

## What Every Christian Ought to Know - Adrian Rogers

### About Eternal Security - Chapter 3

Read John 10:27-29. Mike Croak would say. "You can't say it any clearer than the way it is written in the Bible." Regarding Eternal security, when we accept Christ as our savior then we cannot lose our salvation.

Fanny Crosby had it right when she penned the hymn "Blessed Assurance." "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God. Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood."

As your child grew up or is growing up, you will see them accomplish numerous things in school, in sports or on the job. None of these accomplishments matter as much as seeing them claim the salvation that only Jesus can bring. Nothing compares to seeing them baptized to tell the world that they belong to Jesus. For a parent that truly is Blessed Assurance, almost as much as when they accepted Jesus as their savior for themselves.

In the three verses in John 10 that we read earlier, Jesus is speaking in a parable which is a way to get your point or an unfamiliar concept across by using a topic familiar to the listener. The familiar topic is sheep. The unfamiliar concept is the security of your salvation. He says that if you are my follower (sheep), then He has given us eternal life and no one can ever take us away from Him. Simply put, if you are a believer, a true Christian then you can never lose your salvation.

There are denominations that do not believe this fact. I was raised in the Church of Christ. This is one difference between the beliefs of a Baptist and a member of the Church of Christ. Jesus said it and we believe it. The C of C uses a word that as Baptists, we do not. It is "Backsliding". According to this term, you accept Christ as your Savior but in time you fall away and no longer believe.

They came up with that term based on human behavior. Adrian Rogers calls it Spiritual Health. You will have highs in your life where you are close to God. And you will have lows where God seems nowhere in sight. God never moves away from us. It is us, we move away from God. I believe that God will pursue you to bring you back. Did you lose your salvation? No! You are either one of Jesus' sheep or not. Read Romans 8:38-39.

The parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15:3-7. When you return to God, all Heaven celebrates. This parable is teaching about new believers but I believe it can be applied to old believers too. At times our side of the relationship with God falters. This doesn't mean our salvation is gone.

Consider the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-31. He decides that he doesn't want to be in the family and goes off on his own with his dad's blessing and money. When he returns, his dad welcomes him with open arms. This is another parable to teach us that when we walk away from God, He will welcome us back with open arms. No strings attached. We didn't lose our standing with God, we didn't lose our salvation and get it anew. It was always with us.

## **Spiritual Productivity**

When this class studied “Satan”, we learned that once we accept Jesus as our savior, he can’t take us out of Jesus’ hand. He tries to do the next best thing. He tries to prevent us from being spiritually productive. God wants us to share Jesus with those in our sphere of influence, at work, at school, anyone that we meet.

If Satan can get you questioning your salvation or thinking that your salvation is not secure, then you don’t have the confidence needed to talk to someone about salvation through Jesus. Consider the apostle Paul, we won’t know how many people Paul led to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Does God expect us to be that successful at sharing the Gospel? No. He does want us to help reach others. 2 Peter 3:9 says that God wants everyone to come to repentance and turn to Jesus Christ for salvation.

Adrian Rogers says, “I’m not endeavoring to keep myself safe; I know I am saved. I’m saved by the grace of God; therefore I can be productive with grateful service. *When we are confident of the future, we can concentrate on the present.*”

## **They Never Were a Christian in the First Place**

Eternal security applies to a person that is truly saved. If you come forward at church or pray a prayer to make your parents happy or to get them off your back or if you are coming for some other reason, then you are most likely not saved.

Adrian Rogers says eternal security is for someone “who has become a partaker of the divine nature, somebody who is heaven born and therefore heaven bound, a person who has had a new birth, a person who has become genuinely a child of God.”

Consider the Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus day. They acted religious and close to God but they were in it for some other reason. Just because you act like a Christian or look like a Christian doesn’t mean you are one.

I heard a joke years ago. A woman was pulled over for speeding. When the officer asked her for her license and registration, she got indignant and verbally assaulted the officer. He asked her to get out the car and arrested her for car theft because this could not be her car based on how she was acting and the cross hanging from the mirror and a fish on the back bumper.

We can go through life behaving one way on Sunday and behave differently the rest of the week. Read Matthew 7:22-23. No one wants to think that Jesus will say to them, *‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’* when we die or find ourselves left behind when the Rapture occurs. God wants a full time Christian, someone willing to walk with Him every day and not just on Sunday.

Read John 10:27-28. Jesus is looking for Christians that are willing to develop a personal relationship with Him. If you have a personal relationship with someone, they know your voice, they know you on a deeper level and they are willing to walk with you wherever you go.

