

A Case for Eternal Security

By Pastor Zachary Ray – Foundation Baptist Church

I. Common ground

A. The Bible is perfect and without error.

Psalms 119:140 KJV

¹⁴⁰ Thy word *is* very pure: Therefore thy servant loveth it.

Proverbs 30:5 KJV

⁵ Every word of God *is* pure: He *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Romans 3:4 KJV

⁴ God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

B. Salvation is not by works but by grace through faith.

Titus 3:5 KJV

⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Ephesians 2:8–9 KJV

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

C. No person or being can pluck a believer out of the hand of God.

John 10:28–29 KJV

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Psalms 107:2 KJV

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say *so*, Whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

II. Questions to Answer

A. If you believe that a person can lose their salvation, what is the cause?

1. Does sinning after salvation cause a person to lose their salvation?

a. Scriptures used to support this claim:

1 John 1:5 KJV

⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

2 Corinthians 6:14 KJV

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

1 John 1:5-9 KJV

⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

b. Scriptures that disprove this claim:

Romans 5:20 KJV

²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Isaiah 53:12 KJV

¹² Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, And he shall divide the spoil with the strong; Because he hath poured out his soul unto death: And he was numbered with the transgressors; And he bare the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:3-6 KJV

³ He is despised and rejected of men; A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: And we hid as it were *our* faces from him; He was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, And carried our sorrows: Yet we did esteem him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; And with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Titus 3:5 KJV

⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Psalms 32:1-2 KJV

¹ Blessed *is he* whose transgression is forgiven, *whose sin is* covered. ² Blessed *is* the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, And in whose spirit *there is* no guile.

Hebrews 10:11-14 KJV

¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: ¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; ¹³ From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Colossians 2:13–14 KJV

¹³ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; ¹⁴ Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

2. Can a person who has “believed” chose to “un-believe”.

a. *Scriptures used to support this claim:*

Hebrews 10:38 KJV

³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Hebrews 6:6 KJV

⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

Galatians 5:4 KJV

⁴ Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

b. *Scriptures that disprove this claim:*

John 3:36 KJV

³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 5:24 KJV

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

1 John 2:19 KJV

¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

B. If you believe that a person can lose their salvation, have you ever lost your salvation?

1 John 5:12–13 KJV

¹² He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. ¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

III. Approaching Misunderstood Passages

A. Let the clear and plain help interpret the hard to understand.

John 10:28–29 KJV

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

John 5:24 KJV

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Romans 6:23 KJV

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 3:16 KJV 1900

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 6:37 KJV

³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 KJV

²¹ Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; ²² Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Ephesians 1:13-14 KJV

¹³ In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Titus 1:2 KJV

² In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

B. Three Misunderstood Passages:

1. Hebrews 10:38 - Those who “draw back” are unsaved people who came close, but never made the leap of faith.

Hebrews 10:38 KJV

³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Hebrews 10:38-39 KJV

³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. ³⁹ But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Acts 26:28 KJV

²⁸ Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Habakkuk 2:4 KJV

⁴ Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: But the just shall live by his faith.

2. Hebrews 6:1-6 - Those who “fall away” are unsaved people who knew the gospel was true, came under conviction of the Holy Spirit, but rejected Christ and held to their tradition.

Hebrews 6:1–6 KJV

¹ Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ² Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this will we do, if God permit. ⁴ For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

John 16:8 KJV

⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Proverbs 29:1 KJV

¹ He, that being often reproved hardeneth *his* neck, Shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Acts 24:24–25 KJV

²⁴ And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵ And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

3. Galatians 5:4 - Paul uses “fallen from grace” as a rhetorical phrase to show how illogical the false teachers were.

Galatians 1:6–7 KJV

⁶ I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: ⁷ Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 5:1–6 KJV

¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. ² Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. ³ For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. ⁴ Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. ⁶ For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Romans 3:20 KJV

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

IV. Application

A. You cannot earn your salvation, neither can you keep your salvation.

Psalm 121:3 KJV

³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber.

1 Peter 1:3–5 KJV

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Romans 8:38–39 KJV

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

B. Knowing that your eternity is secure in Christ, enables you to move on to maturity in Christ.

Hebrews 5:12–6:1 KJV

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. ¹ Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

John 8:31–32 KJV

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; ³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Philippians 1:6 KJV

⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Matthew 6:20 KJV

²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: