

**9-30-2020 Break-Out Session – Pastor John Clark**  
*Eternal Security From Different Angles*

INTRODUCTION: Most of our eternal security arguments relate to the character of God and His promises – which is a great and encouraging approach! A few of those that really jump out to me are:

1. Sin or a lack of continuing belief cannot \_\_\_\_\_ a believer (John 3:18, John 5:24, ***Romans 8:1***)
  
2. A believer can never be \_\_\_\_\_ and it is God’s will that the believer is never **LOST** (John 6:35-40)
  
3. No one can \_\_\_\_\_ the believer out of the Jesus’ hand (John 10:27-28) and no one can \_\_\_\_\_ the believer out of the Father’s hand (John 10:29).
  
4. God has determined to \_\_\_\_\_ the believer (Romans 8:28-30) and as a result no one or nothing can \_\_\_\_\_ the believer from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:35-39).
  
5. The believer is \_\_\_\_\_ by the power of God (1 Peter 1:3-5)

**ANGLE #1: Word Definitions**

1. God communicated His Word to us through \_\_\_\_\_ languages: (1) The Old Testament is largely comprised of Hebrew, but does have some Aramaic sections (especially in Daniel), and (2) The New Testament utilized Koine Greek. We want to consider the language/vocabulary selections that God used in the Greek New Testament.
  
2. Three things make Koine Greek \_\_\_\_\_:

- (1<sup>st</sup>): The elegance of the \_\_\_\_\_. Greek is highly inflected which helps avoid vagueness. Subject\verb connection is easily identifiable in even the most complex sentences. Antecedents are less difficult to trace. Modifiers will agree with the words they modify, etc.
  
  - (2<sup>nd</sup>): Greek possesses a massive, and very particular \_\_\_\_\_ which is helpful for expressing thoughts clearly without confusion.
  
  - (3<sup>rd</sup>): Greek possesses a highly defined \_\_\_\_\_ system which presents another "dimension" to the reader concerning time/aspect.
3. So, in other words, God said what He meant without any ambiguity and we need to take His Word at face value without reading our experiences or theology into our understanding of what God simply says.

**(1<sup>st</sup> Word): SAVED** (*sozo*) verb form of **SALVATION** – Meaning to save, to deliver, to preserve safe from danger, loss, or destruction.

1. This word can be used of the saving of \_\_\_\_\_ life from dangerous earthly situations (Matthew 8:25, 14:30), OR it can be used of the saving of \_\_\_\_\_ life from spiritual danger (i.e., the penalty of sin, Matthew 1:21; Acts 16:30-31; Ephesians 2:8).
  
2. There are two implied facts by the use of these two words: (1) Mankind needs to be saved from something! and, (2) God sent Jesus Christ to do the saving!
  - a. Some additional implications are:
    - 1) If you need a Savior, you **CANNOT** or **DID NOT** save \_\_\_\_\_.

- 2) If a Savior saves, then how could He be called a Savior if I can \_\_\_\_\_ face the danger He saved me from.
3. When the word of God uses *sozo* to describe spiritual salvation from spiritual consequences, it often times uses it in the \_\_\_\_\_ *tense* (indicating a completed action with ongoing results as in Ephesians 2:5, 8 – perfect, passive, participles), \_\_\_\_\_ *tense* (indicating a point in time action as in Titus 3:5), and \_\_\_\_\_ *tense, indicative mood* (indicating a guaranteed future time of salvation as in Matthew 1:21; Acts 16:30-31; Romans 5:9-10; 1 Corinthians 3:15).

**(2<sup>nd</sup> Word): PERISH (apollumi)** – Meaning to destroy and with the preposition *apo* attached it carries the force of wholly or completely destroyed. \_\_\_\_\_ must determine this word’s meaning in every use.

1. When used of spiritual destruction or eternal destruction it fits with Romans 6:23a – “the wages of sin is death” and Revelation 20:11-15 which speaks of the Lake of Fire as the “second death.” – This is the complete and whole \_\_\_\_\_ of the unbeliever via separation from God forever.
2. Now, the word **PERISH** is mentioned ONLY because of a coordinating \_\_\_\_\_ in the Greek that is VERY insightful. – **OU ME**. Let’s look at two verses:
  - a. John 10:28 – “And I give them eternal life, and they **SHALL NEVER PERISH**; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”
  - b. John 11:26 – “And whoever lives and believes in Me **SHALL NEVER DIE**. Do you believe this?”

**(3<sup>rd</sup> Word): ETERNAL (aionios)** – Meaning perpetual, and not affected by the limitations of time.

Something that is NOT transitory but of \_\_\_\_\_ duration.

1. Some things we learn about eternal life from the Scriptures are:
  - a. Eternal life is \_\_\_\_\_ (John 17:3)
  - b. Eternal life is \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 5:11)
  - c. Eternal life is a \_\_\_\_\_ FROM GOD (Romans 6:23)
  - d. Eternal life is \_\_\_\_\_ BY GOD (Titus 1:2 and 1 John 2:25)
  - e. Eternal life is something you can \_\_\_\_\_ THAT YOU HAVE (1 John 5:13)
  - f. Eternal life is something received ONLY BY \_\_\_\_\_ IN JESUS CHRIST (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:16)
2. Some LOGICAL, and COMMON-SENSE questions about the meaning of ETERNAL:
  - a. How LONG does eternal last by definition? - \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If you PRESENTLY POSSESS eternal life, which by definition is life that never ends and lasts forever, can you ever lose it? - \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. If you could lose ETERNAL LIFE in 5 years due to a particular sin, or in 10 years because of a pattern of sinning, or in 15 years due to your unfaithfulness, was eternal life truly eternal? - \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. If God wants you to KNOW that you either have or do not have eternal life PRESENTLY, how could you KNOW you have it NOW, if keeping it was somehow based on something that COULD HAPPEN in the future?

