

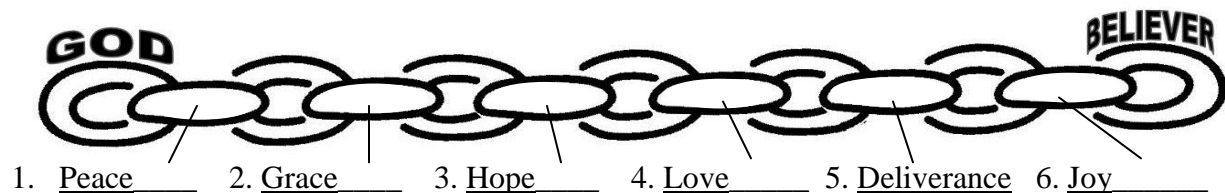
Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, June 6, 2012 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

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

We’ve been looking at the doctrine of “Eternal Security” and our study has centered on Romans 5:1-11. Romans 5:1-11 has a simple message, “You can’t lose your salvation because your salvation ties the believer eternally to God.” It is forever, eternal, everlasting, and unchanging. Without question, one of the most comforting, most assuring, and most joy-producing of all Christian truths is that our salvation is forever. The believers joy and comfort depends on his or her assurance of salvation. In Romans 5 Paul affirms that our salvation is eternally secure in the power of God by giving us six links in a chain that eternally ties a true believer to God.

TRY YOUR HAND AT IT – *See if you can list the links in the chain that ties a believer eternally secure to God.*



When the enemy, Satan, hits you with doubts about the reality of your salvation, you can retreat to the promises of Romans 5:1-11 and grab hold of the chain that eternally ties you to the Savior.

JUST FOR REVIEW – *We have already looked at 2 links in the chain. Let’s briefly review these together.*

1. Link 1 – Peace with God

First of all we look at “peace with God.” Romans 5:1 says, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” This speaks of a new relationship that exists between a true believer and God. How did we get this “peace”? Through Jesus Christ. Did we ourselves do anything to bring about this peace? No! We are at peace with God because of what Jesus did. As long as Jesus lives, which is forever, He will maintain our peace (right standing) with God. Hebrews 7:25 reminds us, “Therefore he (Jesus) is able to save completely those who come to God through him,

because he always lives to intercede for them.” How much or how far is He able to save us? Completely. Why? Because He always (or ever) lives to intercede for us... keep the peace between us and God.

2. Link 2 – Standing in Grace

We said that the second link in the chain that ties a believer eternally secure to God is “grace.” We are said to be “standing in grace” as true believers. **Romans 5:1-2a** says, *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand...”* We looked at **Ephesians 3:8-9**, *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”* Who is “grace” from? God. What is it? A free gift, undeserved, unmerited. Remember **Romans 6:23** says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in^[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.” What is the free gift or grace of God? Eternal life in or through Jesus Christ. How long does it last? Eternally. If you can lose it, it’s not eternal. According to **Romans 5:2a**, as genuine believers we are not moving in and out of grace (this free gift of God), rather, we are “standing in grace.”

Remember our controversial passage in **Galatians 5:4**, *“You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”* **The King James or New King James** says, *“You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”* Those who argue that a believer can fall from grace deny that salvation is secure. The base that conclusion on passages like **Galatians 5:4** and phrases like “you have fallen from grace” stated in that passage. Paul did say it was possible to “fall from grace, but notice to whom he said it. Paul was addressing people who were trying to be saved or justified with God by the law or works. Two verses earlier in **Galatians 5:2**, Paul said, *“Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.”* They were trying to take a completely different route to God all-together. They were trying to be saved by their own works of obedience to the law (particularly circumcision, a Jewish rite or practice) rather than by God’s free gift of grace through Jesus. That is why Paul said **in verse 2**, *“... Christ will be of no value to you at all.”* Man tries many ways to get to God and that’s what Paul is confronting in **Galatians 5**. Christ can’t do you any good if you believe you can be saved by some kind of human effort. That is what leads Paul to say in **verse 4**, *“You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”* When a person thinks that they can be made right with God by keeping the law or by their own self-righteous efforts, you essentially are saying you don’t Jesus. You can do it yourself! That person has fallen further away from God’s grace.

Galatians 5:4 give us a commentary on the fate of those who attempt to come to God in some way other than through grace. A Christian, on the other hand, cannot fall out of grace because it’s God who keeps us... and He will not let you fall. As **Jude 24** says, *“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling (falling) and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.”* He won’t let you fall!

