**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Eternal Security: A Scriptural Defense |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 10:27 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1729 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There are many Scriptures that show that once we are saved, we are eternally secure.
      1. Romans 8:38-39
      2. Philippians 1:6
         1. God completes what He started.
         2. If God started with you, then He’s going to finish with you.
      3. Romans 11:29
      4. Romans 8:29
      5. Hebrews 10:14
      6. John 5:24
      7. 1 John 5:12
      8. Hebrews 7:25
      9. John 17:15, 20
         1. Jesus’ prayers are always answered.
      10. 1 Peter 1:5
          1. We are kept by the power of God.
          2. It’s not a matter of us holding onto God but God holding onto us.
   2. Today’s message will look at other Scriptures that may seem to indicate the opposite, that we are not eternally secure.
      1. When we find a supposed contradiction in the Bible, we need to be sure we’re not taking it out of context and examine it carefully.
2. 2 peter 2:20-22
   1. This is a classic illustration of a passage often used to indicate that we might be able to fall away.
      1. But if we look at the Scripture more carefully, it does not teach that a saved person can be lost again; rather, it teaches the opposite.
   2. 2 Peter 2:20
      1. This speaks of a person who has been living in sin, and they free themselves.
         1. They hear about Jesus, and they turn over a new leaf.
         2. But they never receive a new life.
      2. This verse doesn’t say that they are saved and on their way to Heaven.
      3. They have heard the Gospel and know about our Lord Jesus Christ, but they are again entangled therein.
         1. “Entangled” literally means to weave something into a pattern.
         2. They are weaving themselves deeper and deeper into bondage by following certain false teachers.
      4. What Peter is speaking of here hinges on the area of false teachers.
         1. They hear about Jesus from false teachers, and they never really learn what it is to be saved, to be born again.
         2. They weave into their hearts and minds certain philosophies and false truths, and they never know the Gospel of grace.
            1. When they do, they are worse off than they were before they ever heard anything about Jesus.
   3. 2 Peter 2:21
      1. Those who live by truth get more and more freedom.
      2. Those who live by lies experience more and more bondage.
      3. Reformation without transformation leads to greater degradation and final condemnation.
         1. It is better for someone not to have known the way of truth than to reform their lives without meeting the Lord Jesus Christ.
         2. The classic example of this is Judas.
            1. Matthew 26:24

It would have been better for him not to have been born.

* + - * 1. Judas heard the truth.
        2. He reformed his life.
        3. He escaped the pollution of the world for a while, but his latter end was worse than his first.
    1. Sinful desires do not disappear by reformation; they only hibernate and wake up stronger.
       1. Salvation, on the other hand, gives us a new nature.
       2. Reformation doesn’t give us a new nature.
          1. Reformation doesn’t change anything.
    2. Some people claim that if they believed in eternal security, then they would get saved and sin all they want to because their ticket to Heaven would be secure.
       1. A Christian doesn’t want to sin.
       2. If someone has the idea that eternal security is a license to sin, then they probably need to get saved.
          1. They need a brand new “wanter.”
    3. The people Peter is talking about had reformation, but they never had regeneration.
  1. 2 Peter 2:22
     1. Peter gives two classic examples that make it very clear that he is not talking about someone who is saved and then lost their salvation:
        1. The dog
        2. The hog
     2. God never called any of His children a dog or a hog.
        1. God refers to His children as sheep.
     3. The dog went back to his vomit because he was still a dog.
        1. Proverbs 26:11
        2. That’s his nature.
     4. You can wash a pig, but the pig will stay clean only until it has the opportunity to go back to the mire.
        1. That is the natural habitat of a pig.
     5. The dog feels better and the pig looks better, but neither is changed.
        1. Neither has been essentially or eternally changed.
     6. We remember the story of the prodigal son, but there isn’t a story about a prodigal pig.
        1. Luke 15:11-32
        2. When the prodigal son was down in the hog pen, he said that he wasn’t made to live with the hogs.
           1. The pig belongs in the hog pen.
           2. The child of God belongs in his Father’s house.
  2. This passage in 2 Peter 2 is talking about reformation without regeneration.
     1. Reformation without regeneration makes a person worse off than they were before.

1. matthew 24:11-13
   1. This is another passage that people frequently use to try to prove that we can lose our salvation.
   2. Some claim that this passage states that in order to be saved, we must endure to the end.
   3. But, instead, God teaches here that in order to endure to the end, we must be saved.
      1. Those who endure are the ones who are saved.
         1. They’re not saved because they endure; they endure because they’re saved.
   4. Endurance is the mark of reality in the life of a human soul.
      1. We endure because God has worked a miracle in our lives.
      2. It is not that we’ve held onto Him, but that He’s held onto us.
   5. Luke 22:31-32
      1. Satan can’t do anything to us unless God allows him.
      2. God does allow Satan to do certain things to us.
         1. He does allow Satan to sift us.
      3. In verse 32, the word “converted” does not mean when he’s saved, but it means “when you turned.”
      4. Jesus was praying for Peter; and because Jesus was praying for Peter, his faith would not fail.
         1. Peter did endure.
         2. Peter, who was frightened and trembled and cursed and denied the Lord Jesus, never ultimately forsook the Lord Jesus.
            1. Eternal security is like a strong rubber band that God puts around us when we get saved.

We may stray, but He keeps drawing us back.

