

“HOW SAFE ARE THE SAVED?”

The word “saved” is a key word in the Christian’s vocabulary. It is used over 50 times in the New Testament and denotes the state of those who have come to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Saved from what? The Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21) Jesus is our Savior, He saves from sin. Those who turn to Him in repentance and faith are “saved.” That is easy to understand.

However, the question often arises, “How safe are the saved?” The following is a four-part answer to that question:

We Are Kept Saved By The God Who Is All-Powerful

Theologians use the word “omnipotent” when referring to God’s power. The word “omnipotent” is from the Latin “omnis” which means “all” and “potens” which means “potent”. Put together the word is “omnipotent” and means having unlimited power, all-powerful.

Peter writes that we “are kept by the power of God.” (1 Peter 1:5). The power that keeps the believer is “the power of God”, that is the power of the God Who has unlimited power, all-power. For any person to doubt that such a God could not and would not be able to “keep” them is either the height of audacity, the breadth of ignorance or the depth of arrogance or all three! And yet, I have met many who say they are trusting Christ for salvation but are not sure they will reach heaven.

The only hope that we Christians have that we will ever reach heaven, is the truth that God keeps us by His all-powerfulness. If it were left up to our own resources and resolutions no one of us would ever be saved. Let us praise God for His saving and keeping power.

We Are Kept Saved By The God Who Is Our Parent

God sent His Son to die for us, drew us to Himself, saved us, imparted the Holy Spirit to us, inserted us into His family and then - cast us out? That has never happened and will never happen.

“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” (John 17:12) If you are born again, you can never be lost unless you are the Judas to whom Jesus was referring, who was not born again. Once born into God’s family, we can never be un-born! The Parent Who birthed us, holds us!

ILLUST. More than once have I heard persons say, to whom I was witnessing, “I am afraid I can’t hold out if I accept Jesus as my Savior.” It has been my delight to show

them from scripture that if they “lay hold on eternal life” (I Tim. 6:12) by faith, the One Who imparts eternal life will hold on to them!

We Are Kept Saved By The God Who Is Present In Us

When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure to return to the Father, He said, concerning the Holy Spirit, “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” (John 14:16-17)

Jesus informed the disciples that the Holy Spirit will be in them *forever!* What does His being “in you” mean? Ephesians 1:13 tells us: “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

Part of the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit is the “sealing” ministry. God has put His seal within us and we are His forever. And I remind you that “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (I John 4:4) Hallelujah!

We Are Kept Saved By The God Who Keeps His Promises

I will list just a few of God’s promises in this regard:

- “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You.” (Isaiah 42:6);
- “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (II Peter 3:9)
- “And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.” (I John 2:25);
- “He who promised is faithful.(Hebrews 10:23);
- Paul said he was “persuaded that what He had promised He was also able to perform.” (Rom. 4:21)

One of my favorite promises is John 10:27-29. Jesus said, “*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand.*” (John 10:27-29)

ILLUST. The following happened at one of the mid-week services of the first church that I was privileged to serve as Pastor. About 40 to 50 were present and among them was a lady who was visiting for the first time. I was speaking on the passage cited above in which Jesus said, “no one is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand.”

I said something like this: “No one in heaven above, on earth or beneath the earth can take us out of the Heavenly Father’s hand. In order to do so someone would have to be greater than God.” Then I asked the following question, “In view of Jesus’ statement, do you believe

that it would be possible for Him to lose any of His children”? To my surprise, and to the surprise of the Bible Study group that evening, the visiting lady spoke up and said emphatically, “Yes!”

I was now on the spot. I did not wish to call undue attention to the lady neither did I want her emphatic “yes!” to be the final answer. I said to her, “Dear lady, Jesus said that no one could take them out of His hand and He added, ‘My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand.’ Do you believe that statement from the lips of the Lord Jesus?” She answered just as emphatically as before, “Yes!”

I was now not only surprised but confused. And while I was regaining my mental equilibrium she said, “No one can pluck us out of His hand but we can wiggle ourselves out!” The absurdity of her remark was evident on the faces of the assembled group and I thought it best to move on with our study which I did. It seems, that contrary to all the evidence, there are those who prefer to be eternally insecure and are determined to believe that they can undo what God has done.

What God initiates He consummates. “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 1:6) God finishes what He starts. The saved are safe. What a God! What a Guard we have as the Sovereign sentinel of our souls!

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