

August 4, 2014

The Assurance Of Salvation

Ephesians 1:13 (NASB), ***“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.”***

One of the most perplexing questions for many Christians is whether or not they can “lose” their salvation. I believe the main reason for this is that we have such an enormous misunderstanding of what salvation is. There are many who attend church on a regular basis who also on a regular basis question their salvation. The reason is that often times they do not see any real difference in their life as compared to their life before they were supposedly saved.

In Ephesians 1:13 as Paul is giving his introductory remarks to the church at Ephesus he emphasizes a few things. First of all he emphasizes the fact that salvation is by grace alone by faith in Christ alone. He also emphasizes that salvation is not a work of man but a complete work (from start to finish) of God. In verse 4 Paul writes, ***“He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.”*** Verse 5 says, ***“In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ...”***

Paul makes several important points about the nature of salvation here in verse 13. The first point he makes is found in the first two words, ***“In Him...”*** Salvation is only in Jesus Christ, we do not determine our own salvation. We live in a very pluralistic culture in which we are told that what we believe is our own business and just because you believe something doesn’t mean that it is true for everyone else. But Scripture tells us just the opposite. In John 14:6 Jesus says, ***“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*** In Acts 4:12 it says, ***“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”***

The second point that Paul makes is that salvation comes through the word; the gospel. The word ***“message”*** that is used here in the Greek is the word *logos* which is translated to mean “the Word.” Paul writes to these believers that ***“you also, after listening to the message of truth...”*** The word ***“listening”*** is translated to mean “heed, listen to, understand.” Our salvation is ***“in Him”*** and it comes from the preaching of the word of truth.

The God revealed gospel of Jesus Christ must be heard. Romans 10:17 says, ***“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”*** Once the word of truth is heard from either the pulpit or just one on one between two friends or acquaintances the word then must be believed. Paul writes here in verse 13 ***“having also believed...”***

Many hear the words of the gospel but very few really believe. John 1:12 says, ***“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”***

The final point then that Paul makes about the nature of salvation in this verse is that once we are saved God does not let us go. What an insult to the almighty, sovereign

God of the universe to think that somehow we can lose our salvation! Paul says here at the end of verse 13, ***“you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.”*** Ephesians 4:30 says, ***“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”***

Those that are truly saved do not backslide and they do not lose their salvation because that would be impossible. 1 John 3:9 says, ***“No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”*** When we are born again we are ***“born of God”*** and at that moment we have His character. In general this means that from that moment on we have no desire to live a life that is centered on the flesh, instead we have the desire to live a life that is centered on Christ.

The truly saved can rest assured that God has saved them and since God is the all-powerful and Sovereign God of the universe He will not ever let you go. If you have questions about what you have read today please contact me at pastotra@centurylink.net. You also may contact me on Facebook or on Twitter at @Adamspastor. You also may call me here at Calvary Baptist Church at 970-824-5222.