* 1. Luke 22:47-48
     1. There’s another person in this chapter besides Peter, and that is Judas.
        1. If we had been there in that day before Peter denied Christ and before Judas betrayed Christ, we would have likely said that Judas was saved and Peter wasn’t.
           1. Peter was a mess.

He was frequently putting his foot in his mouth.

He was impetuous.

He was always blustering.

* + - * 1. Judas was the treasurer.

The treasurer is normally the person you trust most.

* + - 1. Judas did not endure but fell away.
    1. John 6:64
       1. Jesus knew that Judas never believed in Him.
          1. John 6:70-71
          2. John 17:12

Jesus chose Judas so that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

* + 1. Why did Peter endure to the end and Judas not endure?
       1. Peter had faith.
          1. Luke 22:32
       2. Judas didn’t have faith.
       3. Judas never believed, and Simon Peter did.
          1. 1 John 2:19

Those who go away don’t lose their salvation.

Those who don’t endure don’t lose their salvation.

They never had salvation.

1. john 15:5-8
   1. Some people say that this is a picture of someone who was in Christ, is cut away from Christ, and is thrown into the fire and burned.
   2. But the Lord Jesus is not talking about salvation in this passage.
      1. He is talking about fruit bearing.
         1. He is using an illustration and a metaphor that we are to abide in Christ if we bear much fruit.
   3. The husbandman or vinedresser trims the grapevine.
      1. He takes his pruning knife and cuts away the branches that don’t bear fruit.
      2. If the wood is not good, he throws the branches that have been cut off onto a brush pile to burn it.
   4. If we don’t abide in the Lord, we are good for nothing.
      1. He’s not talking about Heaven or Hell.
      2. He’s not talking about salvation but about fruit bearing.
      3. The Apostle Paul spoke of the same thing when he said that he didn’t want to become a castaway.
         1. 1 Corinthians 9:27
         2. Paul did not want to become useless.
   5. We should never try to get theology from a metaphor.
   6. The truth taught in this passage is that we need to abide in the Lord Jesus if we are going to bear fruit.
2. hebrews 6:4-9
   1. The writer here is talking about an impossibility.
      1. He says that it is impossible for a certain category of people to be renewed unto repentance if they do a certain thing.
   2. Hebrews 6:4
      1. If we use this verse to prove that a person can lose their salvation, then it also proves that you can never be saved again.
         1. Therefore, if you don’t believe in once saved always saved, then you have to believe in twice lost always lost.
   3. This passage is not talking about people who have been saved.
      1. Hebrews 4:9
      2. The author is speaking of people who come to the very threshold of salvation and turn away.
         1. It is impossible for those who have done business with God, who know the truth and turn from the truth with their eyes wide open, to be brought to repentance.
         2. They have committed the unpardonable sin.
         3. They were once enlightened.
            1. The entrance of God’s Word gives light.
   4. There are those who have heard the Word of God preached.
      1. They were made partakers of the Holy Ghost.
         1. The Holy Ghost gripped their hearts.
      2. They tasted the good Word of God.
      3. They still turned away.
         1. This is not a person who sins in ignorance or who sins without understanding, but someone whose eyes are wide open and says, “I don’t want Jesus.”
         2. As an illustration, this is like someone who loves cheese and has just sampled a rare and exquisite piece of cheese.
            1. He decides he likes the cheese and wants to buy it.
            2. He gets to the checkout counter and discovers how much the cheese costs.
            3. Even though he has tasted the cheese, sniffed it, and is aware of exactly what he is doing, he is not willing to pay the price and walks out.
   5. Hebrews 6:7-8
      1. This illustration shows us two plots of ground.
      2. Both plots get rain.
         1. Matthew 5:45
      3. Both plots get sunshine.
      4. Both of them have the breezes that blow.
      5. On one plot, there comes wonderful fruit.
      6. On the other plot, there are thorns and briers.
      7. The same sun, the same ground, the same rain, the same atmosphere, but there is a difference in what’s on one side and what is on the other side.
         1. The difference is the seed.
         2. The Holy Spirit works on both sides, but there are individuals who will say yes to Jesus and others who say no to Him.
            1. It all depends upon the seed that’s in the heart.
   6. This book of Hebrews was written to the Jews.
      1. It is talking about Jews who were coming out of the old way and coming into the new way.
         1. They were coming out of the old dispensation (the Old Testament laws) and coming into the new way.
      2. Many of these Jews and early disciples had to turn their backs on the old way, and may were persecuted and even put to death.
         1. Some of them did not want to pay the price, and they turned their backs on the Lord Jesus Christ.
            1. They tasted, they knew, they had gone along with the Holy Ghost, they heard the Scriptures read in the synagogue, and they heard the apostles testify.
         2. The book of Hebrews was written to those who had a tendency to want to turn and go back to Judaism, to the old way.
      3. In Hebrews 11, we read were many did die.
   7. Hebrews 6:6
      1. Hebrews 10:29
      2. The author is not talking about a saved person (a saved person could never do this) but an unsaved person.
         1. Hebrews 6:9
3. CONCLUSION
   1. If you’re a child of God and you know that you’re saved, rejoice and rest in His love.
      1. Out of gratitude, serve Him because of such a wonderful salvation.
         1. We cannot work for salvation.
            1. Our Lord has done the work.
   2. If you are not saved, you can be today.
   3. Pray to the Lord Jesus and Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16