

Study in Romans

Doctrine > Good News > Temporal Blessings > The Security of God's Love for the Believer Romans 8:31-39

The question is often asked, "Can a person lose their salvation?" In one of the most definitive statements on the security of the believer found in Scripture, Paul now makes it clear that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Perhaps the question is better asked this way, "Can a person lose **God's** salvation?" The issue is not our ability to earn or retain God's forgiveness and eternal life; it is God's plan of action to atone for our sins, impute Christ's righteousness, and put us on His plan of salvation unto eternal life. Everything said up to this point has been leading us to this conclusion.

In John's gospel, we are presented with two miracles that serve to picture how the believer is made secure in Christ's work: The changing of water to wine (2:1-11) and the feeding of bread to the 5,000 (6:1-14). It is no accident that these two elements, bread and wine, are used in the Lord's transformation of the Passover meal into the Lord's Supper. In both miracles, Jesus demonstrates His ability to supply sustenance for a large group of people after their supplies have run out. The next day after the miracle of bread and fish for the 5,000, Jesus engages the crowd with His sermon on being the Bread of Life (6:22-59). His point is that the one who eats of His body and drinks His blood will abide in Him and will receive assurance of eternal life (vv. 27, 33, 40, 47, 50, 51, 54, 58). In this passage also is the basis of that assurance in the work of the Father, not the work of people (vv. 27, 29, 32, 37, 39, 40, 44, 45, 57, 58). The next time you partake of the Communion elements, think of the assurance of your salvation which the Father has planned in Christ long ago!

From eternity past, God foreordained to save a select group of humanity despite themselves; architected an **individual** plan for each person (predestination); summoned them when the time was right according to His schedule for them, imputed their sin to Christ and His righteousness to them (justification); and is now in the process of bringing each of them to glory in His home forever. No wonder Paul explodes with this doxology at this point, the first of three we will encounter. Even in the English, the poetry of these verses is unmistakable. Let's celebrate with Paul this unsurpassed love of God's that has put us in such a position that He has no condemnation left for His people. We are saved so completely and finally that our sin, other people, the world system, Satan himself, even holy angels, cannot bring a valid charge against God's elect!!

1. Forgiven all things; given all things (vv. 31-32)
2. The courtroom verdict: Not guilty! Four reasons why: (vv. 33-34)
 - a. Christ's atoning death
 - b. Christ's resurrection
 - c. Christ's exalted position
 - d. Christ's intercession for us
3. Nothing can separate God's elect from His love for them (vv. 35-39)
 - a. Internal, personal struggles (vv. 35-37)
 - b. External, powerful strategies (vv. 38-39)