

CALL to PRAYER – Pray for pastor J. MacArthur...rebuke of governor...& for our boldness

Rom. 10:9; Matt. 7:21; 2 Cor. 13:5 - Secure, Insecure or Unsure?

Intro - The three verses I just read are all equally true...addressing the same subject...but from different facets. The subject is *Salvation*...all who have faith & confess are saved.....but not all who say “*Lord, lord*” will be saved we are test the kind of faith we confess lest it be false. These are not contradictions, but they can cause consternation about one’s personal salvation. Are we *secure, insecure* or are we *unsure*? Is salvation eternal or temporal? Today we tackle the topic of eternal security. Look at it Historically, Theologically, Biblically & Practically. (briefly)

HISTORICALLY

1. The Christian community has debated this subject throughout church history
 - a. *Augustine & Pelagius* (5th cen.) - Debated the crux of the issue - (ability of mans will)
 - b. *Reformation* (16th) Not the main debate but Catholicism teaches than a saved person can commit a mortal sin (kills saving faith)....puts on path to Purgatory before Glory
 - c. Protestantism has the debate of *Calvinism* - vs - *Arminianism*
 - d. This issue divides Baptists into two main groups
 - i. *General Baptist* (Free Will Baptist) - teach that you can “*fall from grace*”
 - ii. *Particular Baptist* (God’s-will Baptist) - teach that grace keeps you from falling
2. Not going to solve the debate in this sermon
 - a. Hope to help you if you are in an internal debate (I am very familiar with this dilemma)
 - b. Assurance is a blessed thing. 1 John 5:13 “*Blessed Assurance*”
3. Going to try not to misrepresent the “other side” (this happens a lot – Straw man)
 - a. Discussion with a *free-willer* - he was surprised what *eternal security* really meant
 - b. You might be as well (what it means and what it doesn’t mean)

THEOLOGICALLY

- YOUR SALVATION IS AS SECURE AS **THE WILL** THAT GOT IT FOR YOU
 - Only as secure as either: 1] Man’s will (fickle) 2] God’s will (final)
- Those who say you can *fall from grace* put all the emphasis on *the free will of man*
 - Man’s free will is seen as the hinge-pin of salvation...everything swings on it
 - Idea is that God has done all He will (can) do....now it is up to you
 - Up to you to get it...up to you to keep it....and you can lose it
 - A “*man centered*”, performance-based salvation has no security
 - “holiness” groups have no assurance outside of human performance
 - Only as secure as the grip that the sinner has on God
- Those who say *grace keeps you from falling* put all the emphasis on *the free will of God*
 - God’s will is the hinge-pin of salvation...everything swings on it
 - A *God centered* grace-based salvation has security because it relies on God’s grace to the sinner, and His grip on the sinner, to keep the sinner safe and secure
- YOUR SALVATION IS AS SECURE AS THE WILL THAT GOT IT FOR YOU

BIBLICALLY

1. Salvation is of the Lord Jonah 2:9b
 - a. God is the *Originator/Purchaser/Owner/Distributor/Sustainer* of His salvation
 - b. Romans 9:16 1 Cor. 1:30-31 Psalm 70:4
 - c. John 1:12-13 sinful man's response to the gospel is not the cause of salvation, it is the effect of salvation Phil. 2:13 Eph. 2:8-9
2. Salvation is eternal
 - a. John 3:16 John 3:36 John 5:24 1 Peter 1:4
 - i. No expiration date on eternal life (eternal doesn't end & Gods salvation doesn't sour)
 - b. 1 John 5:13
3. The saved are securely held by the hand of God
 - a. John 10:27-29 Eph. 1:13-14 there is security in the Trinity
 - b. John 6:37
 - c. 1 Peter 1:4-5 2 Tim. 1:12
4. The saved will behave
 - a. I believe in "*once saved always saved*" but also in "*if saved then will behave*"
 - b. Rom. 5:20-6:2 the saved can't continue in sin...must be sanctified - Heb. 12:14
 - c. 1 Cor. 6:9-11 Eph. 5:5-8
 - d. Matt. 7:21-23 - those who only have *the label* but *no life* don't have *eternal life*
 - i. Jesus didn't say He had them and lost them but that He NEVER had them
5. If you endure then you are secure
 - a. Matt. 24:13 Heb. 3:6, 14
 - b. 1 John 2:19 1 John 5:4
 - c. Only "overcomers" are possessors of eternal salvation (Rev. 2:7,11,17,26ff; 3:5,12,21)
 - d. God's grace keeps us from falling away and empowers us stay in the race
 - i. Jude 24 Psalm 37:23-24

PRACTICALLY

- If you are struggling with the issue of assurance then embrace & confront the struggle
 - Assurance is a blessed thing but.....
 -false assurance is a damnable thing
- 2 Cor. 13:5
 - Read 1 John over and over again
 - Not all faith is saving faith there is a fake faith/false faith/temporary faith
 - A Saving Faith will pass the test
- Salvation of the Lord and the Lord is salvation - (Luke 2:30)
 - Everyone in Christ is as secure as Christ
 - Someone in Christ could not cease being a child of God any more than Jesus could cease being the Son of God
 - 1 John 5:11-12
 - Rom. 10:9-10 Acts 16:30-31
- "Solid Rock"