

Genesis, part 29 – Our Salvation in Jesus Christ, part 3: Some Eternal Security Questions

Imputed Righteousness – When we believe in Jesus Christ, God “credits our account” with the righteousness that (1) Jesus purchased on the cross for us, and (2) God deposits in our account as a gift.

Come Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love.

“Madam, **I** am the poor soul who wrote those words. And I would give a thousand lifetimes if I could get back the feelings I had then.” Richard Robinson

Question #1 – “What about a person who claims to be a follower of Christ, but their Christian life isn’t what it ought to be? Is their salvation still eternally secure?”

The problem with this question is that it’s based on a faulty understanding of God’s plan of salvation.

Human “good works” have nothing to do with it – before or after we are saved!

“Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by observing the Old Testament Law (i.e., by human good works).” Romans 3:20

“But now, a righteousness from God, which is **apart from** human performance, has been made known to us.” Romans 3:21

“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” Romans 3:22

“For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not of yourselves, it is a gift from God – **not the result of human works.**” Ephesians 2:8

We didn’t **get** our salvation because of **good performance**.

We can’t **lose** it because of **bad performance**.

It is the **undeserved grace of God** from start to finish.

This idea – that we get our salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, but we keep it by good works and religious activity – **is not new**.

“You foolish Galatians! Tell me one thing: did you receive eternal life by observing the Law (i.e., by good works/religious activity) or by believing God’s promise by faith?” Galatians 3:2

“Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the works of the flesh?” Galatians 3:3

Not only is it the **grace of God** that saves us, but it is the **grace of God** that keeps us saved – **not** our Christian lives “being what they ought to be.”

Whose Christian life is **ever what it ought to be**?

If the only followers of Christ who got into heaven were those whose “Christian lives are what they ought to be” – heaven would be empty!

Heaven has people in it because – as 2 Timothy 2:13 says – “Even if we are faithless, God remains faithful; He cannot deny who He is.”

Question #2 – “So because I’m eternally secure, it really doesn’t matter what kind of Christian life I live – right?”

The kind of earthly Christian life we live has **nothing** to do with our getting into heaven – but it has **everything** to do with the kind of reception we’ll receive when we arrive!

“For no other foundation can anyone lay (for their Christian life) than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 3:11

“Now, if anyone builds on this foundation, they can use gold, silver and precious stones – or wood, hay and stubble.” 1 Corinthians 3:12

The first kind of Christian life = One that uses “**gold, silver and precious stones.**”

This represents a Christian life characterized by obedience to God and service for Christ and living under the Lordship of Christ.

The second kind of Christian life = One that uses “**wood, hay and stubble.**”

This represents a Christian life characterized by disobedience to God and spiritual waywardness and living for self.

“Each person’s work will become clear . . . because it will be revealed by fire, and this fire shall test the quality of each person’s work.” 1 Corinthians 3:13

“If any person’s work that they have built on the foundation survives this test of fire, that person shall receive a reward.” 1 Corinthians 3:14

“But if any person’s work is burned up, that person shall suffer loss of reward; **yet he himself shall be saved . . .**” 1 Corinthians 3:15

When we get to heaven, God’s going to “open fire” on our Christian lives and when the smoke clears, God is going to see what survives.

The “gold, silver and precious stones” will still be there.

The “wood, hay and stubble” will all be burned up.

And then God will “reward us” for what survives!

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every person according to what they have done.” Revelation 22:12

“Look to yourselves, that you may not lose what you have worked for, but may win a full reward.”

2 John 8

Even if all a believer’s works get burned up and his Christian life brings him no reward – “. . . **yet he himself shall be saved . . .**” 1 Corinthians 3:15

The convicting work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

One of the “terms” of God’s contract with us as believers is that the Holy Spirit indwells us.

“ . . . He convicts people concerning sin . . .” John 16:8

“O LORD, rebuke me no longer in Your anger and chasten me not in Your wrath.” Psalm 38:1

“For Your arrows have sunk deep into me and Your hand has come down hard on me.” Psalm 38:2

“There is no soundness in my flesh and no health in my bones because of my sin.” Psalm 38:3

“My sins have gone over my head; as a heavy burden, they weigh too much for me.” Psalm 38:4

“My wounds grow foul and fester because of my folly; I am bent over and prostrate; I am utterly spent and crushed because of the tumult in my heart.” Psalm 38:5

“I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin.” Psalm 38:18

Anybody who says “eternal security gives license for believers to sin” has never had a head-on collision with the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives!

Question #3 – “What about a person who at one time claimed to be a Christian and then totally turns their back on Jesus – didn’t they ‘lose their salvation’?”

If this person **genuinely trusted Christ as their Savior** and then does this – the Bible is clear – **they will still be saved.**

“Even if we are faithless, God remains faithful . . .” 2 Timothy 2:13

In the vast majority of these cases, I believe the best explanation biblically is that these folks were never really “**saved**” to begin with.

Matthew 21 – Some people who profess to be followers of Christ have lots of “leaves” but no genuine relationship with Christ.

Matthew 13 (Parable of the Four Soils) – Some people initially respond to the Gospel, but there is no “depth of soil” in their life – so they wither away.

People Jesus Met, part 33 – The Crowd by the Sea of Galilee (Fruitfulness for Christ)

“They went out **from us** because they were not **of us**; for if they had been **of us**, they would no doubt have continued **with us**. But they went out **from us** so it might be evident to all that they were not **of us**.”
1 John 2:19

Question #4 – “What if I simply ‘lose the feeling’ like Richard Robinson did – does that mean that I lost my salvation?”

“ . . . shall not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

“ . . . no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

“ . . . has crossed over/is crossed over/always will be crossed over from death to eternal life.” John 5:24

“I give My sheep eternal life and they shall never perish . . .” John 10:28

As followers of Christ, our eternal security is not based on how we feel – it’s based on the **non-negotiable promises of God**, which remain the same regardless of **how** we feel.

So What?

Beware the “feeling-oriented life.”

As followers of Christ, the only way we can live a Christian life that has consistency, stability and resiliency is to live a life that has (1) God’s promises as the “engine” and (2) our feelings as the “caboose.”

“I will never leave you nor will I ever forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5

“I have a plan for you, for good and not for evil.” Jeremiah 29:11

“You shall hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk ye in it,’ . . .” Isaiah 30:21

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

(God’s promises in the Bible give us) “. . . hope that forms an anchor for our soul, steadfast and sure . . .” Hebrews 6:19

Train Illustration – **FACT – FAITH – FEELING**

Fact – God and His Word

Faith – my trust in God and His Word

Feeling – the result of my faith and obedience

“God is not a man, that He should lie . . .” Numbers 23:19

#1 – **Learn** the promises of God

#2 – **Believe** the promises of God

#3 – **Rest all our weight on** the promises of God