LINK 3 – HOPE OF GLORY – *That leads us to the third link in the chain that eternally ties us to God... hope... the hope of glory.*

1. **THE PROMISE OF HOPE**

(1) **What is hope?** –There are many key terms and concepts in Scripture like faith, hope, love, joy, grace, peace, mercy, etc. that we come across as we read our Bibles, but often these are just vague concepts for many people, and our English understanding of these words may be quite different or varied from the original Greek or Hebrew ideas communicated in these word in Scripture. The word “hope” is one of those words that may carry with it certain ideas and concepts in the English language and Western mindset that would be foreign to New Testament times, and to the Biblical writers.

A “Webster’s Dictionary” definition of “hope” - “To **cherish** a desire or **long for** with **expectation**. To want or hope without any basis for expecting **fulfillment**.”

“HOPE” in ENGLISH	“HOPE” in GREEK – “elpis”
1. Tends to lean toward the negative	1. Tends to lean toward the positive
2. Contains an element of uncertainty	2. Contains <u>no</u> element of uncertainty
3. Speaks of something that may be unsure P	3. Speaks of something that is always sure
4. May carry with it some despair a	4. Never carries with it the idea of despair <i>(is the opposite of despair)</i>
5. Has not real assurance e	5. Has a confident assurance

Is that hope? Circle “yes” or “no” beside each of the following scenarios.

If I say to you, “Well, everything is going to work out!” and you respond by saying, “Well, I sure hope so!” is that hope? (circle one) YES or **NO**

If I say to you, “God is going to take care of you!” and you respond by saying, “Well, if you say so!” is that hope? (circle one) YES or **NO**

If I say to you “God will provide!” and you respond by saying, “I hope your right!” is that hope? (circle one) YES or **NO**

Put a check [✓] beside the following statements that you feel reflect an accurate understanding of hope.

[✓] *To cherish a desire with expectation of fulfillment* – Webster’s Dictionary

[✓] *Trust* – Webster’s Dictionary

[✓] *To despair, yet anxiously expect the uncertain* – The opposite of hope is despair

[✓] *To long for with expectation of obtainment* – Webster’s Dictionary

[✓] *Reliance* – Webster’s Dictionary

[✓] *To be unsure of the future but optimistic* – Is “hope” an unsure thing? Why or why not? We say things like, “I hope so!” “I hope I’ll make it to heaven!”

[✓] *To wait patiently with confidence for what you do not yet have* – Ro. 8:24-25

[✓] *Faith and certainty of what we do not see* – Heb. 11:1

[✓] *An anchor for the soul, firm and secure* – Heb. 6:19-20a

(2) **How does the Bible define hope?** – Listen as the following verses are read and underline statements above that reflect that verse(s)

- **Romans 8:24-25** – *“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”*
- **Hebrews 6:19-20a** – *“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf...”*
- **Hebrews 11:1** – *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”*

(3) **What are some “key words” associated with hope?** – List below some of the key words in the above definitions and Bible verses that really express what “hope” is all about:

confidence
certainty
firm
assurance

faith
anchor for the soul
secure
trust

(4) **What is Biblical hope?** – What then is hope... Biblically? Is it a wishy washy maybe or a kind of unsure optimism? The modern idea of hope is “to wish for, to expect, but without certainty of the fulfillment; to desire very much, but with no real assurance of getting your desire.” In Scripture, however, according to the Hebrew and

Greek words translated by the word “hope” and according to the biblical usage, hope is an indication of certainty.

- **A Biblical Definition of Hope** - A good Biblical definition of the word translated as “hope” in Scripture (Greek “elpis”) is:

“A **strong and confident expectation.**”

NOTE: Though archaic today in modern terms, hope is akin to trust and a confident expectation.

- **2 Things Hope May Refer To:**
 - (1) The **activity** of hoping – The actual act of hoping in something with expectation and certainty
 - (2) The **object** hoped for – The content of one’s hope
- **2 Things Hope Stresses:** By its very nature, hope stresses two things...
 - (1) **Futurity** (*an event that is going to happen or has not happened yet*) - It deals with things we haven’t received yet or...
 - (2) **Invisibility** – It deals with things we can’t see or both of these.

Remember Romans 8:24-25 says, **“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all (invisibility). Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have (futurity), we wait for it patiently.”**

Biblically, from the standpoint of the object hoped for, hope is synonymous with salvation and its many blessings, past, present, and future, as promised in Scripture. This is true even with what we have already received as believers because these blessings come under the category of what we cannot see. We may see some of the results, but it still requires faith and hope. For example, we do not see the justifying work of God, the imputation of Christ’s righteousness to our account, nor do we see the indwelling of the Holy Spirit when we are saved, nor our co-union with Christ. We believe this to be a reality, but this is a matter of our hope. We believe in the testimony of God in the Word and hope for the results in our lives.