Look at the difference between the scriptures. *“I never knew you; depart from me.”* Compared to John 10:27-28. *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”* This is the personal relationship between Jesus and a true believer.

Consider 1 John 2:19. It says, *“These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us.”* (NLT) If you truly accept Christ into your heart, your relationship is for eternity.

Adrian Rogers has a saying that sums this section up. It says, *“The faith that fizzles before the finish had a flaw from the first.”*

Reread Romans 8:38-39. What does it say will *“separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”*? Nothing, *not death, not life, not angels, not principalities* (demons (NLT), *not powers, not things present, not things to come, not height, not depth nor any other created thing.*

Philippians 1:6 says, *“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”* What is the good work in you? Salvation, only God can bring you salvation.

John 16:7 tells us that when Jesus’ ministry was almost over, He told His disciples that God would send His Holy Spirit as a *‘paraklētos’*. This word can be interpreted as a Helper, Advocate, Comforter or Judge. In the very next verse, Jesus tells them that the Holy Spirit will convict the world of their sin.

How do we know that we have sinned? The Holy Spirit tells us. It is just one of his many jobs.

When you realize that you are a sinner in need of a savior, it is the Holy Spirit that is convicting you of your sin.

As a side note: In Mark 3:28-29, Jesus tells us that denying conviction of the Holy Spirit or blaspheming the Holy Spirit is the only unpardonable sin. This is the same as refusing to accept that you need the savior that the Holy Spirit is telling you that you need. This is remaining lost in your sin.

Back to Philippians 1:6, if you start a job, there is always a chance that it will not get finished but if God starts something then there is no doubt that He will complete what He started in you. Fortunately for us, our salvation is in God’s hands and not ours. No one can save themselves.

### **God’s Sovereign Predestination**

One of the topics that is difficult to understand is predestination. Calvinists believe that God chose us to be Christians before we were born. Read Romans 8:29-30. The trouble with these verses is knowing what God foreknew and what He predestined.

God is not limited by time, so God is not controlled by history. He knows what is going to happen in our lives before they happen. This is called foreknowledge. God knew when you were going to be born,

when you were going to get your driver's license and when and if you were going to claim salvation through His Son.

Foreknowledge is different than predestination. Predestination is different in that predestination means that God doesn't let things play out, He controls them. If the Calvinists are correct, then we would have no say in whether we accept Jesus as our savior. We wouldn't need missionaries, no evangelism, no outreach programs. It would all be controlled by God.

Matthew 23:37 records that Jesus said, "*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.*" If man did not have freewill, then Jesus would have gathered the Israelites to himself. They refused Him.

If we did not have freewill, then God could simply make everyone a believer. We could be born believers and never waver from our faith. Peter would not have written 2 Peter 3:9. "*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*"

Back to Romans 8:29-30. God knew when we were born that we would accept Christ. He predestined that when we did accept Christ, then we will eventually be like Jesus. As Christians, our goal is to be like Jesus. Jesus has a resurrected body, we too will have a resurrected body. Jesus treated others with love, then so should we. 1 John 5:1 says that if we believe that Jesus is God's only begotten son, the Messiah, then we are God's children too. Romans 8:17 says that if we are the children of God then we are joint heirs with Jesus.

Romans 8:30 says that "those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified." As believers we are called. Acts 1:8 says that we are called to be His witnesses. This includes sharing the gospel message with others.

It says that we are justified. The easiest way to remember what justified means is "Just as if I had not sinned." Our sins are gone, we have a clean slate.

If we are the children of God, we will be glorified just as Jesus was glorified.

"You might say, "I don't feel so glorified right now." He's not finished with you. But He has begun a good work, and what He has begun, He will complete. You are predestined – if you are a believer – to be like the Lord Jesus Christ." (Rogers)

### **Calvary's Perfect Provision**

Hebrews 10:14 says, "*For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*" The important part of this verse is the phrase "*perfect forever*". It doesn't say 'for a time' or any other time limits on your salvation

Nowhere in the Bible does it say that someone needed to be saved again or someone was saved a second time. Once was enough.

Some may ask, "But what if I sin after I am saved?" Jesus doesn't need to be crucified again to remove the new sin. Jesus died on the cross for all sin. 1 John 1:9 handles sin after we claim Jesus as our savior. We need to confess our sin and God will erase our sin. Jesus' sacrifice was perfect forever.

Adrian Rogers chose James 4:17 to define sin. It says, "*If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.*" Even Paul sinned. Roman 7:15 tells us, "*For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*"

God gave us the 10 Commandments to point out the obvious sins. In Matthew 5:21-48, Jesus takes the 10 Commandments even further. It doesn't matter whether you do the act, it also matters if you do it in your mind and heart.

