

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

SAVED WITHOUT A DOUBT
“Digging Deeper Into the Doctrine of Eternal Security”
The Unbreakable Chain of Eternal Security – Peace with God
Romans 5:1-11, Various Scripture

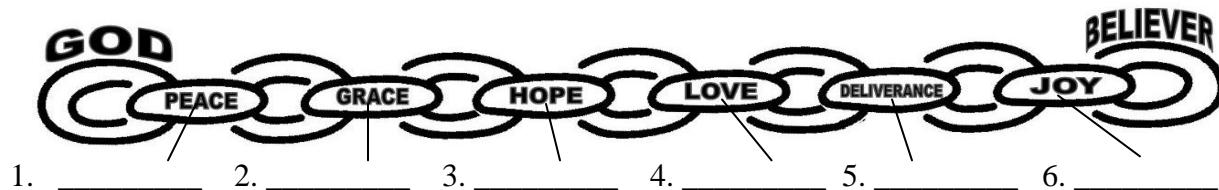
***Once Shaved Always Shaved story at the end of document**

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?**
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, underserved 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 man's.

-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!

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

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.

THE CERTAINTY OF HOPE

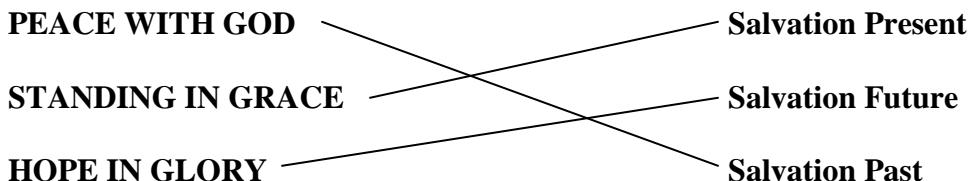
(1) Has God Really Promised us Future Glory? Yes

“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



(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.

1. 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.

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."