

## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MANKIND PART FIFTEEN

We have for the first fourteen Parts looked at God's Sovereignty from a Biblical perspective in establishing the theology behind it. We will move now to look from that perspective into that which we are most concerned about. In this post and for

the next few will we look at our Eternal Security and answer some of our questions. Can we lose our salvation? This is a heavy question. More than five decades ago, I believed that Jesus paid for my sins, but there have certainly been many times I have sinned in the thousands upon thousands of days since. There have been times when I di not listen to

God as I should, when I was far more focused on what I wanted to do than what God wanted to do in me. Was I in danger of losing my salvation during those years? That is a terrifying idea.

This is a big issue because some Christians fear from day-to-day about whether they are saved. These dear sous beg God's forgiveness at the altar every time they go to church because they are in constant fear of losing their salvation. On the other hand, others have no fear of God at all, wantonly doing whatever they like because they gave their lives to Christ once years before and assume they are on their way to heaven. It is important to have a Biblical view in this debate.

The Calvinist doctrine teaches that we who are saved through faith in Christ finished work were predestined before the foundation of the world. It was God who chose us, and we are saved through faith in Christ only by the initiative of and the completed work of Jesus Christ. God made us alive in Christ in the first place, giving us the ability to know Him and serve Him, so it is impossible for us to destroy the work that God has done. We have been born again, and there is no way to become unborn. Since we did not earn our salvation in any way – it is completely a free gift – then there is no way we can lose it.

Armenianists disagree. Their doctrine teaches that God gave us free will. They believe that we cannot choose God without His grace working within us, but we decide whether to embrace that grace and to walk

with Christ. Because we are saved only as long as we abide in Christ, we also have the possibility of falling away.

We can ask which one is correct, but that is not the real question. They are both correct, but they are both incomplete. For those of you who attend a corporate church you need to understand the doctrine they believe in and what the pastor is teaching. This is fundamental to your understanding your eternal security.

## **Security in Christ**

There is clear Scripture to give us confidence that those who are truly (the operative word) born again, who have trusted (through faith) the Lord (title) Jesus (name) Christ (mission or mantel) for salvation is secure. When we accept Jesus Christ as out Savior, we are born again. We have been adopted into God's family as His children. We are new creations (a complete regenerated body – a change in our DNA) in Christ.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17

It is the Shepherd's job to keep the sheep; they do not keep themselves. We may stumble, we may backslide, we may lose rewards, but we are sealed by the Holy Spirit, and Jesus is able to keep us in Him until the Judgment Day.

"27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 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

"38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

"13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 1:13-14

"24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Jude 1:24-25

The Bible says these things clearly. When Jesus says nobody is able to pluck His sheep from His hand, we trust that means us too.