

## LESSON THREE: HOW TO BE SURE YOU ARE ETERNALLY SECURE

### SESSION ONE

#### TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small-group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** to help steer you through the basics of facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

#### ABOUT THIS SESSION

This is the first of four sessions that clarifies what the Bible has to say about the security of our salvation. Knowing that one is secure in salvation is crucial for an effective and fruitful spiritual life. The subject of the security of the believer has been controversial and has resulted in denominational differences, but Pastor Rogers looks straight to Scripture for the answers to this most important facet in the life of the believer.

#### PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Session Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader's Guide**.

#### CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to being presented as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

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### INTRODUCTION

It is a sad reality that many Christians live day-to-day lives believing they can lose their salvation. The question of whether or not we can have eternal security of our salvation cannot be determined by human logic; it must be confirmed by the Word of God. This course, "What Every Christian Ought to Know," began with a study on how we know with certainty that the Bible is the Word of God. The Bible is our source of foundational truth, **not** our perceptions, logic, or feelings. In this study, Pastor Rogers begins a series of sessions that examine exactly what the Bible has to say about our security in Christ.

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**John 10:27-28** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- Why do you think that some people who initially profess to be Christians, and who are for a season active in Bible study or church, suddenly, or even gradually, change their behavior to what is obviously in contrast to the Christian walk? Why do you think that happens?
- How do you think the possibility of being able to lose one's salvation impacts a person's spiritual life? How many sins, or what kind of sins, do you think it would take to cause people to lose their salvation?

**PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF: "How to Be Sure You Are Eternally Secure"****AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION**

"The faith that fizzles before the finish had a flaw from the first."

—Adrian Rogers

**Amplification:** The Bible stands as our foundational source of truth for understanding the ways of God and His plan of salvation for mankind. Anything else becomes sheer speculation and an attempt to conform God to man's limited understanding. It is a dangerous practice to project upon God our thoughts and values. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD" (Isaiah 55:8). Too often we may presume something to be true as a result of our narrow view and limited understanding; we need to know what the Bible really says about a subject.

**For Discussion:** How should knowing our salvation is secure affect our Christian walk? Should that security ever be an excuse to allow sin, even small offenses, to be acceptable?

**Amplification:** A common reaction to having observed someone who one day is actively involved in the Christian life, but then drops away to engage in obvious sinful behavior, is to suggest that person must have lost his or her salvation. Too often that conclusion is reached because of a weak or limited understanding of salvation, and/or because of not really knowing the person's true spiritual condition to begin with. The assumption is made that because someone walked the aisle of a church, prayed the sinners' prayer, or was baptized, that he or she was saved. Our previous studies dealt with what it means to be truly saved, which is trusting in Jesus alone for salvation. People can change their bad behavior for a season to conform to certain expectations placed upon them by Christian friends or the church, giving the appearance of having been saved. The truth of the matter is, we cannot see into any person's heart, only God can do that, and lest we forget, He actively does!

**For Discussion:** What would you say to friends who seem to have abandoned their faith as evidenced by their outward behavior?

**Amplification:** False followers come as no surprise to the Lord. Remember the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:4-9, 18-23; Mark 4:3-8, 13-20; Luke 8:5-8, 11-15). This story is found in all three of the synoptic gospels which is an indicator of its importance. In this parable, Jesus makes it clear that there are those who will hear and be either indifferent, or will reject the gospel outright (the seed along the wayside). There are also those who will hear and receive the word of the gospel with joy for a season, but because they have no serious root within themselves, they fall away in the face of temptation or tribulation (the seed on stony ground). Other false followers are those who hear and may actually accept intellectually the truth of the gospel, but they allow the cares, riches, and other worldly desires to choke away their fruitfulness (the seed sown among thorns).

**For Discussion:** In your opinion, what kind of things would make up “good soil” in the life of a believer?

**Amplification:** Jesus’ parable also describes true believers who will bear much fruit (the seed on good soil). True believers hear with their hearts, keep what they have received (remember our previous study on the meaning of “keep”), and with patience bear good fruit (Luke 8:15). The question then becomes, “What constitutes the ‘good soil’ in which true believers should be planted?” The answer varies, but essentially it can be broken down to three essential elements: Bible study (water), prayer (Sonlight), and fellowship (nourishment).

Jesus said in John 15:6, “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

**For Discussion:** How do you think Christians should react when they find themselves having sinned in thought, word, or deed?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

In your personal devotions this week, do an evaluation of the “spiritual soil” in which you are currently planted. Are you being watered by the Word, receiving light from the Son through prayer, and are you receiving sufficient nourishment from fellowship with other believers? Take note of any deficiencies you find, and make a plan to shore up those areas in your spiritual life that need attention.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Salvation belongs to You, Oh Lord. We will rejoice in Your salvation and praise You for what You have done!”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

As you read the Parable of the Sower as recorded in the three Gospel accounts, determine how your life reflects the soil in which you have allowed yourself to be planted. Have you been ambivalent to the things of God (the wayside)? Have you allowed personal discouragement to turn you away from God (stony ground)? Are you more consumed with material things than you are with the things of God (thorny soil)? Or are you bearing fruit for God (good soil)?

**Matthew 13:4-9, 18-23; Mark 4:3-8, 13-20; Luke 8:5-8, 11-15**

Consider this unfailing testimony of Jesus’ authority and power to keep those who are His. Meditate on the key words and phrases in this verse:

**John 10:27-29** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

The verse explains why people “fall away.” It’s not because they lost their salvation, it’s because they were never genuinely saved to begin with. Review this verse in conjunction with the Parable of the Sower, above.

**1 John 2:19** “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

#### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- D. L. Moody, "Sovereign Grace: Its Source, Its Nature, and Its Effects," (CreateSpace, 2015)
- Thomas M. Cucuzza, "Secure Forever! God's Promise or Our Perseverance? True Salvation and its Relationship to the Christian Life," (Xulon Press, St. Cloud, MN, 2007)
- Whitney T. Kuniholm, "The Essential Jesus; 100 Readings Through the Bible's Greatest Story," (InterVarsity Press, 2007)

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#### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

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