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

- Feast of Dedication: eight-day feast celebrating the rededication of the Temple by Jewish patriot Judas “The Hammer” Maccabeus (164-165 B. C.) – 10:22-23
- Jesus surrounded and pressed for an answer on whether He is the Messiah – 10:24
- Jesus’ response – 10:25-30
 - 1) I already told you but you don’t believe me – 10:25a
 - 2) My **works** prove who I am – 10:25b
 - 3) You don’t believe because of what you *are* (unrepentant, self-absorbed sinner) not because of a lack of **evidence** – 10:26-27
 - 4) I preserve **all** who are mine – 10:28-29
 - 5) I and the Father are one – 10:30

“When Jesus said, ‘I and the Father are One,’ He was not affirming that He and the Father are the same Person. The Son and the Father are two Persons in the Trinity. This is confirmed here by the fact that the word “One” is neuter. Instead, He was saying They have the closest possible unity of purpose. Jesus’ will is identical to the Father’s regarding the salvation of His sheep. And yet absolute identity of wills involves identity of nature. Jesus and the Father are One in will (and also in nature for both are God; cf. 20:28; Phil. 2:6; Col. 2:9).” ²

- People: tried to stone Jesus! – 10:31
- Jesus: Which of my **good** works causes you to try to kill me? – 10:32
- People: You’re equating yourself with God! – 10:33
- Jesus: ... (Psalm 82 references human judges who have a divine **responsibility** to do justice, not a divine nature/**essence**). If God uses the title ‘gods’ for human judges then Jesus (actual deity) may call Himself the Son of God – 10:34-36

2 Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- Jesus: Look at my works and follow them to the conclusion – 10:37-38
- People: Some tried to arrest him and others believed Him – 10:39-42

Reasons to believe our salvation is secure:

- 1) Nature of the **Giver**: God doesn’t change His mind – 10:28

2) Nature of the **Gift**: eternal life from the everlasting God – 10:28-29

- *Eternal life* – 10:28a
- *Never perish* – 10:28a
- *No one will snatch them out of my hand* – 10:28b
- *My Father, who has given them to me is greater than all* – 10:29
- *No one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand* – 10:29

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Romans 11:6

But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

Bible metaphors for the security of our salvation:

- Sealed – Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30.

I have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and cannot unseal what He has sealed.

Ephesians 1:13-14

*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed** with the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

Ephesians 4:30

*"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption."*

- Adoption – Galatians 3:26, 4:4-7

God has adopted me as His child and will never disown me.

Galatians 3:26

*"For you are all **sons** of God through faith in Christ Jesus."*

Galatians 4:4-7

*"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the **adoption** as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."*

- Election – John 15:16; Romans 8:28-30, 33; Ephesians 1:4-5.

God cared for me long before I ever thought of Him.

Romans 8:28-30, 33

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.²⁹ For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.³⁰ And those whom he **predestined** he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified...³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*

Ephesians 1:4-5

*even as he **chose** us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love⁵ he **predestined** us for **adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*

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.

Adrian Rogers, "When we are confident of the future, we can concentrate on the present."³

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

² E. A. Blum, "John," *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, Vol. 2, eds. J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 311-312.

³ Rogers, *What Every Christian Ought to Know*, 50.