

ETERNAL SECURITY

A SUMMARY AND DISPENSATIONAL APPROACH

“But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live?”

~ Ezekiel 18:24

1. Defining the Issue

- a. A longstanding (and serious) controversy in Christianity at large.
- b. Is salvation eternally secure? Are we once saved always saved? Is salvation by faith or faith and works? Can we lose our salvation? Recommitment/rededications/can I repent?
- c. It is often framed around Calvinist v. Arminian, b/c of “free will” and “predestination”
- d. Both have Biblical support – it is not enough to be Biblical, we must be dispensational

2. What It Means

- a. Before understanding how it is eternal, you must understand how salvation is secured
- b. Salvation is through the finished work of Christ on the cross – nothing else! (grace/faith)
- c. It is not about eternity (after we die/before we were saved).
 - i. The issue is only til we die, making it really about lifetime security/sin insurance.
- d. It is not about God’s power, control, holiness, ability, love.
 - i. Losing salvation is always a question of man’s failure and sin.
- e. It is not about whether sin is acceptable to God. It never is. God hates sin always.
- f. The Biblical concept is assurance – Deu 28:58-66; Isaiah 32:17; 1 John 5:13

3. The Biblical Case

- a. It is either too simple or wrong to think the Bible teaches one thing on every page
- b. Does sin destroy our secure salvation?
 - i. God chose you (Calvin) – Rom 9:18
 - ii. God gives and keeps promises – Jd 24; Jn 6:39-40; 10:28-29; 2Co 1:20; Ro 11:29
 - iii. Grace abounds over sin – Rom 5:20; Rom 8:38-39
 - iv. Sealed until the day of redemption – Eph 1:13
- c. What happens to the righteous who sins?
 - i. The wicked shall die (righteous judgment) – Eze 18:20-26
 - ii. Cutting people off from standing – Ge 17:14, Mal 2:12, Jn 15:1-6; Rom 11:22-23
 - iii. Falling away – 2 Pet 3:17; Heb 6:4-6
 - iv. Fruit inspection – Matt 7:19-23; Luke 8:13; 2 Pet 2:20-22
 - v. Requirements to walk, work, endure – Mark 13:13, Lk 14:27; 2Jn 8-10
 - vi. God takes away a portion – Luke 12:45-46; Rev 22:19

4. The Dispensational Contribution

- a. Dispensational Bible study respects time and audience – when and who?
- b. Progressive revelation means God is teaching us progressively not the same thing.
- c. Salvation is by grace through faith – faith in what? Jam 2:18 vs. Rom 4:5
- d. When the offer of salvation changes, so does its terms/timing of receipt
- e. The Biblical issue is about “full assurance” – Heb 6:9-15; 10:18-22
 - i. Israel does not yet have Isaiah 32:17 or the kingdom come (salvation to them)
- f. Full assurance for Israel from Christ’s priestly activity, God’s promise, and good works
- g. Full assurance for the BoC – according to the revelation of the mystery – Col 2:2
- h. Our life of security comes from our position in Christ, not our place in a covenant.