

Faith and Reason

Charles H. Spurgeon

Once Reason came along, and heard a man cry, "I am guilty. Guilty!"

She stopped, and said, "The man is guilty. God condemns the guilty; therefore this man will be condemned." She went away and left the man condemned, ruined, and quivering with fear.

Faith came and heard the same cry, rendered more bitter by the cruel judgment of Reason. Faith stopped and said, "The man is guilty. Christ died for the guilty. The man will be saved." Her logic was right. The man lifted up his head, and rejoiced.

Reason came one day, and saw a man naked, and said, "He hath not on a wedding garment. Can naked souls appear before the judgment bar of God? Should they have a place at the supper of the Lamb? The man is naked; he must be cast out, for naked (unsaved) ones cannot enter heaven!"

Then Faith came by and said, "The man is naked. Christ wrought a robe of righteousness. He must have made it for the naked. He would not have made it for those who have a robe of their own. The robe is for the naked man, and he shall stand in it before God." His logic was right and just.

Reason one day heard a man say that he was very good and righteous. She saw him go up to

Our road has a hopeless end, unless we follow an endless hope."

the temple, and heard him pray, "Lord, I thank thee that I am not as other men."

Said Reason, "That man is better than others, and he will be accepted." She was wrong for, lo! He went out, and although he thought he would not face God's judgment, was shocked to find that Reason was wrong. He did receive God's wrath for his sins.

Salvation by Faith and Grace

Dr. Hoge

Faith saves, and grace saves. Faith is the instrument, and grace is the Divine efficacy. Faith is the channel, and grace the heavenly stream. Faith is the finger that touches the garment's fringe, and grace the virtue that pours from the Saviour's heart.

Faith cannot scale the dreadful precipice from where our sinful nature has fallen, but it can lay hold on to the rope which grace has let down even into our hands from the top, and which will draw up again with all the burden faith can bind to it. Christ reaches down from heaven, and faith reaches up from earth, and each hand grasps the other; one in weakness, the other in power.

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Saved for Sure!

Bill Brinkworth

One of the most disputed doctrines taught in the Bible is that of eternal security. The question many have is, "If one is saved, can that salvation be lost?" The Bible clearly teaches that once we are truly saved, we will always be saved.

After we're saved, we will still sin. The soul is saved from hell, but we will still have the same old flesh we were born with; and it will do



wrong, if we do not keep it in submission. Our sin grieves the Holy Spirit until we ask the Lord to forgive our trespasses against Him. It does not mean we have lost our salvation. We are still sinners, but are forgiven.

To say, "Well, since I'm saved, and I cannot lose it; I'll do anything I want," is ridiculous and unbiblical. When one gets saved, the Holy Spirit dwells inside. A person will be most mis-

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Salvation, Not by Good Deeds

Dr. Guthrie

Observe what happens when the cry at sea is shouted, "Man overboard!" All rush to the side of the vessel and lean over the side. With quickly beating hearts, all watch for the place where the air bubbles tell where the man has been washed overboard. After some moments of breathless anxiety, a head is seen to emerge from a wave. The drowning man has never learned to swim, yet, with the first breath he draws, he begins to thrash about in the water. With great efforts he attempts to shake off the grasp of death, and by the kicking of his legs and movements of his arms, he attempts to keep his head from sinking. It may be that these desperate



struggles exhaust his strength, and sink him all the sooner; nevertheless that drowning man makes instinctive and convulsive efforts to save himself.

So, happens when a soul be-

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erable, if they continue in sin. They will grieve the Spirit of God and will lose their joy, and the Holy Spirit will not work in their lives. If they are really saved, they will not want to do anything they want, but only what pleases their new spiritual Father.

Perhaps many that claim to be saved, but live ungodly lives, have reached a point where they are no longer hearing the convicting voice of the Spirit. They then wonder why their lives are without joy and peace. God may give them over to the consequences of their sin (Romans 1:21-32), since they do not heed His commandments. Saved for sure is not a license to sin.

Here are a few principles the Bible teaches about the eternal security of one's salvation:

Saved because it was given and not earned. No one did anything to get salvation, other than accept Christ's finished work on the cross for his salvation; so no one can do anything to lose it! If you accept Christ as your payment for sin, you can know that you have eternal life, not "I hope so", "I think so", or "maybe".

"... God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life;

and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 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 5:11-13 Also: John 3:16 & Romans 5:14-17

Saved by belief! If you do not believe that Jesus really paid the price for all your sins any more, then you did not believe in the first place. People do not lose a true belief. If they change a belief, they usually admit, "Well, I didn't really understand before," or something similar.

"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ... He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:15-18 Also: Acts 10:43, I John 5:10

Saved by His works, and not ours. Salvation is given because Christ's blood paid the price for our sins. Salvation is never gotten by anything we can do, except to receive the free gift. Those that think they "lost" their salvation usually believe there is something they did in the first place to have earned it. If not saved by faith alone, a

person is not saved!

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2: 8-9 Also: Titus 2:3-6, II Timothy 1:8-10

Saved and safe! When we are saved, we are safely in His grasp and nothing can take His gift of salvation out of His hand, not even our mistakes!

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." John 10: 27-29 Also: John 6:37, John 17:11-12

Saved and born into the family of God! Another terminology for being "saved," is being "born again". We are born again and have a soul that is alive unto Christ and are born into the family of God. Once a family member, although certainly undeserving, we are always a family member! I can be disobedient and perhaps rebellious to my parents; but I am still their son, no matter what I do.

"... Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3 Also: Romans 8:13-17

There is, unfortunately, a lot thought about salvation that is not taught in the Bible. Although none deserves a promise for eter-

"Not sure why you are here, or where you are going? You are lost!"

nity with God, the Bible says there is a way to have God's promise of going there. If one believes and admits he is a sinner, and accepts Christ's finished work on the cross as payment for his sin; anyone, no matter what sin they have committed, can be forgiven. None of us deserves such a wonderful gift as salvation from the wages of our sin, but God, with His love and grace, offers it to all that will receive it.

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gins to first feel and cry, "I perish," when the horrible conviction rushes into their soul that they know they are lost; when it feels itself going down beneath a load of guilt into the depth of the wrath of God. Like a drowning man, who will clutch at straws and twigs to keep from perishing, it will seize on anything, however worthless, that promises salvation from hell. Thus many poor souls toil and spend weary, unprofitable years in the attempt to establish a righteousness of their own, and find in the deeds of the law protection from its curse.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

"If you believe heaven can be gained by doing good deeds, how many does it take? 10, 100, 100,000? No number can ever be found in God's Word, as good works for getting one to heaven are never mentioned in the Bible!"