

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, May 30, 2012 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER “Six Links in the Doctrine of Eternal Security – Standing in Grace” *Romans 5:1-11*

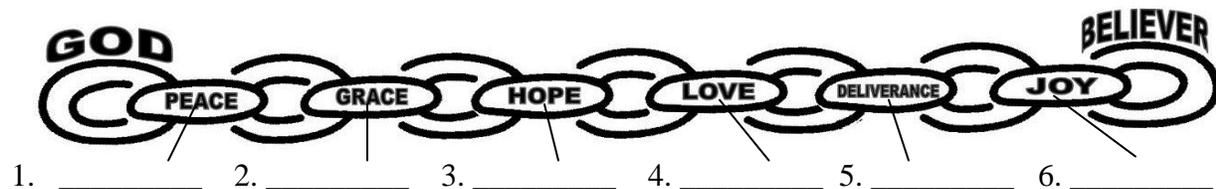
**Once Shaved Always Shaved story at the end of document*

An understanding of the doctrine of “Eternal Security” is dependent upon ones understanding of salvation. What is salvation? Who does the saving? What is salvation based upon? What is our part, as man, in the work of salvation? These and similar questions will determine ones understanding of a salvation that is either secure or very insecure.

JUST FOR REFLECTION AND REVIEW – Try your hand at the following questions. As you think through each one of them and record your answers reflect on what your answer says about a salvation that is forever and cannot be lost.

1. What is salvation?
2. Who does the saving?
3. What is salvation based upon on?
4. What is our part, as man, in the work of salvation?
5. For Review – What is the first link that ties a believer eternally to God and how does that link strengthen your understanding of eternal security?

SIX LINKS IN THE CHAIN OF ETERNAL SECURITY – Fill in the links you know.



STANDING IN GRACE – The second link in the chain as found in Paul’s letter to the Romans in Romans 5:1-11 is “standing in grace.”

1. **Where does the Christian (true believer) stand with God?** – (see Romans 5:1-2a) A genuine Christian (true believer) stands in god’s unmerited/undeserved favor... GRACE.

2. What is grace? –

(1) Write your own definition of grace – Grace is the free, undeserved and unearned “just because I love you” gift of God

(2) Listen as the following verses of Scripture are read and answer the corresponding question –

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** – *“For by grace you are saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God not of works lest any man should boast.”*
 -Who is grace from? God
 -What is grace? A free gift (Greek word for grace is “charis” or “karis” and can be translated either as the word “grace” or “gift.”)
- **Romans 6:23** – *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
 -What is the free gift of God or the grace of God? Eternal life (grace = eternal life/salvation)
- **True or False** (circle one) – **Christians are constantly moving in and out of a state of God’s grace.** *Answer: False, Christians are “standing in grace and not constantly moving in and out of a state of grace according to Romans 5:1-2a.

(3) Understanding grace – Some good definition of grace for our own understanding.

- **Webster’s Dictionary** – *“Unmerited divine assistance given man for his regeneration and sanctification.”*
- **Dr. John MacArthur** – *“Grace is God’s unmerited favor by which he saves us and makes us righteous. It is based solely on His sovereign love, which is manifested in the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sin. It is not the result of any worthiness on our part. Once we are saved we stand in grace.”*
- **Grace Acrostic** – Each letter of the word “GRACE” stands for a part of the definition and understanding of what grace is.

G - God’s

R - Righteousness

A - At

C - Christ’s

E - Expense

3. Why grace? Why is grace necessary at all? – A very apparent answer to that question would be that apart from grace man could not be saved, but a thorough investigation of

the question (Why grace?) reveals an even deeper understanding of grace itself and a believers eternal security.

Why Grace? The 2 Part Short Answer:

(1) Our total inaccessibility of God –

(2) Our sole source of accessibility to God - Our sole source of accessibility to God is only through Christ, who is His grace gift to us (*see John 3:16*). We are totally helpless and hopeless on our own. God is not accessible to you except through Christ! You can't approach Him!

Let's look at each one of these, one at a time...

(1) Our total inaccessibility of God – The word “access” is used two other times in the New Testament by Paul to refer to access to God.

True or False (circle one) - It was shocking and incomprehensible to the Jewish people of Paul's day that they could have direct access to God. *Answer: True, The Jewish people of Paul's day believed that God was completely unapproachable and that they must go through the “priest” or “high priest” to get to God. They could not approach God on their own.

Some Biblical Examples:

• **Exodus 19:9-13 –**

-Who is the Lord speaking to in this passage and who is He speaking about? God is speaking to Moses about the people (the children of Israel) (*see vv.9-10*.)

