

Lesson 9

Eternal Security

In lesson seven we learned the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins. Lesson eight taught us that salvation cannot be gained through any merit on our part. We must trust in Christ and His death on the cross for our sins. Now we come to two vitally important questions about salvation. Is it possible to know that you have salvation? After believing the gospel, is it possible to lose your salvation?

Assurance of Salvation

Will you go to heaven when you die? Having asked many people this question, I have received answers such as: "I hope so"; "I think so"; "I don't know"; and "No one can know until he dies." Let us consider this important question: *Is it possible to know that you have salvation?* Some would say that it is a sin of presumption to say that you know that you are saved. They insist that no one can know this until his life ends and he comes before God. What does the Bible say?

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (I John 5:13). Did you notice the word "know" in I John 5:13? It is not the sin of presumption to say that you know that you are saved. God's Word says that we can **know** that we have eternal life. The Scriptures say "he that believeth not God hath made him a liar" (I John 5:10). If the word of God says that we can **know** that we have eternal life, then we must not contradict God as though He was a liar.

In lesson seven and eight we studied how to be saved. If you believe what God has said about His Son, Jesus Christ, you can **know** that you are saved. It is very dangerous to say that you *hope* you will go to heaven or you *think* you will go to heaven. You must **know** that your sins are forgiven and that you have a sure future in heaven. After you die, it is too late! The opportunity to be saved is gone. *Now* is the time to make sure that you have eternal life!

Peace With God

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1-2). Chapters 1-4 of Romans teach that all men are sinners and are under condemnation. They, also, tell how to be justified by faith in Christ's death on the cross. Chapter five begins with the words "therefore being justified by faith." Thus, chapter five is addressing those who have already been saved (or justified) by faith. Verse one continues with the words "we have." This chapter is now going to tell us *what we have*---what blessings are ours with the gift of salvation.

The first blessing mentioned is "**we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ." Peace is the absence of anger and strife. This means that God is not angry with us. It is important to

note that Romans 5 does *not* say "If you obey God, then you have peace with Him" or "If you don't lose your faith, then you have peace with Him." Every person who believes the gospel in Romans chapters 1-4 has peace with God. This is a permanent possession for every one who has been justified by faith. Therefore, God will no longer be angry with you! You have peace with God! You will *never* experience the wrath of God.

A Standing in Grace

Secondly, we have "access by faith into this **grace wherein we stand.**" We have a permanent standing in the grace of God. This makes it possible for God to deal with us positively even when we sin. God is not going to deal with us in anger even when we are unfaithful to Him. We have a permanent position of fellowship with Jesus Christ. "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (I Corinthians 1:9). Notice that this fellowship is not based on whether *we* are faithful, but instead states that "God is faithful."

A Hope of Glory

Thirdly, we "**rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**" Romans 3:23 says that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." In the past, the glory of God was something for us to *fear*. If we had died in our sin, the glory of God would have sent us to an eternal punishment in hell. However, we no longer fear God's glory. Now we *rejoice* as we look forward to sharing in the glory of God through all eternity. The word "hope" in the Bible means that we anxiously look forward to something that is sure. *Everyone* who is justified by faith will participate in the glory of God after departing this world.

Review Questions

True or False

1. We cannot do anything to earn the forgiveness of sins.
2. The book of I John was written so that we will not be too confident of our salvation, but will keep trying to live a good life.
3. We have peace with God when we keep His commandments.
4. God has given us grace, but will take it away if we disobey Him.

Multiple Choice

5. If you have been justified by faith:
 - a. You have peace with God

- b. God will not be angry with you unless you sin
- c. You must confess your sins to have peace with God
- d. You must try to keep the commandments to have forgiveness

6. The Bible teaches that:

- a. We should never be so proud as to think that we are surely saved.
- b. After we die, we will find out if we will go to heaven.
- c. It is important for us to know right now that we have eternal life.
- d. Those who believe the gospel can be sure of salvation unless they die in a state of sin.

7. We can know that we are saved because:

- a. We feel peace within our heart.
- b. In the Bible, God promises salvation to those who place their faith in Christ's death on the Cross.
- c. Water baptism washes away our sins.
- d. God is too loving to send anyone to hell.

Fill in the Blanks

- 8. We ____ in hope of the glory of God.
- 9. "that ye may ___ that ye have eternal life"
- 10. We have a permanent standing in the ____ of God.

For Further Study

- 1. Read II Corinthians 5:1. What do we *know* according to this verse?
- 2. Who is our life? What will happen to us in the future? (See Colossians 3:3-4)
- 3. What do we *know* according to II Corinthians 4:14?
- 4. Read Romans 5:9. Is it possible that we might one day face the wrath of God?
- 5. In this life we may suffer many things, but what does the future hold? (See Romans 8:18)
- 6. Will we be found guilty in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ? (See I Corinthians 1:8)

7. Read I Corinthians 12:27 and Ephesians 5:30. How does this assure us that we will never lose our salvation?

8. What was Christ made in the past? What have we been made now? How do we know that we will not be condemned? (See II Corinthians 5:21)

9. In what way is our future linked with Christ? (See Romans 8:17)

10. Is it possible that the law will curse us in the day of judgment? (See Galatians 3:13)

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