Adrian Rogers says, "I wouldn't trust the best 15 minutes I ever lived to get me into heaven, much less some of my bad ones. And so if I have to depend on my behavior to get me to heaven, I'm not going to make it, and you're not going to make it, and no one is going to make it."

Romans 4:5 says, "*to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.*" (NIV) It is easier to understand the NLT. "*But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.*" It isn't about me being good all the time, it is about my faith in Jesus and the forgiveness of God.

Theologians like to use the word "imputed". The NKJV uses this word in Romans 4:6. King David "*also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works.*" Other translations say that David was credited with righteousness. We cannot be righteous on our own so it has to be imputed or credited to us.

When we get to Heaven, our ticket will say "Paid in full", not by our works but by Jesus work on the cross and our faith in Him.

Adrian Rogers says it this way, "Nobody is saved twice because Jesus died only once."

### **The Saint's New Position**

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*" When we get saved God gives us a "new position". We are not the person that we used to be.

When we were born the first time we were born of Adam. We have the same sin nature built into us. When we choose to break the chains of sin and accept Jesus as our savior then we are born of Jesus. We are a new creation and we are a part of the body of Christ.

The Bible is full of illustrations and object lessons that teach us about salvation. One such object lesson is Noah's ark. 1 Peter 3:18-22 tells us that while Noah was building the ark, God was patient. God wanted Noah and his family to come to salvation from the flood. Just as He is patient today, "*not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*" (2 Peter 3:9)

“When Noah and his family were on the ark, they were safe. How safe was Noah? As safe as the ark. How safe am I? As safe as Jesus, who is my ark of safety. Noah may have fallen down inside the ark, but he never fell out of the ark because God shut him in and God sealed him in!” Gen 7:16 says “*Then the Lord shut him in.*” Ephesians 1:13 says that we are “*sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise*”. So we are sealed into the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rogers)

When we get to heaven, we will be safe and secure. Remember our security comes from Jesus and not from anything that we have done. How secure are we? Very secure with our faith in Lord Jesus.

### **The Believer’s Eternal Provision**

John 5:24 “*Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.*” We receive eternal life the moment we accept Jesus. That is what salvation is. What do we have to do to be saved? That answer is in Acts 16:31 which says, “*Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.*”

Jesus says in John 10:28, “*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.*” Most people think that eternal life starts when we die but it starts when we accept Jesus. Jesus didn’t say, I will give them eternal life, He says I give them eternal life. It starts now.

### **Jesus’ Interceding Prayer –**

In John 17:9, Jesus prayed for His disciples, “*I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.*” He is not praying for the unsaved. He is praying for those that belong to Jesus and God.

Jesus prayed for us to be kept by God and to be protected from Satan. In John 17:15, Jesus added “*that you (God) protect them from the evil one.*”

In John 17:20, Jesus goes even further and prays for us as believers. “*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.*”

In John 11:42, after Jesus prayed He said, “*I knew that you always hear me.*” Will God always listen to Jesus? Absolutely. Hebrews 7:25 tells us, “*Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.*”

Intercede or intercession means to stand up for us, to defend us or to speak of on our behalf. Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father, telling God that we belong to Him through Jesus.

### **God’s Almighty Power**

God is omnipotent or all powerful. It is this same Power of God that keeps our salvation secure. 1 Peter 1:5 says that we “*are kept by the power of God (NKJV).*” Satan is an angel who has less power than Jesus and God. So how can Satan pull us away from God. Read James 1:5.

1 Peter 1:3-4 tells us that the most powerful being in the universe has reserved an inheritance in heaven that will never pass away. How much more secure could it be?

“Don’t ever get the idea that because you’re eternally secure, it makes no difference how you live. God will cure that theory in a hurry because God will carry you to the woodshed. “For whom the Lord loves He chastens” (Hebrews 12:6) Don’t get the idea this is a license to sin – that’s foolish.

### **Sin All I Want To**

Some people believe that if we can confess our sins and they are completely forgiven, then we can sin all we want to. You need your “wanter” fixed.

Remember what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17. It says, *“if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”* (NASB)

Remember that even Paul wrestled with sin. He wrote in Romans 7:15. *“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.”* A few verses later he gives credit for sin where it is due, that old sin nature that is in all of us.

We will continue to sin until God is through making us in the image of Christ. Until then if we sin then we should confess it and work harder (repent) and ask God to remove the desire to sin from our hearts. I was told that the most miserable person is the Christian that continues to sin. A portion of salvation is obedience and sin is disobedience.

Rogers says, “It is great to be saved. It’s better to be saved and know you’re saved. And it is even more wonderful that you can be saved, know that you are saved and know that you can never lose it.”