

## **“The Eternal Security of the Believer”**

### **Titus 3:4-7**

**Introduction:** Does a believer in Christ have eternal salvation, once and for all, after they have been saved? Do they have to be saved again after they sin? Can a person really know that they have been born again? Throughout time, these questions have been debated and are often controversial. However, the Bible is able to answer these inquiries and forever settle the “eternal security” argument. When Paul was writing to Titus, he revealed the steps of salvation toward a sinner. In this passage, we observe the emphasis on the eternal security of the believer. When Paul wrote, *“he saved us”*, he was referring to the final act that the Lord does to the repentant sinner. Notice:

1. The Initiation of God in Salvation Titus 3:4- *“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared”*
2. The Intention of God in Salvation Titus 3:5- *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...”*
3. The Institution of God during Salvation Titus 3:5- *“...by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost”*
  - a. Regeneration- *“the washing of regeneration”*
    - (1) “regeneration” (Strong’s)- “new birth, reproduction, renewal, recreation; the production of a new life consecrated to God”
    - (2) “regeneration” (Webster’s)- “Reproduction; the act of producing anew. In theology, new birth by the grace of God; that change by which the will and natural enmity of man to God and his law are subdued, and a principle of supreme love to God and his law, or holy affections, are implanted in the heart.”
    - (3) When a sinner has been saved, they have been “re” “gened”. The “genes” of the first Adam are taken out and the “genes” of the Second Adam are placed in making them the sons of God.
  - b. Renewing- *“renewing of the Holy Ghost”*
    - (1) “renewing” (Strong’s)- “a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better”
    - (2) “renewing” (Webster’s)- “Making new again; repairing; re-establishing; repeating; reviving; renovating.”
4. The Intervention of God for Salvation Titus 3:6- *“Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour”*
5. The Investment of God after Salvation Titus 3:7- *“That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*

**Body:** It is apparent from this passage that the Lord is not finished with a Christian after He saves them. There is a further working in their life that God performs after a sinner has been converted (Philippians 1:6- *“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”* ). What the

Lord has worked into the saint (Philippians 2:13- *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”* ) they must now work out (Philippians 2:12- *“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”* ). We must realize that a sinner did not work to be saved, and a saint cannot work to remain saved. God eternally secures the Christian so that He might use them to perform His will and good pleasure. As we study the Scriptures, we see more evidences of the eternal security of the believer. The saint is eternally secure:

I. Because we are Saved Ephesians 2:8- *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God”*

A. The Definition of Saved

1. “saved” (Strong’ s)- “to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction”
2. “ saved ” (Webster ’ s)- “ Preserved from evil; injury or destruction; kept frugally; prevented; spared”

B. The Distinction of Saved

1. The word “saved” is in the perfect tense, which is very important to its distinction from other tenses.
2. “The perfect tense in Greek corresponds to the perfect tense in English, and describes an action which is viewed as having been completed in the past, once and for all, not needing to be repeated.” (Online Bible) Hebrews 6:4-6

II. Because we are Sealed Ephesians 1:13- *“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”*

A. The Security of the Seal

1. According to Strong’ s, “sealed” means “to set a seal upon, mark with a seal; for security: from Satan” .
2. Robertson’ s Word Pictures depicts “sealed” to mean, “To set a seal on one as a mark or stamp, sometimes the marks of ownership” . He further states that it means, “Marked and authenticated as God’s heritage” . Ephesians 4:30, II Corinthians 1:22

B. The Symbol of the Seal

1. “What is the significance of this sealing of the Holy Spirit? For one thing, it speaks of a *finished transaction*. Even today, when important legal documents are processed, they are stamped with the official seal to signify the completion of the transaction.” (Wiersbe)
2. “This sealing also implies *ownership*: God has put his seal on us because He has purchased us to be His own.” (Wiersbe)
3. “It also means *security and protection*. So, the believer belongs to God, and is safe and protected because he is a part of a finished

transaction. According to John 14:16-17, the Holy Spirit abides with the believer forever. It is possible for us to grieve the Spirit and thereby lose the blessings of His ministry. But He doesn't leave us." (Wiersbe)

4. "Another use for the seal is as a mark of *authenticity*. Just as a signature on a letter attests to the genuineness of the document, so the presence of the Spirit proves the believer is genuine. It is not simply our lip profession, our religious activity, or our good works, but the witness of the Spirit that makes our profession authentic." (Wiersbe)

