-6 - - Some key truths to observe from these verses:

2. Verses 7-8 - - Some key truths to observe from these verses:

E. Luke 18:9-17

F. Luke 23:39-43

II. The Promises for Salvation

God promises us over and over again that once Christ saves us, He saves us forever. Salvation is not something that can be lost because it is not something that is earned. The Bible teaches that you can “know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13). The apostle John did not say “hope so” or “wish so” or “maybe have.” The Bible is clear not only may the believer may gain assurance of his salvation where he knows that he is saved, but he may also rest the permanence of his salvation. The question that is often asked is, “Once one is genuinely saved by trusting in the merit of Christ’s death on the cross for sin, can that Christian lose his salvation? Is there anything we can do to lose our salvation? The clear answer from the Bible is NO! Why? Because Scripture clearly affirms that we are saved by Christ’s work on the cross & not anything we do. The following passages are a sampling of over 150 passages in the New Testament that teach we can be assured and confident of our eternal security.

A. Our eternal security from the standpoint of the Son.

- 1. John 3:16-18; 5:24; 6:27-29, 37-40, 47; 10:27-30; 14:3**
- 2. 1 John 5:11-13**
- 3. Hebrews 10:12-14**

B. Our eternal security from the standpoint of the Father.

- 1. Romans 5:8-10; 8:31-39**
- 2. 1 Peter 1:3-5**
- 3. Jude 24&25**

C. Our eternal security from the standpoint of the Spirit.

- 1. Ephesians 1:13; 4:30**
- 2. 2 Corinthians 1:22**
- 2. John 14:16**

III. The Proof of Salvation

There are many people today who say they are saved. They profess to know Christ, but they have never truly been born again. Our eternal security & our assurance are based not simply on the promises of God as related to the finished payment of Christ for our sins, but also by the evidences that a new life brings (2 Corinthians 5:17).

A. A true Christian will have a different lifestyle.

- 1. John 5:28, 29**
- 2. Matthew 7:13-21;**
- 3. Ephesians 2:8-10**
- 4. 1 John 5:11-13**

The promise of assurance that John promises to us in these verses must be understood in light in light of “these things” he has “written” throughout 1 John concerning the various tests or evidences of true conversion. We cannot fully enjoy our salvation without the confidence that it is really ours and John want us to have a true assurance but not a false one.

- a. John has written that a Christian has a new fellowship (1:6-7).**
- b. John has written that a Christian has a new obedience (2:3-4).**
- c. John has written that a Christian has a new love (2:9-11).**
- d. John has written that a Christian has a new hatred (2:15-17).**
- e. John has written that a Christian has a new perseverance (2:23-27).**
- f. John has written that a Christian has a new righteousness (3:9-10).**

B. A true Christian will have the internal witness of the Holy Spirit.

- 1. Romans 8:9 cf. 1 John 4:13**
- 2. Romans 8:14-16**

C. A true Christian will publicly identify or confess Christ.

1. Hebrews 3:1; Romans 10:9

2. Matthew 10:32, 33; Luke 12:8, 9

IV. The Persistent Motivation of Salvation

When God saves us by His grace, He keeps us by His grace. It is our new position in Jesus Christ that gives us the ongoing, never ending, persistent motivation to serve Christ until He comes or takes us by death.

A. God's grace expressed (Titus 2:11-14).

B. God's love proved (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15).

C. God's righteousness applied (2 Corinthians 5:21).

D. God's holiness satisfied (1 John 4:9-10, 17-19; 5:2-3).

V. Pseudo Salvation

Some people become a part of a local church, but they have never truly been born again. For such people there is no real change of life, no desire to persevere in the faith, and sometimes they will totally renounce Christianity. The New Testament teaching on the security of the believer is not based on personal experience or what we observe in other people; it is based on the truth of God's unchanging word.

A. No true confession (Luke 6:47-49; Matthew 7:20)

B. No perseverance (Matthew 24:13; 1 John 2:19)

C. No real faith (James 2:19; Luke 8:13; Acts 8:9-24)

D. No change in lifestyle (Ephesians 5:5-6; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 6:9-10)

Memory Verses for this topic: John 6:37-40; 1 John 5:11-13