

**April 21, 2014**

The Doctrine of Eternal Security

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NASB), ***“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”***

Yesterday we celebrated Resurrection Sunday in which we commemorate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Jesus died on the cross for our sins in order to pay the debt of sin that every single person in the world owes to the Holy and Righteous God. I love Resurrection Sunday because it reminds of the fulfilled promise of the Messiah. God is a God who makes and then keeps His promises...always!

If one believes that God is an all powerful and sovereign God then one *has* to believe that God keeps His Word and therefore keeps His promises. In other words if one believes that God is all powerful and sovereign then that means that once a person is legitimately saved they are not going to somehow *fall* out of that salvation.

In 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Paul assures his readers both in the Corinthian church and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church that we do have eternal security. Paul makes a couple of important points about the issue of our salvation and the security we have in Christ. The first point that Paul makes is that we must understand that God is the one who saves us.

Paul writes here in verse 21, ***“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ anointed us in God.”*** God is the one who ***“establishes”*** us in Christ we do not have anything to do with our salvation. Romans 16:25 says, ***“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ...”*** The word ***“establishes”*** that is used here is translated to mean “to confirm and secure.”

In 1 Corinthians 1:8 it says, ***“who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** God is the one who firmly secures and confirms our salvation. I am always struck by the answers I get when I ask someone if they are a Christ follower. Most of the answers that I get revolve around what *they* have done to “be saved.” Most of the time it is along the lines of “I prayed a prayer at a camp” or “I walked down the aisle at church” or “I was baptized when I was 10 years old” so on and so forth. Yet Scripture is clear in showing us that God is the one who ***“establishes us”... “in Christ.”***

Paul also points out that God has ***“anointed us.”*** The word ***“anointed”*** is borrowed according to John MacArthur ***“from a commissioning service that would symbolically set apart kings, prophets, priests, and special servants.”*** When our youngest son Preston was commissioned into the Marine Corps the day we dropped him off in Kansas City, he took an oath and was commissioned into the service of his country. It is similar when we are saved by God from our sins, we are then commissioned into His service and we are set apart.

1 John 2:20 says, ***“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.”*** Verse 27 of that same chapter says, ***“As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.”***

We are saved by God and we are set apart by Him and then in verse 22 Paul points out that we are **“sealed”** with **“the Spirit.”** The word **“sealed”** that is used here is translated to mean “down payment.” God has placed a down payment if you will on our hearts and our lives then. He now owns us! This “down payment” is the Holy Spirit which now indwells in every single believer. There is no need for a special second baptism as some teach; you receive the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit upon your salvation.

The Holy Spirit then is witness to the fact that we are indeed now part of God’s family. Romans 8:16 says, **“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.”** 2 Corinthians 5:5 says, **“Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.”** Ephesians 1:13-14 says, **“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance...”**

God’s Holy Spirit witnesses to the truth of our salvation and our adoption into the family of God by the *fruit* that is produced in our lives, the fruit that He produces and then also the power He provides for us to serve Him. Galatians 5:22-23 speaks to what the life of a genuinely saved person looks like, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”**

The assurance and the promise we have is that God saves and that He does not let go of that which He has saved. God would not be a very powerful God if we could lose our salvation. When a person is genuinely saved they will not “backslide” they will not “walk away from the faith.” As Jesus said in Matthew 24:13 those who are His, endure **“to the end.”**