III. Because we are Sustained I Peter 1:5- "*Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*"

A. The Definition of Kept

1. "kept" (Strong's)- "to guard, protect by a military guard, either to prevent hostile invasion, or to keep the inhabitants of a besieged city from flight; by watching and guarding to preserve one for the attainment of something"
2. "keep" (Webster's)- "To hold; to retain in one's power or possession; not to lose or part with"

B. The Distinction of Kept

1. "Believers are not kept by their own power, but by the power of God." (Wiersbe)
2. "The word translated "kept" is a military word that means 'guarded, shielded.' The tense of the verb reveals that we are *constantly* being guarded by God, assuring us that we shall safely arrive in heaven." (Wiersbe)

IV. Because we are Supported John 10:28-29- "*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*"

A. The Presentation of Eternal Life- "*And I give unto them eternal life*" (Man cannot earn, buy, or steal eternal life since it is God that gives it.)

B. The Promise of Eternal Life- "*and they shall never perish*"

C. The Place of Eternal Life- "*neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand*"

D. The Power of Eternal Life- "*My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*"

1. Some individuals feel that you can fall out of God's hand.
2. If this were true, then a person would have to fall through space for a long way. However, this is virtually impossible. Isaiah 48:13- "*Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand*

*hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.”*

V. Because we are Seated Ephesians 2:6- *“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”*

A. The Definition of Sit

1. Strong’ s defines “sit” as, “to cause to sit down together, place together”
2. When a sinner is saved, he or she is raised up into the heavenly places and made to sit together with Christ.

B. The Distinction of Sit

1. “We are not raised from the dead and left in the graveyard. Because we are united to Christ, we have been exalted with Him and we are sharing His throne in the heavenlies. Our physical position may be on earth, but our spiritual position is ‘in heavenly places in Christ Jesus’ .” (Wiersbe)
2. In order for Satan to “rob” our salvation, he would have to ascend up into heaven and dethrone Jesus. We know, according to the Scriptures, this will never happen.

VI. Because we are Secluded Colossians 3:3- *“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God”*

A. The Definition of Hid

1. “hid” (Strong’ s)- “to hide, conceal, to be hid; (that it may not become known)”
2. “hide” (Webster’ s)- “To conceal; to withhold or withdraw from sight; to place in any state or position in which the view is intercepted from the object. To conceal from knowledge; to keep secret. To protect; to keep in safety.”

B. The Distinction of Hid

1. “...we are in Christ who is in God, and no burglar, not even Satan himself, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.” (RWP)
2. “No hellish burglar can break that combination.” (RWP)

VII. Because we are Secured Colossians 2:14- *“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”*

A. The Washing of our Sins- *“Blotting out”*

1. “But Jesus Christ did even more than cancel the debt: He took the Law that condemned us and set it aside so that we are no longer under its dominion.” (Wiersbe)

2. “The perfect tense emphasizes the permanence of the removal of the bond which has been paid and cancelled and cannot be presented again.” (RWP)
3. “Here the law of double jeopardy is seen. This law states that a man cannot be tried or punished twice for the same crime. Through his death Christ was punished for my sin. By accepting him as Savior I agreed to allow him to pay my sin debt. But if I must eventually pay for my own sin in hell (because I fell from grace prior to death) then the righteous Judge of the universe becomes guilty of breaking the law of double jeopardy.” (Willmington)

B. The Writing of our Sins- *“the handwriting of ordinances that was against us”*

1. “Jesus not only took our sins to the cross (I Peter 2:24), but He also took the Law to the cross and nailed it there, forever out of the way. The Law was certainly against us, because it was impossible for us to meet its holy demands.” (Wiersbe)
2. “When He shed His blood for sinners, Jesus Christ cancelled the huge debt that was against sinners because of their disobedience to God’s holy Law. In Bible days, financial records were often kept on parchment, and the writing could be washed off. This is a picture Paul painted.” (Wiersbe)

C. The Withdrawing of our Sins- *“and took it out of the way”*

1. Jesus took all of our past, present, and future sins away.
2. Some are still worried about their future sins. However, all of our sins were future sins in relation to the cross about two thousand years ago.

Conclusion: It is after a careful study of the Word of God that we must conclude that a saint is eternally saved after their conversion. Nothing is able to change the everlasting effects of salvation. The old phrase, “Once saved, always saved” is an actuality considering the work that God performs in a believer’s life. When a sinner is saved, there is no more:

1. Charges Romans 8:33- *“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?”*
2. Condemnation Romans 8:34- *“Who is he that condemneth?”*
3. Changes Romans 8:35- *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” vs. 38-39*