

Eternal Security

By Dr. Myron F. Boyd

The first verse of the 125th Psalm gives us a picture of security. "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." Mount Zion represents the Kingdom of God against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. The true church of Jesus Christ shall know of no defeat but shall reign eternally with her Lord.

The thought I have in mind for my discussion is that as long as Christ abides in the heart, one is secure, but where sin reigns in the heart, one is insecure. Christ and sin do not abide together. Satan is not big enough to put Christ out of your heart. The Prince of the power of the air is not mighty enough to defeat you in your Christian faith if you have Christ in you who alone is your hope of glory as Paul makes clear in Colossians.

The promise of this 125th Psalm is only to you who trust in the Lord. One is not trusting in the Lord if he has not made the Lord the Master of his life. One is not trusting in the Lord when he wilfully breaks God's commandments. Bishop Taylor Smith said: "We need less religion and more regeneration in the pulpit, pew, and press." Another has said: "To trust in the Lord is not a religious rite but a new birth." To be regenerated is to have new life born in you and imparted to you.

If you turn your back on sin, believe on Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God, and trust fully in His atoning blood for your salvation, then God saves you. As long as you keep that attitude and have Christ in you, you have eternal life abiding in you. The devil can't take it away from you. No one in the world can take it away from you. We have a great Almighty God in whom to place our faith. Let us notice what Christ said about security: "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine . . . My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 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. I and my Father are one." Don't let the devil discourage you; don't let people confuse you. You have God by your side; you have Christ in your heart; you have all the power of heaven and earth available to you if you fully trust in Christ as Lord of your life.

In the eighth chapter of Romans Paul gives us a picture of our security. "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 creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Neither circumstances nor people nor the devil can defeat us. It is our own unbelief and sin that does it. No one is secure who does not believe and no one is secure who wilfully persists on sinning when he knows better. To claim security under such circumstances is to shut one's eyes to the Word of God and to fall into the hands of Satan who has been a liar from the beginning.

The picture of Jerusalem is that of a city completely surrounded by mountains and thus protected. So God is round about us and will

overshadow us with His Almighty power. With God round about us, we cannot possibly conceive of a more comfortable, peaceful, or safe place. In the will of God one is secure, but outside the will of God one has absolutely no security.

Satan admitted that God had a hedge around Job. Satan can go up and down through the earth, but he cannot touch one of God's anointed without God's permission. God does permit Satan to tempt man, but with every temptation God provides a way of escape. Man has only to take advantage of it. Satan can make sin abound, but God can make grace much more abound. Those who walk uprightly and in fellowship with the Lord have the assurance that God will be good to them and withhold no good thing from them, but, "as for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity."

The New Testament teaching is very clear on this matter of wilful sins. God will not hold us guiltless if we go on in our sinful ways and at the same time say we are children of God. A young man in Johannesburg, South Africa, came up to me one night and said: "When I got saved, God forgave all my past sins, all the sins I am committing now, and all the sins I am ever going to commit. I don't have to quit sinning just because I'm saved. I'm going to go right on enjoying my sins for they are under the blood of Jesus." That is nothing short of blasphemy. That is a million miles from being in line with the Bible. Note what God says, for we must take His Word—not man's. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). In Matthew 10:37 Christ makes it clear that if we put our own loved ones ahead of Him, we are not worthy of Him. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." "He that committeth sin is of the devil" (1 John 3:8). If we are of the devil, then we are not of God. "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4). Christ is truth and if He does not dwell in us, then we are not Christians. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save (deliver or salvage) his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). In Romans Paul teaches us: "Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body . . . for sin shall not have dominion over you." In the 8th chapter of Romans Paul shows clearly how the law failed to cure or save men from sin, but, he says, "What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

The law condemns sin but is powerless or impotent to overcome it. What the law could not do, the atonement of Christ was adequate to do. Since the gospel scheme was provided to free us from the law, should we remain in sin in order that grace may abound? That

would be presumption on God's forbearance and would bring us again under slavery to sin and its penalties.

Why then do people argue that they are secure even though they continue in a life of sin? Jesus said the Spirit would lead us into all truth. Paul said: "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Paul asks the question in the 6th chapter of Romans: "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" In the 20th verse Paul says for us to be just as free from sin as Christians as we were free from righteousness when we were in sin.

I do not know how anyone can intelligently argue that he is saved, that he has eternal life dwelling in him, that he is on his way to heaven, that he is happy as a Christian, when he admits that he is living in sin which he knows the Bible condemns. It is a trick of the devil. There is no security in sin. Sin put Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden; sin cast Lucifer out of heaven; sin sent Christ to the cross; sin will keep us from heaven. But, thank God, sin may be forgiven; it may be cleansed away by the blood of Christ; it may be buried and forgotten. We all have sinned and if we get to heaven, it will be because Christ has saved us from sin.

The question then is: "Is Christ able to save men from sin? Was His death on the cross a success or a failure? Has He lost His power to deliver men?" I want you to carefully notice six Scriptures: 1) Matthew 28:28—"And Jesus . . . spake . . . All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." How much power? All power! 2) Acts 10:34—"God is no respecter of persons." Then He can and will do for one as much as He will for another, won't He? 3) Hebrews 13:8—"Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." He has all power and He is no respecter of persons, and He is just the same today as He has ever been. He will be the same forever. 4) Colossians 1:27—"Christ in you, the hope of glory." So, we see our eternal hope is to have Christ in us. A Christian, then, is one who has Christ abiding in his heart. 5) John 15:4-7—"Abide in me, and I in you . . . He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit . . . If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch . . . If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." So, if we want to live above sin, and if we ask God for grace to do so, we can live victoriously, according to the Bible. 6) Philippians 4:13—Here we have the testimony of one who experienced such victory. Listen: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Then, if Christ has all power, and if He is no respecter of persons, and if He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and if He gave Paul power to do all things, He will do the same for us if we desire it.

I leave it with you. You are secure if Christ is in you. You have absolutely no security if Christ is not in you. He is not in you if you are living for sin. Turn from sin and trust in Christ's blood. He will enter your heart now.

—President of N. H. A.

"Prayer is not eloquence but earnestness; not the definition of helplessness but the feeling of it; not figures of speech, but earnestness of soul."