

**Text: Hebrews 7:25**

**Title: "Thank God I'm Saved!"**

## **INTRODUCTION**

As a child of God this Thanksgiving weekend we have a great opportunity to thank God for our salvation through Jesus Christ.

- I thank God I'm saved. Amen?
- But I also thank God that I can know that I am saved.
- Better yet, I thank God I am saved and that I can never lose my salvation.

Turn with me to Hebrews 7:25. Many of our SS classes have been studying the book of Hebrews over the past several weeks. I think it is interesting that the book of Hebrews has some difficult passages that some have misinterpreted to mean that a Christian can lose their salvation. But the book of Hebrews also contains some of the most unmistakably clear passages that assure us that the child of God enjoys eternal security. Read Hebrews 7:25.

**Hebrews 7:25 (NIV) - Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.**

Through the years as a pastor I've talked with many people who struggle with the security of their salvation. They have all kinds of doubts about their salvation being forever. At times they have serious doubts that they are saved.

I've discovered that those doubts come for two reasons:

- They really have never been saved. They can't point to a time when they put their faith in Jesus Christ for the gift of eternal life. They never gave all that they knew of themselves to all that they knew of God. And their doubts come from the conviction of the Holy Spirit. If that's where you are today, at the end of the service I will give you an opportunity to settle that once and for all.
- Others, however, have doubts about their salvation, not because they have never been saved, but because they don't understand the salvation that is there's in Jesus Christ. There are times that they don't "feel" saved, or times that they occasionally fall to temptation and they wonder, "I wouldn't do those kinds of things if I was really a Christian."

I want to give you several reasons this morning from God's Word that hopefully will settle it in your mind that once you are saved you are eternally secure in the family of God.

Note: I'm going to take you to a number of passages because I want you to see that the full sweep of the teaching of the Word of God indicates that our salvation is eternal, not temporary. Someone may point to one verse that seems to teach to the contrary, but one of the basic principles of interpreting God's Word is to interpret the unclear passages in light of those that are clear. So I'll give you many clear Scriptural evidences.

I'm saved forever ...

## 1. BECAUSE OF THE PROMISE OF THE SCRIPTURES

**Romans 8:38-39 (NIV) - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither 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.**

There is no more all-inclusive statement than that. There is nothing in heaven above, earth beneath, hell below, no creature, no principality, no power, nothing that you can name, or imagine that could possibly separate you from the love of God. That's the promise of God's Word.

Romans 8 is such a powerful chapter? It begins with the promise that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. That means no judgment. And the chapter ends with the promise that there is no separation from God's love shown us in Christ.

Let me show you another great promise. Turn to John 10:27-29.

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

What tremendous assurance we have! Jesus said, "I give them eternal life and they shall never perish." Our security is not based upon our holding on to God, but upon God holding on to us. We are in the hands of Jesus, and Jesus is in the hands of the Father. We are doubly secure. No one has the power to pry back the fingers of God and snatch us from the hands of God.

I'm saved forever...

## 2. BECAUSE OF THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

**Hebrews 10:14 (NIV) - because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.**

The offering of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross bought salvation for you, sanctified you, made you perfect in the sight of God, once and for all, now and forever. Once you and I put our trust in the sacrifice of Christ for our sins on the cross, the power of that sacrifice takes over. He makes "perfect forever." In other words, He saves forever those who have put their trust in that sacrifice on the cross.

If I could be saved, then lost again, then this would not be the case. My salvation would not be eternal.

The reason that some people don't believe in the eternal security of the believer is because they see salvation is something that is earned by our sacrifice rather than by the sacrifice of Christ.

**ILLUSTRATION** – While we were in India a few of us stopped into a shop to look at some souvenirs. One of our team asked about a particular trinket and the shop owner immediately began to tell the Hindu myth that was behind that trinket. He became a Hindu evangelist to us. When he finished, we asked him if he would mind us telling him the facts of the Gospel, and how Jesus Christ died for our sins so that we could have eternal life. But the man was not convinced. He said, “No. It’s all up to us. We do bad things that go in one pile. We do good things that go into another pile. And if our good pile is bigger than the bad pile then when we die we get to move up the ladder of human existence, and we come back in another life as a wealthier and more important person. And if the bad pile is bigger than the good pile, then we come back in a lower form of existence like a cow or a spider.

This is what makes Christianity unique. All other religions of the world are about the sacrifices man makes to get to God. The Bible teaches about the sacrifice that Jesus made that was sufficient to bring us to God.

There’s another reason I’m saved forever ...

### **3. BECAUSE OF GOD'S CONTINUING WORK IN OUR LIVES**

**Philippians 1:6 (NIV) - being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**

Who started this salvation in you? Did you seek God or did God first seek you? Of course, God began the work in us. It all starts with God, not with us. So salvation is God beginning a good work in us. But God doesn’t just save us and say, “Now go out and see if you can keep what I’ve given to you. Make sure you don’t lose it.”

No, no, no! God begins the work of salvation and continues that work. He carries it on to completion until the very end.

And the Bible says, "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Now here's another reason we can be sure of our eternal security.

### **4. BECAUSE OF THE DECISION OF OUR SOVEREIGN GOD**

**Romans 8:29-30 (NIV) - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.**

There's a wonderful sequence of events.

