

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, May 23, 2012 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

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

We began our study of “The Eternal Security of the Believer” a couple of weeks with some introductory material on the doctrine. We looked at some of the passages that are difficult and often used by those who say you can lose your salvation. We have also talked about the widespread debate on the subject, even sometimes among Baptist themselves.

According to those who claim you can lose your salvation, what maintains salvation?
They must maintain their own salvation by good works... not sinning.

What must they base their salvation on? *Works!*

In the way of review, let's look again at the definition of “eternal security” that we have already discovered in our study;

“Eternal security is *the work of God that guarantees that the gift of salvation, once received is forever and cannot be lost.*”

3 Important Parts to the Definition:

- (1) Salvation is the work of God (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)**
- (2) Salvation is a gift (*Romans 6:23*)**
- (3) Salvation is forever and cannot be lost (*John 10:28*)**

Our study on the subject of eternal security is going to center around Romans 5:1-11. Dr. John MacArthur says, “Many treatments of this subject (of eternal security of the believer) don't include Romans 5, yet it is arguable the most definitive text ever written on the security of our salvation.” The apostle Paul addresses the issue of eternal security in Romans 5:1-11, and more particularly “salvation” itself. As we have already said, an important key to understanding the doctrine of eternal security is understanding salvation. The Apostle Paul takes the time to build a case for the eternal security of the believer in Romans 5:1-11 by giving us a detailed description of salvation, or the benefits of our salvation. Paul's discussion of salvation includes six links in the chain that ties a believer eternally to God.

We all know about the book of Romans. It is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to Christians in Rome. The book of Romans affirms the gospel, as a matter of fact, most Biblical scholars

consider it one of the greatest pieces ever written on the doctrine of salvation. That is what the book is about... salvation.

In chapter 4 of Romans, Paul concludes a wonderful discussion of “justification” and as chapter 5 of Romans opens he begins to discuss the justified (or saved) life... in other words “the benefits of our having been justified.”

JUSTIFICATION = “Being made just as if I’d never sinned.” Justification then is our having been made right with God through Jesus Christ... salvation.

I. INVALID AND VALID PROOFS OF SALVATION

6 Invalid Proofs of Salvation: These are some things that people often base their salvation on that do not validate true salvation and therefore give no security.

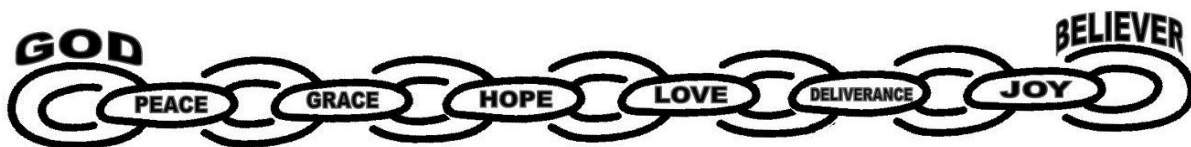
1. Signed a card
2. Walked the aisle
3. Raised a hand
4. Was baptized
5. Attends church
6. Lives a good life

6 Valid Proofs of Salvation: (Based on Roman 5:1-11) These are six valid proof that a person is saved and that they are tied eternally to God.

1. Peace with God (v.1)
2. Standing in Grace (v.2)
3. Hope of Glory (v.2)
4. Possession of Love (v.8)
5. Certainty of Deliverance (v.10)
6. Joy in God (v.11)

Six Links in the Chain of Eternal Security

Diagram 1



II. PEACE WITH GOD IS A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Romans 5:1 says, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” The word “therefore” links verse 1 to the foundation Paul has laid in chapters 3-4. Justification by faith... being made right with God through Jesus Christ... initially ushers us into salvation... a new relationship with God. When you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you obtain salvation and an inheritance in eternity filled with blessing. One of those blessing is security: you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Things to Remember Concerning Romans 5:1-11:

1. **Remember “faith” (genuine faith) is a given** – *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith...” (v.1).* It is assumed at the beginning of chapter 5 of Romans that you are a true believer and have been “justified” and before any of the things that follow will be true you must a genuine believers, justified by faith through Christ.
2. **Remember this passage (Romans 5:1-11) is not for unbelievers** – Rather this passage is only for those how are already in a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ. *NOTE: I believe that this is where a lot of folks who think you can lose your salvation miss it. Many who they are claiming have “fallen for grace” or “lost their salvation” were never genuinely saved to start with.*
3. **Remember the only way a person can be eternally secure is to be eternally saved** - That is true salvation... genuine believership. It is assumed that you are a true believer before the rest of this passage (Rom. 5:1-11) holds true in your life.

Verse 1 speaks of the new relationship that true believers have with God, and that new relationship is characterized by “peace” with God.

