

LESSON THREE: HOW TO BE SURE YOU ARE ETERNALLY SECURE

SESSION TWO

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 second of four sessions that clarify 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. In this session, Pastor Rogers will introduce the first three of eight very specific reasons from the Bible demonstrating why he believes in the eternal security of the true 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

Throughout Scripture God makes clear His love and faithfulness toward mankind despite mankind's rebellion and unfaithfulness. This does not contradict His righteous indignation and wrath concerning sin, but it firmly establishes His character of mercy as found in Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross. If we were dependent upon our own ability to live righteously in order to be saved, we would be in a terrible state, constantly in jeopardy of losing our salvation every time we sinned. Sadly, that is precisely how many Christians live. In this session, Pastor Rogers will introduce the first three of eight biblical reasons why he believes in the eternal security of the believer.

OUR KEY PASSAGES

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Philippians 1:6 “...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”

Romans 8:29 “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do you think being insecure in salvation affects the way we live day-to-day lives?
- Conversely, how do you think having security in salvation affects our lives spiritually, our service in ministry, and our personal evangelism?

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF: “How to Be Sure You Are Eternally Secure”

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“If salvation is your work, maybe it will run out in a ditch somewhere; but if it is God’s work, it will be completed.” —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: The Bible promises that *nothing* is able to separate us from God’s love which is in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39). That sacred promise cannot be broken because of God’s love for His Son. To break that biblical promise would require God to stop loving His Son, and to stop loving Himself. He can no more abandon His love than, as Holy God, He can allow sin to enter His presence. When we unite ourselves to Jesus Christ we become His children (John 1:12). As any parent knows, a wayward child may break your heart or make you angry, but as a parent you never stop loving that child. God loves us so much more than we are able to love, or even conceive of love, in this earthly existence. His love is unfathomable, and we have His sacred promise that He will *never* allow *anything* to separate those of us who are in Christ from His love. The story is told of an atheist who was dying. As he appeared uncomfortable, unhappy, and distressed, another atheist who stood at his bedside said to him, “Don’t be afraid. Hold on, man; hold on to the last!” The dying man said, “That is what I am trying to do, but tell me what to hold on to!” How sad to not know God’s eternal and infinite love for those who are in Christ!

For Discussion: How should knowing that the Bible provides a sacred promise of “nothing can separate us from God’s love,” impact our daily walk with Christ?

Amplification: A popular bumper sticker says, “God is not finished with me yet!” Our new birth in Christ does not instantaneously transform us into little robotic saints, perfectly living sanctified lives without any form of sin in thought or deed. However, our new birth, just like a physical birth, means that we need to grow and develop into the person we are to become. So it is spiritually after the new birth; we are to grow and develop into the person God intends us to become.

Fortunately, we don’t have to accomplish this growth in the dark or without help. God provides us another sacred promise in Scripture, that He will complete the good work He has begun in us until the day of Jesus Christ. The Bible also declares, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

H.A. Ironside, a great pastor and theologian of the Twentieth Century said, “When born from above, Christ dwells in our hearts by faith, and as He lives out His life in us, we are enabled to walk as He walked. There is no other way whereby we may live the Christ life.”

For Discussion: God’s Word also indicates God has a sacred purpose for each of our lives. How do you think we can effectively find and fulfill that purpose?

Amplification: The subject of predestination has caused confusion in the lives of Christians, and division among some denominations. As in all controversial theological subjects, we need to look to Scripture for a clear understanding of truth. Our key verse, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...” (Romans 8:29), begins with “whom He foreknew.” God is not limited by space, time, or knowledge. Before we were ever born He foresaw every detail of our lives and knows how our lives will end. The Bible says:

- **Psalm 139:15** “My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.”
- **Jeremiah 1:5** “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you [set you apart];”

Because of this foreknowledge, God predestined those whom He knew would trust and love Him to be conformed to the image of His Son. Neither this verse, nor anywhere else in the Bible, will you find anything that suggests God arbitrarily chooses (predestines) some to be eternally lost, while arbitrarily choosing others to be saved. The preponderance of Scripture reveals a totally different nature and character of God. We need to be very careful in how we handle our understanding of words like “predestination” by not forcing a meaning that is not supported by other Scripture.

For Discussion: As believers, we are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ, though sometimes we may feel we are far from achieving that goal in our earthly state. What can we do this side of Heaven to move the process of sanctification and spiritual growth forward in our lives?

Amplification: Consider, if Christ was indeed all man and all God (which He was), and as such was not limited by time, space, or knowledge, then when He uttered these words on the cross, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34), He had your name on His lips 2,000 years ago!

For Discussion: What do you think you might tell someone who believes that he or she has no chance of salvation?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

During your personal devotions this week, make it a point to think on God’s love and how He will never allow anything to separate Himself from His love for you. You might want to pray a prayer of thanksgiving to Him for His unfathomable love, and for working in your life for a purpose that He will see through to completion.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – “Lord, we will praise You because You have become our salvation. You are our strong tower and refuge that keeps us safe and secure in the midst of the storm.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

The two verses clarify the essence of predestination; that we are to be conformed to the image of Christ for the purpose of performing good works that have been prepared for us to walk in. As you meditate on these passages, ask the Holy Spirit to guide your steps to accomplish God’s purpose for your life.

Romans 8:29 “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

As you read Paul’s declaration of confidence in God’s unfailing love, ask the Holy Spirit to impart that same confidence and understanding into your life.

Romans 8:38-39 “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

In reading the verse, evaluate for yourself how much you desire and hunger for the Word of God. Do you spend more time in the Word than you do surfing the internet, watching TV, or playing video games?

1 Peter 2:2 “...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,”

Meditate on the powerful significance of the verse by considering the unfathomable love the Father has for us and how our love for Him is an extension of the love He has for us.

1 John 4:19 “We love Him because He first loved us.”

ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Arthur Pink, “The Doctrine of Justification,” (Bottom of T.H.E. Hill Publishing, 2011)
- Paul Enns, “The Moody Handbook of Theology,” (Moody Press, 2014)
- Thomas M. Cucuzza, “Secure Forever; God’s Promise, or Our Perseverance? True Salvation and its Relationship to the Christian Life,” (Xulon Press, 2007)

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