

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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October 21, 2018

### “The Security of the Believer”

By Brian Meade

Last week we discussed “*The Reality of Falling Away*” and I want to follow up that article with the other side of the coin. The opposite of falling away is finding security in Christ. The reason I believe we need lessons and articles about this topic is the fact that some Christians feel that they are not secure in their salvation.

Insecurity can be a real issue that needs to be addressed when some have listened to sermons about the dangers of falling away from God, and yet have not heard any sermons that gives a sense of confidence in our walk with God. Brethren have rightly fought against Calvinism and the impossibility of apostasy doctrines, and yet may have overemphasized that to the exclusion of the other. That can be one of the dangers of one-sided preaching— it lacks balance.

As we should know, there are extremes on both sides that need to be addressed: over confidence and under confidence. While over confidence is the attitude of living without any possible fear of falling; under confidence can lead us to always doubt, fear, and anguish over the possibility of being lost.

Even though the Bible cautions us to not leave God, it also teaches us what a proper view of our salvation looks like. I would call it a cautionary-joyful obedience to the will of God (Matthew 7:21). This involves knowing that while I can leave my faithful obedience to Christ, I know that will not bring joy to my life in any way. I know it would only bring shame and greater anguish to the Christian because of the failure to please God (2 Corinthians 5:9-11).

Let’s look at some scriptures that give us a proper look at security:

**(1) Romans 8:35-39, “Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

Paul is telling us that no one can interrupt the security of a believer who believes and obeys Jesus. No force in heaven or on earth will be able to change the fact that we are in a saved condition, while we remain faithful to Christ. The only one who can change that is you, by your willful disobedience to become unfaithful. That gives us caution and security in our walk with Christ. God wants us to know that His love for us is always there for us while



we do His will. Circumstances won't rob us of our reward for being His obedient child. (Hebrews 5:8-9) These words should give us the comfort to stay strong in the faith.

**(2) John 10:27-29, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”**

Jesus has some good words to say about the sheep who follow Him in every thing. Many times these passages are used (like all of the ones we shall look at today) to prove you can't fall from grace at all—but what do the verses actually teach? They teach us that when we obey the gospel and become a faithful sheep, that as long as we are following Jesus, we will never perish while in that state of faithfulness! The only one who can change that is you, by your willful disobedience to become an unfaithful sheep!

**(3) 1 Peter 1:3-5, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”**

God's provision for our salvation include such a great cost as the death of Jesus on the cross for our benefit! We, as Christians, should view our salvation as a two-way street. God provided the sacrifice, prepared all that was necessary in saving man, and unlike Satan, God desires man to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).

But having said that, God leaves certain aspects of our salvation to our freewill to do or reject (Acts 2:37-41; Acts 13:46). When man does his part in salvation by believing, repenting of sin, confessing Christ, and being immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins— God saves us by the blood of His Son (Hebrews 9:13-15; 1 Peter 1:18-19) and we are then **“born again to a living hope....to obtain an inheritance.....reserved in heaven for you.”**

The protection that God gives us is not a supernatural force keeping all bad things from happening to us. God's people still have problems, suffer persecution, get sick, and were killed by unbelievers (Revelation 2:10; Rev. 12:11).

**“Through faith”** — this protection is based upon our faith and as long as we keep our faith— God keeps our inheritance safe for us— thus keeping us safe. Our faith is the instrument or agency by which our salvation is made possible. Along this same line, F.J.A. Hort once wrote that *“faith is the human condition which brings the Divine strengthening into operation.”* (F.J.A. Hort, *The First Epistle of Saint Peter*, Macmillan Co, 1898)

With all of these verses we have looked at concerning the security of the believer — there is a common theme: that God takes care of His people and will one day reward their faithfulness! This ought to be a great comfort to God's people to know that as long as our faith is secure in Christ, our reward is secure as well. God keeps His promises for His people (Hebrews 6:11-19; Titus 1:2). Therefore with confidence let us *“...press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 3:14)

I want to conclude this study by saying that the major problem of the *“Once in Grace Always in Grace”* false doctrine is that it actually leaves one to very be insecure of their salvation. It leaves doubt concerning those who do the same things that other believers do, and then fall away. It is then that false teachers of this doctrine will use the old tired phrase: *“That if one falls away, then they never were really saved in the first place!”*

To me (and others as well) it is deeply troubling to think that if you are following the Bible (I say that loosely, because denominations generally do not follow the plan of salvation correctly) and then one cannot be saved even when they genuinely obey God's word, that is a great disconnect!

One could not trust God's word to teach us what to do to be saved, if that was the case! And if we follow God's way for salvation, we still don't *know* if we are saved? That is an utter disconnect from the reality that the Bible presents to us. That's why false teaching has a greater sense of insecurity than one could ever bear!

Sadly, it is all based upon the false premise of John Calvin's theories that salvation is completely dependent upon God and His arbitrary choosing of the saved. May it never be that we believe that if God doesn't want us, it is impossible for us to be saved! That is NOT a comforting thought indeed.

Our salvation is more secure than that because we can trust God's word to direct our steps in following Him.

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Steve Switcher, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Cameron Hutchinson, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Delain Doles, and Peggy Harville (cancer).

**Our Gospel Meeting** with Trey Haskett begins today!—October 21st to the 26th.  
(7:00 PM Nightly— Monday thru Friday)

Other local Meetings are posted in the foyer bulletin board.

Keep Kathrine Callahan in our prayers for a safe baby delivery on October 24th (due date).

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:**

Brian Meade

**Preaching:**

**Trey Haskett**

**Sermon:**

*"How the World Fell & How to Fix It"*

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am**

**Trey Haskett**

*"Suffering, Steadfastness, & Psalms"*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:**

Fred Johnson

**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:**

Paul Busby

*Romans 1:16-17*

**Song Leader:**

Lee Busby

**Lord's Table:**

Jerry Kennemur

**Assisting:**

Chris Callahan & Nathan Meade

**Preaching:**

**Trey Haskett**

**Sermon:**

*"Culture and the Battle for the Mind"*

**Closing Prayer:**

Dan Cottrell

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**October 24th:**

**Gospel Meeting:**

**Trey Haskett**

**Song Leader:**

Paul Busby

**Closing Prayer:**

Dan Cottrell