In summary, hope is the confident expectation, the sure certainty that what God has promised in the Word is true, has occurred, and or will in accordance with God’s sure Word.

- **Some other good Biblical definition of “hope”:**
 - (1) Easton’s Bible Dictionary - *“Hope is an essential and fundamental element of Christian life, so essential indeed, that, like faith and love, it can itself designate the essence of Christianity.”*

(2) The Holman Bible Dictionary – *“Hope is a trustful expectation, particularly with reference to the fulfillment of God's promises. Hope, is the anticipation of a favorable outcome under God's guidance... the confidence that what God has done for us in the past guarantees our participation in what God will do in the future.”*

Given this understanding of Greek “elpis” or “hope” one can see how it is infinitely tied to the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer.

(5) What do you think? –

- Who is our hope? Jesus
- What is our hope based on? Jesus' death and resurrection
- What do we hope for? We hope for final salvation, heaven, glory, eternal life

“... and we rejoice (boast) in the hope of the glory of God.”
-Romans 5:2b

NOTE: God has promised us future glory! God never goes back on His promises! That is eternal security for the genuine Christian believer.

2. THE CERTAINTY OF HOPE

(1) Has God Really Promised us Future Glory? Yes

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” – Romans 8:28-30

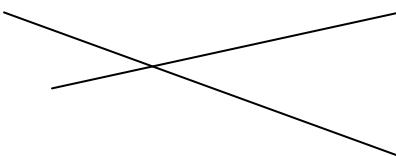
Remember:
God is
Omniscient. He
is all knowing
(having infinite
awareness)

- What does “predestined” mean? Means literally “predetermined”... in other words “God knew.” Pre = before / Destined = something you will come to. In other words, god is all knowing and therefore knew before hand whether or not you would come to Him, be saved.
- If you are predestined to begin, you are predestined to end.
- If you are predestined to be in Christ, you are predestined to be like Christ... that is share in His glory.
- The hope of the believe and the doctrine of eternal security are based on the hope of glory.

(2) Security... Past, Present, and Future – The first three links in the chain of security need to be drawn together. Match the links in the left hand column with the appropriate response in the right hand column

PEACE WITH GOD

Salvation Present



STANDING IN GRACE

Salvation Future

HOPE IN GLORY

Salvation Past

(3) Why do we rejoice in the hope of glory?

“... and we **rejoice (boast)** in the **hope** of the **glory** of God.”
-Romans 5:2b

2 Reasons:

- 1. We rejoice because our future is secure** – The Greek word “rejoice” refers to a confident boast or exultant jubilation. It is a strong word that speaks of rejoicing at the highest level. We rejoice in a secure future. We have not fear because Christ said in John 6:37-39, “All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.” That is something to rejoice about
- 2. We rejoice because Christ Jesus give us a secure future hope** – 1 Timothy 1:1 says that our Savior, Jesus Christ is our hope. And 1 Peter 1:18-21 says, “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.” Since God raised up Jesus from the grave, we can trust Him to raise us up by the same promise.

3. THE PROOF OF HOPE

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame...” - Romans 5:3-5a

Hope is dynamic and active. In the Bible, hope is never a static or passive thing. It is dynamic, active, directive and life sustaining. This is everywhere obvious as we read the Word. Take a concordance, look up the word “hope” and you will find reference after reference pointing out the active results of hope in the lives of those who truly have a biblical hope and live accordingly. In other words, a biblical hope is not an escape from reality or from problems. It doesn’t leave us idle, drifting or just rocking on the front porch. If our hope is biblical and based on God's promises, it will put us in gear. That is what Paul is talking in Romans 5:3-4. Notice the active or dynamic path for growth in the life of a Christian as he or she focuses on hope:



3 Proofs or Results of Hope in the Life of a Christian:

- 1. *It changes how we see ourselves*** - It changes us into pilgrim persons, people who see this life as temporary sojourn. Our suffering and hardship are seen in a new light... as only a temporary things that will pass and give way to great promise one day... heaven, eternal life, not more suffering, crying or pain, therefore we can deal with suffering because of our hope.
- 2. *It changes what we value*** - Hope, if biblical, makes us heavenly minded rather than earthly minded. Our Lord's words here blast our deception away.
- 3. *It affects what we do with our lives our talents, time, treasures*** - We recognize that this life is temporary and therefore we live our lives differently, with an earnest expectation and hope of what lies ahead despite the challenges we may face here.