-What are God's requirements in this passage before the people may approach Him? They were to consecrate themselves and wash their clothes (be clean) before approaching God (v.10). (*see Leviticus 11:44-45*)

-Is God seen in this passage as approachable or unapproachable? Why? Perhaps approachable, but only by His standards, which actually no one was ever able to fully meet (v.13).

• **1 Kings 8:6-11 –**

-Who brought the ark of the Lord to the Temple and where was it placed? The priests brought the ark of the Lord to the Temple and placed it in the Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies)

-Who was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place and what does this say about the approachability of God by His people? Only the priests were allowed to enter the Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies) and that only once a year with great caution (a rope and a bell). God could only be approached by those set apart by God.

-What happened after the ark was placed in the Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies)? God filled the place with His glory and the priests could not stay in there... they had to leave.

-In thinking about the Holy of Holies and this passage would you say that God was approachable or unapproachable? Why? God was so holy that man's

sinful condition made it impossible for him to approach God. In that sense God was unapproachable by sinful man. Once again we can see that God was approachable, but only by His standards.

- **Matthew 27:45-54** –
 - What words did Jesus cry out in a loud voice just before he died on the cross, and what do you think was the significance of that statement for believers? Jesus cried out, “My God, my God why have you forsaken me!” Jesus took in Himself our sin and uncleanness, and thus became unapproachable by God because of our sin. He took our punishment.
 - *When we say he took the punishment for sin was the ‘cross’ the punishment or was God turning His back on Jesus as He carried our sin the punishment (remember sinful man cannot approach Holy God? I’m not so sure that the punishment wasn’t God turning His back on Jesus who was covered with our sin.
 - What happened at the Temple the moment Jesus died, and why do you think Matthew included this strange event in his record of the crucifixion? The temple veil/curtain leading to the Holy of Holies was torn in two. The tearing of the veil (the Temple curtain) signified that the way into God’s presence was now open to all through a new and living way. The fact that it split (tore) from top to bottom shows that no man had split the veil. God did it! Salvation and access are fully at God’s initiative... not mans.
 - What does this say about the approachability of God in your opinion? It says to us that God is now approachable by you and I because of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.

(2) **Our solid source of accessibility to God** – Christ’s death changed the Old Testament view of access to God.

J E S U S C H R I S T

3 Important Accessibility Passages:

1. **Hebrews 4:16** – We can come boldly (with confidence)

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

KJV says, “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”
2. **Hebrews 9:1-15** – We have had a way opened for us

(see vv.7,11,12,15) ¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.”
3. **Hebrews 10:19-22** – We can draw near with full assurance ¹⁹

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the

curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

- 4. Grace and eternal security** – When we enter into the presence of God, we stand in grace (Romans 5:2). That’s why Hebrews 4:16 tells us to come boldly (with confidence) before God to obtain mercy. The Greek word translated in Romans 5:2 as “stand” (histemi) means to “stand firm” or “abide.” We are abiding or firmly standing, firmly planted in a state of grace.

Many people believe that once someone is saved by grace he has to keep himself or herself saved by keeping the law of God. According to Romans 5:2, once a person is truly saved he or she is “standing grace”... firmly fixed in an environment of grace. Read the following verse and respond to the word printed beside each. What does the word mean in the verse?

1. **Jude 24** – **“falling”** Christ can keep you from falling! Falling means falling from grace... away from God and His salvation.
“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”
2. **Romans 5:20-21** – **“grace”** Grace conquerors “sin.” Grace is more powerful than sin and leads to eternal life.
²⁰ *The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹ so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Question: Is this cheap grace? Why or why not? Not, it is not cheap grace! God’s grace extended to us, cost Him a great deal... namely His Son, Jesus Christ, freely give for us. It cost a great deal... His very life!

ONCE SHAVED ALWAYS SHAVED

After twenty years of shaving himself every morning, a man in a small Southern town decided he had enough. He told his wife that he intended to let the local barber shave him each day. He put on his hat and coat and went to the barber shop, which was owned by the pastor of the town's Baptist Church. The barber's wife, Grace, was working that day, so she performed the task.

Grace shaved him and sprayed him with lilac water, and said,
"That will be \$20."

The man thought the price was a bit high, but he paid the bill and went to work. The next morning the man looked in the mirror, and his face was as smooth as it had been when he left the barber shop the day before. Not bad, he thought. At least I don't need to get a shave every day.

The next morning, the man's face was still smooth. Two weeks later, the man was still unable to find any trace of whiskers on his face. It was more than he could take, so he returned to the barber shop.

"I thought \$20 was high for a shave", he told the barber's wife, "but you must have done a great job. It's been two weeks and my whiskers still haven't started growing back."

The expression on her face didn't even change, expecting his comment. She responded, "You were shaved by Grace. Once shaved, always shaved."