



SAVED ABSOLUTELY

Last week we saw where Jesus said that there are people who say they are Christians, but they are not. It was a warning to be sure. Well, you can be sure.

On a cold winter day in 1954, at FBC of Salida, Colorado, I got up out of my pew, walked down the aisle, went into a prayer room with the pastor, and asked Jesus Christ to be my Savior.

Fifty-seven years ago I began my journey with Jesus Christ into eternal life. I was a baby Christian. Sometimes my life did not reflect Christianity.

There have been moments in my walk with Jesus that I am ashamed of. There have been times I know I have grieved God.

Yet, even in those moments of disobedience and sin, God touched my heart and reminded me that I belonged to Him. Even when naughty, I remained His child. That's what He promised.

This doesn't mean that I used God simply as a fire-escape. I didn't become a Christian and say, "A-ha, now I can't be sent to hell, I'm going to go live like the devil." It doesn't work that way. Insincerity doesn't cut it with God.

You can be sure you are saved absolutely.

1. You can be sure.

1 John 5:13(NIV) I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

If you truly believed in Jesus, you cannot lose your salvation. You don't have to hope or guess or be pretty sure or be almost sure that you will go to heaven when you die—you can know! Listen to the words of Jesus...

John 10:27-29 (NIV) 27My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

Who gives eternal life? Jesus! (v. 28). If that's not enough, who secures it? God Himself! (v. 29). The enemies of our souls may be strong and mighty, but our God and Savior is stronger and mightier—none can snatch us out of His hand.

The Apostle Paul asked in Romans 8:35(NIV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Then he answered his own question: Romans 8:38-39(NIV) 38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If the power of God cannot keep us, then there is nothing in this Bible that is dependable or trustworthy or even worth believing in. But, the power of God does keep us.

If by Christ's death we can be saved, certainly by His life of power and intercession we can be kept saved (Rom. 5:10). So, how can we be sure? By realizing we don't save ourselves—God saves.

(1) Only God saves.

1 John 5:11(NIV) And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

John 5:24(NIV) "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

If you have doubts, or question from time to time your salvation, let me ask you, what kind of god do you believe in who would force you to live a life of uncertainty about the most important issue in your entire life—that is, where you will spend eternity?

Look at verse 11. Circle the word "God" and "given." Only God saves. Only He can give you eternal life.

Let me tell you just a little about this God of the Bible who has given us eternal life. Here are some big theological words to make the point.

(2) God is omniscient.

God knows everything. He knows everything about you. He knows where you are at all times. He knows when you are sad or happy. He knows when you have hurt yourself. He knows every thought you ever think, and what you are thinking right now.

God knows your heart. He knows if you really meant it when you asked Jesus to be your Savior. And God, will never, ever let you slip through a crack and be lost to Him.

(3) God is omnipresent.

God is everywhere. He fills up the universe with Himself. This is not pantheism—it doesn't mean that God is in the trees and bushes.

It means that the presence of God is everywhere. We can never get away from His presence and His influence. Let me tell you another little secret about God.

Not only is He everywhere, but for we Believers God gives us a special gift of Himself. That Gift is His Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

According to the Ephesians 1:13, when we believe in Jesus Christ God's Spirit enters into our souls and seals us forever as one of His children. Listen to what He says:

Ephesians 1:13(NIV) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

(4) God is omnipotent.

God is all-powerful. Because He is God, God can do anything. If He so desired God could squash this earth like a ripe plum. He could wipe out this universe with a simple word of command, just as when He created it.

God has the power to defeat sin and disease and death. He has the power to break into history and change it forever, just as He did that first Christmas 2000 years ago.

God is all powerful. He can do anything, including protecting you and me, His beloved children. Because of His love for us, God uses His all-power to give us the gift of eternal life, and never lets us go.

If God is all powerful and can do anything, doesn't it make sense that He would do what is necessary to let us know He loves us?

Would God say, “Look, I’ll put food on the table; I’ll make the sun rise and set, the rain fall, the sunshine, the crops to grow. I’ll provide a world with an atmosphere to meet your needs.

“But when it comes to your future, I’m going to keep you guessing. You really won’t know until you cross the finish line of death whether or not your future is in heaven.”

Is that the kind of God you want to trust? Of course not! And you don’t have to. God gives us eternal life. It’s simply ours when we believe in God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

2. Life is in Jesus.

1 John 5:12(NIV) He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. It couldn’t be simpler.

(1) God’s invitation is offered to all.

It’s that simple, but I don’t want to oversimplify this. Everyone can have Jesus Christ if they want. The decision to believe in Jesus is more than intellectual assent—it is commitment.

There are shallow and superficial so-called Christians because they’ve never really come to grips with Jesus Christ. You know the ones I’m talking about.

There’s never any indication in their life that they are a Believer until they run into some trouble. Then they come crying to the church for help.

There are churchy and religious people, but that’s as far as it goes. They, too, have never encountered the living Christ.

These are the ones who are “hoping” God will let them into His heaven. They have yet to say “yes” to His invitation to life. To accept, we must accept Jesus. Here’s how:

(2) You must repent.

Jesus often used this word. He said, “Repent and believe the good news” (Mark 1:15). And, “Unless you all repent, you, too, will all perish” (Luke 13:3).

He gave an indication of the interest of heaven when He said, “There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).

To repent means:

- (1) Recognize that you are lost and sinful in God's sight.
- (2) Admit (confess) it to God.
- (3) Believe in Jesus as your Savior and commit your life and will to Him.

Recognition of our lostness and sinfulness is essential. Many people can't get beyond this. They think they have lived good lives and there is no need to repent. Yes, there are good, decent people all around us.

But God is talking about our natures. We are sinners at heart, and we need redemption, we need God's gift of salvation.

(3) You must believe.

Remember, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13)

Belief means you believe:

- (a) that Jesus is who the Bible says He is—the Son of God who, with His death on the cross,
- (b) paid the price of the penalty for your sins,
- (c) that He rose back to life and lives today,
- (d) and you surrender (commit) your life to Him.

When you do this you immediately become a child of God. Do you understand? You really can know for certain from this day on that you are going to spend all of eternity in heaven.

When a person is asked, "Are you married?" the answer may be "yes" or "no", but cannot be, "I'm not sure." So it is with your salvation.

Application:

When you accept God's invitation to life with your whole heart and being, and give yourself to Jesus, God will save you for all eternity. "For all eternity!" You can be sure.