List some words that characterized your life before you became a Christian:

(ex. lost) _____

List some words that characterize your life now that you are a Christian:

(ex. saved) _____

What is the “peace” we have with God? Romans 5:1 says, *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God...”*

What this “peace” is not:

1. **It is not a feeling**
2. **It is not a sense of tranquility of mind**
3. **It is not quiet repose**
4. **It is not an absence of business, hustle and bustle**
5. **It is not an absence of nosiness**

**Note that all of these describe Greek words that are used in New Testament Scripture, but that is not the word used in Romans 5:1*

The word translated in Romans 5:1 as “peace” is the Greek word “eirene.” Some have suggested that we get our English word “serene” from this word, meaning peace and calm, a feeling of calmness. Actually the English word “serene” does come from a Greek word “xeros,” which means “dry”, but this is not the word used in Romans 5:1. The word “serene” come from this Greek word, “xeros,” and literally means “clear and free of storms or unpleasant change, repose, calmness, nothing happening, dry.” The word translated as

“peace” in our passage (Rom. 5:1) come from this Greek word “eirene” and we do have an English word that comes from this word that you probably are not familiar with. It is the English word “irenic” and you can look this word up on your Webster’s Dictionary when you get home. It is not a word that we use, but the English word “irenic” means “conducive to or operating toward peace or conciliation, amid at peace, promoting or intended to promote peace.” It is the idea that is present at “peace talks” between two warring parties.

What this “peace” is:

1. It is an absence of war and strife
2. It is new relationship between to previously opposing forces

**Note: It speaks of a relationship.*

Question: If we are at peace with God once we are saved (justified) how would you describe our relationship before we are saved? At war/enemies

III. PEACE WITH GOD IS A RECONCILED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

If we have peace with God because of salvation, what did we have prior to salvation? War... the opposite of peace. Christ changed our relationship to God dramatically. We were at war with God... fighting with Him, fighting to be in control and call the shots, fighting to be our own master and control our own destiny. He was our enemy, and we were His enemy. But through justification by faith in Christ God brought us into a relationship of peace. That peace is not an attitude of psychological tranquility or a calm mind. Peace with God means our war with Him is over.

1. The Reality of the Old Relationship

3 Passages that Reveal the Reality of a Christian’s Previous Relationship:

(1) John 8:42-44

- **According to these verses who is the father of an unbeliever?** The devil
- **How is Satan and his desires described?** Satan is described as a murderer, not holding to the truth, a liar and the father of lies
- **What does this say about an unbelievers relationship with God?** An unbeliever is naturally at odds with and against God because of whose he is

(2) Romans 1:18-22

- **Who would you say these verses are describing?** Unbelievers, the lost
- **List some of the ways these people are characterized and God’s reaction to them.** Wicked, suppressing the truth, godless, fools, futile, darkened... God’s reaction to them is judgment and wrath
- **What does this say about an unbelievers relationship with God?** God is against... at odds with their ways. He is at war with them

(3) Ephesians 2:1-3

- **Who would you say these verses are describing?** Unbelievers, the lost
- **List some of the words used to characterize them?** Dead, disobedient, objects of wrath

- **Who were they following?** They (we) were following the ways of the world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air.
- **What does this say about an unbelievers relationship with God?** An unbeliever is an enemy of God

2. The Reality of our New Relationship

- (1) **Past propitiation through the cross (Colossians 1:19-22)** – We have peace with God, and we didn't do anything to obtain that peace. God poured out His vengeance, anger, wrath that we deserved on Christ, and God was appeased. Our new status is peace with God, and it was accomplished by Christ's reconciling work on the cross. The peace treaty was between us and God was irrevocably signed in Christ's blood. That treaty between a Christian and God will not be revoked. Christ made full payment for our sins, and God was propitiated – a theological term meaning He was satisfied. Colossians 1:19-22 says, *"¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Jesus), ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. ²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of^{al} your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation."*

Jesus Christ so fully accomplished peace with God that from now on, you are forever holy and faultless in His sight. Why? Because Christ bore every sin for which you and I should have been punished. Wow! You get it? We have lasting peace with God!

- (2) **Present peace through cleansing (1 John 1:7, Hebrews 7:25)** – How does God maintain his relationship with us? Jesus not only reconciled us to God, but also maintains that relationship. That is His high-priestly work. He keeps on cleansing us from all sin. John wrote in 1 John 1:7, *"⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^{al} sin."* We are forever at peace with God because every sin we will commit has already been paid for by Christ. Therefore nothing can destroy our relationship with Him. Every day that we sin, the Lord keep on cleansing us – maintaining our relationship with Him – through the past act of Christ on the cross and His present mediation at the right hand of God. In His high-priestly ministry Hebrews 7:25 says, *"²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely (or forever) those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."*

IV. SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

Ephesians 2:13-14 says of Christ, *"¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility."*

4 Things to Remember About Our Peace With God:

1. **Remember as long as Christ lives, which is forever, He will maintain our peace with God** – We don't maintain our own salvation and we don't maintain our own peace.
2. **Remember God has been completely satisfied with Christ's sacrifice for our sin** – Remember, the peace treaty was between us and God was irrevocably signed in Christ's blood. That treaty between a Christian and God will not be revoked.
3. **Remember God's wrath is gone** – Paul said in Ephesians 2:14 that “ the dividing wall of hostility” has been destroyed... and permanently destroyed.
4. **Remember we are at peace with God and nothing can change that** – Ephesians 2:14 also remind us that, “He is our peace.” Our peace with God is based upon Christ's sacrificial death for our sins. That is God's work not our own. And we can trust God's finished and complete work.