

“THE FAITH THAT FIZZLES BEFORE THE FINISH HAD A FLAW FROM THE FIRST.” – ADRIAN ROGERS ¹

Importance of grasping eternal security:

1. Mental and emotional health: uncertainty of eternal destiny generates anxiety.
2. Spiritual growth becomes sluggish if you're not sure you've tagged first base.

Commonly misunderstood Bible passages on salvation:

- Galatians 5:1-6

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”

Believers were trying to add things to the Gospel. Adding requirements to Jesus is no longer living by grace. Attempting to return to the Law leads us back into slavery. We look at the Law and it leaves us in need of a Savior.

- Hebrews 6:4-8

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. ⁷ For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

If the Bible teaches that salvation can be lost then it is forever lost. We interpret the unclear by the clear: Scripture overwhelmingly speaks to the security of our salvation.

- 2 Peter 2:20-22

“For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”

Peter speaks about those teachers who were pulling people away from Jesus, not struggling believers desiring to follow Jesus.

1 John 2:19

“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.”

1 John 3:14 the perfect active indicative tense is used for the phrase describing our Salvation: *“we have passed from death to life.”*

How should the security of our salvation affect how we live?

- 1) My efforts can be **grace**-driven: I serve God because I've been forgiven not in order to be forgiven.
- 2) I can live **assertively** and aggressively because Christ has secured me eternally.
- 3) I can absorb others' **shortcomings** because Jesus has absorbed my sin: past, present, and future.
- 4) I can serve others in humility because no task is **below** me: Christ is my only cause to boast.
- 5) My defeats no longer lead to **despair**: Christ is my victory.

“On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.” – Edward Mote

Key: grace/assertively/shortcomings/below/despair

¹ Adrian Rogers, *What Every Christian Ought to Know* (Nashville, B&H, 2008), 52.