

Sunday, March 3, 2013—The Things Freely Given Us of God—Hid With Christ in God

### **Introduction**

- Many today fail to understand that they are secure in Jesus Christ. The issue of eternal security is not only a hotly debated topic but it is one of the things we have been freely given of God.
- Colossians 3:3—this morning I want to discuss the reality of what Paul means when he says that your life is hid with Christ in God.
- The issue of eternal security is a hotly debated issue in our day. The confusion can essentially be boiled down to three central issues:
  - First, failure to rightly divide the word of truth in recognizing and acknowledging that there is more than one gospel thought in the scriptures.
  - Second, failure to understand how God is choosing to save mankind today in the Dispensation of Grace, by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Salvation is a non meritorious gift freely given and bestowed upon application of the blood of Jesus Christ to ones account by faith alone.
  - Third, there has been a failure to understand the totality of the forgiveness we receive upon placing our faith exclusively in the work of Christ. Paul clearly teaches in multiple places that all our sins have been forgiven.
- John 15:1-6, Hebrews 6:4-6, Romans 8:33-39
- If someone does not believe in eternal security it ought to raise a red flag in your mind about who they think they got saved in the first place.
- At its heart there are essentially two questions that we need to answer this morning: 1) can a truly regenerate person ever lose salvation? 2) If a person cannot lose their salvation can he or she have assurance of salvation in this life?
- In answering these questions I would like for you to consider the following three areas or aspects of eternal security: 1) What do the so called theologians say? 2) So-called problem texts and their dispensational answers? 3) The mechanics of our eternal security and how that ought to lead to our assurance now in this life.

### **Eternal Security: What do the Theologians Say?**

- Generally speaking there are four terms or phrases in common usage that are often used when discussing issues surrounding the Assurance of Salvation:
  - *Perseverance*—The word enters the discussion because it represents the P in Calvinism’s acrostic TULIP. Properly called Perseverance of the Saints, this doctrine states that those who are truly among the elect will preserve in faith unto the end.
  - *Eternal Security*
  - *Once Saved, Always Saved*
  - *The Assurance of the Believer*

- Among evangelicals, there are at least four views on the topic of eternal security. Theologically the debate is two sided between Calvinistic Theology which affirms eternal security and Arminian Theology which denies it.
- The *Westminster Confession of Faith* states, “They whom God hath accepted in his beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.”
- Calvinism—believes in the security of the elect. Nevertheless, they cannot, at present, be absolutely sure that they are among the elect. Each person can only prove his or her election by persevering to the end.
- Classical Arminianism—maintains that a saved person can lose salvation but only by the sin of apostasy—a complete denial of Christ. Once someone has apostatized, he or she can never be saved again.
- Wesleyan Arminianism—argues that salvation can be lost through any serious intentional sin. However, unlike Classical Arminianism, Wesleyans hold that one can regain salvation by repentance and confession of sin.
- Ironically, Arminians and Calvinists have much in common on this issue. Both assert that professing believers living in gross, unrepentant sin are not truly saved. Both insist that a person cannot be living in serious sin at the end of his life if he is truly saved. And both maintain that no one living in grave sin can be sure of his salvation.
- Perseverance of the Saints is not eternal security. The doctrine of Perseverance of the Saints teaches that the reason a person does not lose salvation is because, according to Calvinistic teaching, God continues to give to the elect faith, and therefore they remain saved. It may seem a bit ironic, but Calvinistic doctrine actually teaches that if a person did stop believing, he would be lost. Of course, they go on to say that a true believer will not stop believing because God keeps giving him faith.

### **Eternal Security: Passages That Teach the Loss of Salvation**

- It is important to remember that there is more than one gospel or message from God recorded in the Bible and faith is believe the message God has delivered to you. Can you act in faith and build an ark today?
- Matthew 24:13—what is the context and what is the content of the message they were preaching?
- Luke 8:13
- John 15:1-6, 1:11, 4:22
- Hebrews 3:14, 4-6—there is no security in these passages because the message they were believing was requiring them to remain faithful. Hebrews 1:14—makes it clear that these people had not yet received their salvation.

- II Peter 2:20-22
- Revelation 3:5
- In light of these passages how can be for sure that we are eternally secure?

### **Eternal Security: The Mechanics**

- Understanding your eternal security begins with a clear understanding of how you got saved to begin with.
- Colossians 1:14—our salvation is based upon the redemption that Christ provides through his shed blood and the faith application of that blood to our account.
- Ephesians 1:7, Ephesians 2:8-9
- Romans 3:24
- I Corinthians 12:13—the moment you believe that Christ shed his blood to pay for your sins God the Holy Spirit spiritually baptizes you into the Body of Christ. It here that we receive the life of Christ by virtual of being part of his body and identified in his death burial and resurrection.
- Ephesians 4:30—the Holy Spirit then seals us into our position with Jesus Christ. Notice that you are sealed unto the day of Redemption. Wait a minute I thought we were already redeemed.
- Ephesians 1:13-14—not only is the H.S. our seal but he is the earnest of our inheritance until the day of redemption.
- Romans 8:23—the Holy Spirit is the down payment assurance of the future redemption of our bodies from the bondage of corruption that is in creation.
- Colossians 3:3--Paul is saying that when we accepted Christ and received his life at a given point of time in the past that new life that we received was hidden, concealed, or secretly laid up in Christ and presently continues as such.
- So the life that we have in Christ is hidden with Christ in God. So in order for you to be denied this life God the father would have to reject his own son in whom he is well pleased—Matthew 3:17, Philippians 2:9—God hath highly exalted him and given him a name above every name.
- II Timothy 2:13—God cannot deny himself.
- For you to lose your salvation God the Father would have to reject his son. God the Son would have to take back the life that he gave to you freely. God the Holy Spirit would have to cease being your seal unto the day of redemption.

- If could not earn your own salvation and it was given to you freely by his grace than nothing you do can cause you to lose it. God is not an Indian giver.
- Romans 8:34-39—You are more secure than all the gold in Fort Knox and can be 100% assured that your life insure policy can never be rescinded.