**Step #1 - Romans 8:29 (NIV) - For those God foreknew...**

That simply means that God knew us before we knew Him. He started long ago drawing us to Himself. And he had a purpose in mind.

**Step #2 - Romans 8:29 (NIV) - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son...**

The end product is that we would become like Jesus in all our ways. That's the goal of our salvation.

**Step #3 - Romans 8:30 (NIV) - And those he predestined, he also called...**

This call is an invitation ... but it's more than that. He calls us and then works in our hearts to help us respond to that call.

**Step #4 - Romans 8:30 (NIV) - And ... those he called, he also justified...**

And when we respond to the call we are justified. Our sins are forgiven ... past, present and future.

**Step #5 - Romans 8:30 (NIV) - And ... those he justified, he also glorified.**

But God is not finished. We are saved, but we aren't perfect yet. And we won't be until God brings the final installment of salvation, when all the creation of God will be glorified ... completely renewed.

God finishes what He starts. Notice that all of this is already accomplished for us in Christ. It is as good as done. We will experience this step by step in our lives, but it is already accomplished in the purposes of God.

Now there's another reason we believe in eternal security.

**5. BECAUSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

Note: Sometimes people object to the doctrine of eternal security of the believer because they say that it just gives people the freedom to live anyway they want to live.

**ILLUSTRATION** – I have a book in my library about the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge. It was built in the 1930s. When they were building that bridge, spanning those swirling, icy waters, the bridge was so tall that people looking down doing that iron work got dizzy, and they were frightened, and they could hardly concentrate on their work, and some of the workers let go and plunged to their death. Then at great expense, they built a net under that bridge, a safety net for the workers. When the safety net was there, do you think more people

fell or fewer people fell? Fewer. They didn't say, "The nets there, I can be careless now." They said, "The net is there, I can now concentrate on what I'm doing."

You see, something happens to us that is real when we are saved. I become a new person on the inside. God puts in me a new heart that wants to do His will and obey His commands.

When God looks at me, he sees me "in Christ." I am "in Christ" because I have received Christ. I am inside the circle of His love and power through salvation.

**ILLUSTRATION** - There's a wonderful illustration of this in Genesis. The Bible tells us that our salvation is like Noah's ark. You know the story from the book of Genesis how God was about to send a flood upon the earth. He told Noah to build an ark for himself, his family and the animals so they wouldn't be destroyed by the flood. And when that giant ship was completed God told Noah to take his family and the animals inside the safety and security of the ark. And that ark is a picture of what it means to be "in Christ."

And then when Noah came in the ark, the Bible says that God shut the door. Now remember that ark is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as Noah went into the ark, I have come into Christ. And then God shut the door.

Now why did God shut the door? First, to shut Noah in and, second, to shut the water out. And just as Noah was sealed into that ark, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise.

Now how safe was Noah from that flood? He was as safe as the ark. Now if the ark had gone down, Noah would have gone down. If the ark survives, Noah survives. You see friend, Noah may have fallen down inside of the ark, but He couldn't fall out of it, because He was shut into that ark by the grace of God.

And the same is true when we are "in Christ." There's another reason we believe in the eternal security of the believer.

## **6. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF ETERNAL LIFE**

**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."**

Eternal life is not something you get when you die. It's something you get when you believe. You get everlasting life the moment you believe. Now if I have everlasting (eternal) life, when will it end? It can't end. If it doesn't last forever, then my salvation can't be eternal life.

When we are saved, we cross over from death to life. There's another reason we believe in the eternal security of the believer.

## **7. BECAUSE OF THE INTERCESSION OF CHRIST**

**Hebrews 7:25 (NIV) - Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.**

That one verse proves eternal security. It means that because He's praying for you, He's praying that you'll be kept, and His prayers are always answered. Praise the Lord!

Do you see that many times doubting our salvation is not really doubting our salvation, it is doubting Jesus Christ ... what He did, what He continues to do, and what He will do.

Now there's one more reason we believe in the eternal security of the believer.

## **8. BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF GOD**

**1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV) - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.**

Just think about our salvation. It's described as an inheritance ... something we didn't earn, but rather something that is passed to me. It can never perish, spoil or fade. It is kept secure in heaven for us. Now will we be able to get to it? Yes, God has provided for that. Through faith we are shielded by God's power.

My friend, you're kept by God. You're not kept by yourself.

**ILLUSTRATION** - I go back to the illustration of Noah and the ark. God didn't tell Noah to go and hold on to the ark. That would have been hard when the storms and the rains came for 40 days and nights. Noah and his family would not have been strong enough to hold on. That's why God put them into the ark. They were kept by God, they didn't just hold on themselves. God will make sure that we are safe to the end.

**ILLUSTRATION** – I was thinking about this last week as we were all together for Thanksgiving out in the country. My little granddaughter Caroline and I went for a walk in the woods. The ground was uneven and she kept falling down. I said, “Caroline, hold my hand. And she reached up and took hold of my thumb. But even at that, she would still fall down. So while she held on to my thumb, I wrapped the rest of my fingers around her little hand and held on to her. Even when she let go, I still had hold of her.

You see that's it. The deal is not, “I have to be strong enough to hold on to God?” The deal is “God is strong enough to hold on to me, even when I'm not strong enough to hold on to Him.”

Thank God I'm saved!