**(4<sup>th</sup> Word): GRACE (charis)** – Meaning a favor done without expectation of return, or unearned and unmerited favor.

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.
2. Romans 5:2 – Through Whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
3. Some LOGICAL and COMMON-SENSE questions on GRACE:

- a. If God grants salvation on the basis of Him granting favor without any expectation of return, HOW could anyone through behavior or lack of behavior lose something that was NOT dependent upon them in the first place? - \_\_\_\_\_
- b. If something is unearned at the beginning, and then must be earned later on, could it ever be defined as unearned without that caveat? - \_\_\_\_\_.  
The better description would be a free trial with performance expected later?
- c. If it is NOT OF YOURSELVES when you get saved, and then it IS OF YOURSELF later on, how could the initial statement NOT OF YOURSELVES even be true? - \_\_\_\_\_
- d. How could God speak of something being done with continuing results (i.e., you have been saved) if your salvation in some way is still dependent upon your faithfulness? - \_\_\_\_\_
- e. In order for grace to truly be unmerited, anyone who benefits from grace, by definition, must have the ability to abuse it. Because if they abuse it and then it is taken away, then that “grace” was merited and lost due to behavior. For grace to be grace, NOTHING can alter its intention of blessing.

**(5<sup>th</sup> Word): GIFT (*charisma* OR *doron* OR *dorea*)** meaning something given freely and without cost – A quick break down of these main words translated “gift.”

1. From the Scriptures, notice what the biblical writers call a GIFT:
  - a. Paul calls \_\_\_\_\_ a gift in Romans 6:23.
  - b. Paul calls \_\_\_\_\_ a gift in Ephesians 2:8-9.
  - c. Jesus calls \_\_\_\_\_ a gift in John 4:10.
  - d. Peter calls the PERMANENT INDWELLING \_\_\_\_\_ a gift in Acts 2:38, 8:20, 10:45, and 11:17.
  - e. Paul calls \_\_\_\_\_ a gift in Romans 5:17.
2. Some LOGICAL and COMMON-SENSE questions on a GIFT:
  - a. What constitutes a gift? If someone pays for more than 50% of the cost and gives it to you? More than 75%? 90%? - \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If you receive a gift and you have to pay for it 5 days later, is it truly a gift? - \_\_\_\_\_.  
What about 5 years later? - \_\_\_\_\_. 30 years later? - \_\_\_\_\_.

- c. Now, why can God offer eternal life, salvation, righteousness, forgiveness of sins, etc. as a FREE GIFT? \_\_\_\_\_.

**ANGLE #2: Our Position in Christ**

The believer IN Jesus Christ has been given innumerable blessings. So, how does God \_\_\_\_\_ all of these blessings in place? In other words, how can He guarantee all of these blessings?

- 1. God has given promises and He cannot \_\_\_\_\_ His Word!
- 2. The underlying basis for all of these blessings is God's grace, and hence nothing we DO and nothing we DO NOT DO could ever effect these blessings.
- 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ by which all of God's promises are secured and guaranteed is through our unchangeable position IN Christ. This is what we want to focus on for a little bit...
  - a. God places each and every believer in an unchangeable and unalterable position and it is here that He \_\_\_\_\_ and guarantees all of His blessings. (1 Corinthians 1:26-30)
  - b. The way God enacted His plan and placed us **IN** Jesus Christ was through spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Due to our spiritual baptism (i.e., our identification with Christ), we have been \_\_\_\_\_ **WITH** Jesus Christ in His death, resurrection, ascension, and session.

d. Due to our connection with Jesus Christ, some amazing things have happened to us that also \_\_\_\_\_ our eternal security.

1) (*Amazing Thing #1*): We have a **NEW** \_\_\_\_\_ and it is an unchangeable identity! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

2) (*Amazing Thing #2*): We can **NEVER** die \_\_\_\_\_ or eternally. We can physically die, but we **WILL NOT** stay dead. (Colossians 3:1)

3) (*Amazing Thing #3*): We have been **SEVERED** from our \_\_\_\_\_ with the sin nature. Now Paul uses two illustrative examples to teach this truth:

a) *1<sup>st</sup> Example - Dead to Sin*: Paul describes this in Romans 6:2 as the believer having “died to sin.” The word “death” by definition means \_\_\_\_\_.

b) *2<sup>nd</sup> Example - Spiritually Circumcised*: Paul describes this in Colossians 2:11-12 when he says the believer was “circumcised with the circumcision made without \_\_\_\_\_, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.”

- c) So, why is this so amazing OR important? – Romans 8:1-3 tells us why.
- i. As a result of this separation from our sin nature, God is now free to declare that the believer in Jesus Christ will **NEVER** be \_\_\_\_\_, but that the indwelling source of sin (now severed from the believer) WAS condemned in Christ's death to sin.
  - ii. What this tells us is that the very source of every sin that we have ever committed (i.e., the sin nature) is under the strict condemnation of God and that final condemnation will take place in time at the glorification of believers. – The sin nature is on \_\_\_\_\_ awaiting its annihilation!

4) (**Amazing Thing #4**): We have been **ADOPTED** as \_\_\_\_\_, meaning that we are **FULL HEIRS**.

a) In the Roman culture of Paul's day, you adopted your OWN \_\_\_\_\_ children NOT someone else's biological child.

b) Now, here is the amazing thing about your position IN Christ – you do NOT have to \_\_\_\_\_ or go through any probationary period to find out if you will qualify to earn your eternal inheritance.

c) So, why is this amazing OR important? – Because if God predetermined that He would do this (Ephesians 1:5), then this blessing that we possess IN Christ, has nothing to do with our \_\_\_\_\_ performance in any way!