

Discipleship Lesson 3

Eternal Security

Key Memory Verse:

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:13



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Eternal Security

As you study this lesson you will understand why the following statements are **not true**.

1. You must work to keep your salvation.
2. If you commit certain sins after you are born again, you can lose your salvation.
3. If you no longer feel saved, you probably are not.

Now That I Am Saved, Can I Ever Lose My Salvation?

Once an individual has settled the question of salvation as the Bible declares it—by grace through faith in Jesus Christ—it is just as important to understand that the God who saved us is able to keep us.

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to settle, from biblical facts, the question of the eternal security of the believer as a member of the family of God the Father, in and through Jesus Christ.

I. The Biblical Basis for Eternal Security

A. What is the promise that we can claim in John 6:37–40?
(Key verse 37.)

B. From John 10:27–30, we understand that no man can cause us to lose our salvation. **Why is this?** See verse 29.

C. Read Matthew 7:21–23.

Verse 21:

It is not what a person says, but what a person _____.

Verse 23:

What did Jesus mean when He said, “I *never* knew you”?

D. In Hebrews 13:5, what did Jesus say he would never do?
How does that make you feel?

II. Can We Do Something to Lose Our Salvation?

We have seen that God will not cast us out, that no man can pluck us out of His hand, and that He will never leave us. But could we do something ourselves that would cause us to lose our own salvation?

A. How does Ephesians 2:8–9 describe gaining our salvation?

B. If we gained salvation by grace, is it possible to keep salvation by works?

According to Paul, salvation is a gift. **A gift that can be taken back is not a gift.** True gifts have no strings attached.

You say, “What if I give it back?” You can give it back only if the giver accepts the return. In the case of salvation, God has a strict “no returns” policy.

Notes and Questions:

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- C. How could a person earn their salvation?
1. What do Galatians 3:10 and James 2:10 tell us about what we have to do to earn or keep our salvation?
 2. Is it possible to earn or keep our salvation? Romans 3:23
- D. What should we be persuaded of, as Paul was in 2 Timothy 1:12?
- E. Galatians 2:21 states clearly that if man could become righteous by anything he does, or if he could get to heaven by any other means, then Jesus Christ's death was
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III. Is There Anything Else That Can Cause Us to Lose Our Salvation?

God won't cast us out, no man can cause us to lose our salvation, and we can't lose it ourselves. Is there anything else—a circumstance or situation—that can separate us from God? No!

Romans 8:38–39 says, “For I am persuaded that neither ...

- A. Death you can't lose it when you die.
- B. _____ you can't lose it while you are alive.
- C. _____ can't take it from you.
- D. _____ the government can't take it from you.
- E. _____ the devil can't cause you to lose it.
- F. Thing present nothing happening right now can take it away.
- G. _____ nothing in the future can make you lose it.
- H. _____ nothing above you can take it away.
- I. _____ nothing below you can take it away.

nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

IV. Why Is This True?

- A. Because your relationship with God is now a

relationship by birth (2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 3:26; Galatians 4:6; 1 John 3:1; John 1:12–13).

- B. Describe why we can find assurance of our salvation in the present, as seen in 1 John 5:11–13.

Eternal life is found only in _____

If you have Jesus you have _____

This verse tells us that we may _____
that we have eternal life.

Where there is no assurance of God's acceptance, there is no peace. Where there is no peace, there is no joy. Where there is no joy, there is a limitation on one's ability to love unconditionally. Why? Because a person with no assurance is by definition partly motivated by fear. Fear and love do not mingle well. One will always dilute the other. Fear spills over into worry. **The truth is, if my salvation is not a settled issue, how can I practice Philippians 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing."**

Think about it. The authors of the New Testament left us with detailed explanations of how one becomes a child of God. If that process could be reversed, doesn't it make sense that at least one author would have gone into equal detail explaining that as well?

- C. Your birth certificate was marked with a seal. Who is the seal for your spiritual birth? See Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 2 Corinthians 1:22.

- _____
D. You will be your father's son for eternity, because you were born of his seed. You could leave the country, disown each other, change your name, and never see him, hear from him, or even think about him the rest of your life, but it would never change the fact that he is your father. The same is true of your heavenly Father. You can die, but you can never be unborn. Your birth is fixed forever, both physically and spiritually.

Notes and Questions:



Notes and Questions:

- E. The truth of eternal security does not give a Christian a license to sin and not worry about it. If you are truly saved, then three things will be true in your life:
1. You will have a desire to grow in God's Word.
Note 1 Peter 2:1–3.
 2. You will also sense a greater conviction when you do sin (1 John 3:9–10).
 3. You will receive God's chastening if you continue to sin (Hebrews 12:7–11).
- F. Study Romans 5:1–11. It clearly reveals why salvation is eternal and cannot be lost.

If the preservation of salvation depends on what believers themselves do or do not do, their salvation is only as secure as their faithfulness, which provides no security at all. According to that view, believers must protect by their own human power what Christ began by His divine power.

The Greek word translated *stand* in Romans 5:2 (*histemi*) carries the idea of permanence—of standing firm and immovable. Although faith is necessary for salvation, it is God's grace—not the believer's faith—that has the power to save and to keep him or her saved. **We are not saved by divine grace and then preserved by human effort.** That would be a mockery of God's grace, meaning that what God begins in us He is either unwilling or unable to preserve and complete. Paul unequivocally declared to the Philippian believers, "I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

Did you read Romans 5:1–11 and these notes? Yes - No

V. What If I Don't Feel Saved?

A. Your salvation is **not based on feelings**. It is based upon the objective factual truth of the Word of God.

1. 1 John 3:19–20 tells us that even our _____ can't condemn us because God is much greater than that. God knows if you're saved, even if you don't.
2. What does Titus 1:2 teach us about trusting God with regard to this issue?

B. Just believe what God has said (1 John 2:25).

The reason many Christians don't feel saved is because they have stopped growing in their Christian lives. Note 2 Peter 1:5–10 (key verse 5). In your opinion, what is the key phrase from verse 5?

C. Your position in Christ is not based upon your feelings. For example: the Bible does not speak of a believer becoming *unadopted* or *unsealed*.

D. How many of your sins are forgiven at the moment of salvation? See Colossians 2:13.

E. Is my position in Christ based upon my lifestyle or on His finished work on the cross?

Record these three dates. (Date of death is a guess) How many of your sins did Jesus die for—just your past sins or your past and future sins?

Date Born / Date Saved / Date of Death

Notes and Questions:



Notes and Questions:

VI. Practical Application

- A. Are there any other questions you may have concerning your eternal security?
- B. Is it possible to believe you can lose your salvation and still enjoy the peace of God? Why?
- C. What does knowing you are secure for eternity in Jesus Christ mean to you?
- D. Name two important truths or principles that stood out to you from this lesson.

1. _____

2. _____