

“PROBLEM PASSAGES ON ASSURANCE OF SALVATION” (Part 3)

INTRO: Over 60% of believers struggle here. The assurance of our salvation – our security doesn’t rely upon our ability to persevere but on God’s integrity to keep His Word. If God was willing to save us when we were powerless, ungodly, sinful, enemies, will He not keep us saved now that we are part of His forever family? (Rom. 5:6-11) - all of grace!

HERMENEUTICS – science of biblical interpretation to accurately interpret Scripture.

1. Context is supreme – writer, recipients, history, culture, literary genre, book, purpose, chapter, sentence, words, grammar, etc.
2. Interpret the obscure or difficult in light of the clear and plain. Scripture best explains Scripture.
3. Understand the few in light of the many. Harmonize with other verses.
4. Application follows observation and interpretation. What does the text say, especially the original writers? What did he/she mean? How does this apply?

CAUTION: Not everyone who professes to be a Christian is and not everyone who appears to be lost actually is (Matt. 13 Parables of Soils, Wheat and Tares). True and false are mixed (1 Jn. 4:1). Not everyone who claims to be a believer is one! All faith not saving faith.

WARNINGS TO PROFESSORS BUT NOT POSSESSORS

- Jesus (Matt. 7:21-23; 24:13; John 2:23-25; 6:60-66) – Many comments on security (Jn. 1:12; 3:16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:37-40, 47; 10:27-30).
- Paul (writer of 13/27) – Gal. 5:4. Passages on assurance (Rom. 8:31-39; 1 Thess 5:8-10; 2 Tim. 1:12; Phil. 1:6)
- John (1 Jn. 2:19; 3:6-9) – Passages on security (1 Jn. 5:11-13)
- Hebrews 2:2-4; 6:4-6; 10:26-31

WARNINGS TO POSSESSORS BUT NOT PROGRESSORS

- Growth in Christ is essential – proves life is present (2 Pet. 3:18; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:3-11; Eph. 4:14-15; Heb. 5:12-14; Jam. 2:14ff)
- Jesus (Jn. 15:6; Matt. 13 “good soil”)

- Paul (1 Cor. 3:11-15; 9:24-27) – Don’t confuse loss of service or reward with loss of salvation.
- Persistent unconfessed sins in a believers walk hinders spiritual development into Christlikeness. Result is divine discipline (Jn. 15:6; Heb. 12:5-11). Examples? Acts 5:1-11; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 11:27-30; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; Jam. 5:19-20). Ultimate end could be premature physical death (1 Jn. 5:16-17). Sobering! Problem passages that seem to question eternal security, do no such thing when properly interpreted. Their intent is to warn professors, but not possessors who haven’t embraced Christ in faith to do so before it is too late! Plus, to challenge stagnant, less-fruitful-than-they-should-be believers to deal with sins and self so can abide and grow to bear much fruit and bring greater glory to God.

LESSONS?

1. Make sure you are a true possessor (2 Cor. 13:5).
2. Make sure you are a diligent progressor (2 Pet. 3:18).

CONC: Our salvation is safe. No way to lose what was never earned, only grace received through faith. Salvation is not something we can have and then we could lose, but is someone we become which can never be lost.