

BLESSED ASSURANCE – PART 1

ROMANS 5:1-5

Tonight we are going to look at the doctrine of eternal security:
ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED.

- **OR IS IT** once saved kind of saved, once saved maybe saved, once saved better get saved again?
- **OBJECTIVELY**, security is established as a fact of salvation—God has saved us, we did not save ourselves. Real salvation produces real change, real godliness, and real righteousness in us.
- **SUBJECTIVELY**, assurance of that security is maintained in the heart of each Christian, which results in us actually feeling as though we are saved.

THE DOCTRINE OF CONDITIONAL ELECTION

If the Arminian doctrine of conditional salvation/election is correct—which is taught by some Baptists, Methodists, Nazarene, Assemblies of God, Church of Christ—a person is saved by faith in Jesus Christ but can sin his or her way out of God's grace. Christians must then live in continual uncertainty about their spiritual destiny.

This is the 500-year-old debate: Arminianism's conditional election or Calvinism's unconditional election, which is it?

As we check our Bibles, *we find 6 eternal links.*

FIRST LINK: OUR PEACE WITH GOD v. 1

- The **peace** that Paul is speaking about here is not subjective but objective; it is not a feeling, but a **FACT**.
- Apart from salvation through **Jesus Christ**, every human being is at enmity with God—spiritually at war with Him regardless of what his feelings about God may be.
- In the same way, the person who is justified by faith in Christ is at **peace** with God, regardless of how he may feel about it at any given moment.

Our peace is from Heaven, not Earth—it's eternal.

SECOND LINK: OUR STANDING IN GRACE v. 2

For Jews, the idea of having direct access, or **introduction**, to God was unthinkable, because to see God face-to-face was to die. And they were correct!

- But Christ's death ended that and the reign of sin!
- Through His atoning sacrifice, He made God the Father accessible to any person, Jew or Gentile, who trusts in that sacrifice. In **MATT. 27:51**, the veil is torn!

*If a dying Savior could bring us to God's grace,
surely a living Savior can keep us in His grace.*

THIRD LINK: OUR HOPE OF GLORY v. 2-5

- The chain that eternally binds believers to Christ and gives us the reason to rejoice is our *hope of the glory of God*.
- Salvation is anchored in the **PAST** because Christ has made peace with God. **ROM. 5:1**
- It is anchored in the **PRESENT** because of Christ's continual intercession. **HEB. 7:25**

*The Christian has no reason to fear the **FUTURE** and every reason to rejoice in it, as we see here.*

MATURITY HELPS US WITH CLARITY!

It's funny that as you age, you find out how ignorant you actually were in your youth! It's also true of your Christian walk.

- *Hupomoneô (perseverance)* carries the idea of endurance, the ability to continue working in the face of strong opposition and great obstacles.
- The more we pursue holiness, the more we are persecuted, and the greater will be our hope as we are sustained through it all by God's powerful grace.

*Blessed assurance results in: peace in your heart,
grace in living, perseverance, hoping in glory.*