

THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

A. Eternal Security Defined

1. *Eternal Security* means that *when a person has been born-again by the Word of God and redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, he/she is safe and secure for all time and eternity, without any possibility of losing eternal life and their perfect standing before God.*
2. It does NOT mean if one *professes to be saved*, that that person is eternally safe, for one may make a profession of faith, be baptized, partake of the Lord's Supper, take an interest in Christian work, and all the while be an unbeliever. Contrast John 10:27-29 (a true believer) with Matthew 7:21-23 (an unbeliever).

B. Eternal Security is Based on:

1. Christ's perfect sacrifice for sin...John 19:30; Hebrews 9:11,12; 10:10,12,14
2. The believer's sins being forgiven...I John 2:11; Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 10:17
3. The believer's possession of eternal life...John 3:16,36; 5:24; 10:28; 1 John 5:11-13
4. The believer's position in Christ...2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1; Ephesians 1:6
5. The Holy Spirit's presence in the believer...Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; Philippians 1:6

C. Scripture Passages on the Eternal Security of the Believer

1. The believer *has eternal life*...John 3:16; 5:24; 6:47; 1 John 5:13
2. The believer *shall not perish*...John 3:15,16; 10:28
3. The believer *shall not come into judgment*...John 5:24; Romans 8:1
4. The believer *shall never be separated from God's love*...Romans 8:35-39
5. The believer *is kept by the power of God*...1 Peter 1:3-5; John 10:29
6. The believer *is sealed by the Holy Spirit*...Ephesians 1:13; 4:30
7. The believer *is perfected forever*...Hebrews 10:14

D. Objections to This Teaching Based on Various Scriptures

1. John 8:31...All true believers *will* continue in His Word. Continuing in the faith is the proof that one is a genuine believer (see also Colossians 1:23).
2. Matthew 24:13...This verse is referring to Jewish believers who will "endure to the end of the tribulation" and be saved from their enemies at Christ's coming. As a principle it can apply to enduring to the end of one's life, as we just saw in connection with John 8:31 and Colossians 1:23.
3. 2 Peter 2:20-22...These verses refer to those who had made a profession of faith, but had never been born-again. Their true nature is revealed in verse 22.

4. John 15:6...This, again, is describing a mere professor, thus “he is cast forth *as* a branch” and will indeed be “cast...into the fire [hell].”
5. Hebrews 6:4-6...This is admittedly difficult, so let us look at it in some detail.
 - a. *Enlightened*...Everyone who comes under the sound of the Word is enlightened (Psalm 119:30), but only those who repent and believe are saved.
 - b. *Tasted*...It is one thing to *taste*; it is another thing to *eat* (see John 6:53,54).
 - c. *Partakers*...It does NOT say they were *sealed*, or *indwelt*, or *baptized*, or *filled*.
These are the terms used to describe the operations of the Holy Spirit in a believer.
 - d. Now look at verse 9, where a true believer is in view.
6. Hebrews 10:28,29...Like the last passage, this one is describing one who makes a profession of faith in Christ and then gives it up. The Jews that were being addressed were being tempted to return to the Temple with its animal sacrifices. If they would return, they would in effect be rejecting Christ all over again and counting His blood (that had temporarily sanctified them...see 1 Corinthians 7:14 for another example of this) as an unholy (common) thing; in other words, as the blood of an ordinary man.
7. Hebrew 10:38...A true believer will NOT draw back, as we see in verse 39.
8. Hebrews 3:14...This verse is similar to Colossians 1:23 (see also 1 Corinthians 15:2), where Paul is testing the reality of one’s profession. If one is truly saved, they will hold fast to the end.
9. 1 Corinthians 9:27...The word *castaway* in this verse means *disapproved*. In the context of this passage Paul is speaking of one’s service to the Lord, so we are being taught that a believer may be *disapproved* of God when it comes to our service. We see in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 that our service will be reviewed at the Judgment Seat of Christ and that if all of our works (of service) were burned up, we would lose out on rewards, but we ourselves would still be saved.
10. Revelation 2:10...The *crown of life* is not “eternal life,” which is a gift (Romans 6:23), but a *reward* for being faithful. There are 4 other crowns mentioned in Scripture and they are all referring to rewards for faithfulness.
 - a. *Incorruptible crown*...1 Corinthians 9:25
 - b. *Crown of rejoicing*...1 Thessalonians 2:19
 - c. *Crown of righteousness*...2 Timothy 4:7,8
 - d. *Crown of glory*...1 Peter 5:1-4