

Speaker: Simon Sherwin

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Subject: Can I be sure I am saved? Can I be saved and lost?

Reading: John 3:14-18; 3:36; 5:24; 6:47; 10:27-30

There are two questions to be considered from these verses:

1. Can I be sure of salvation? In other words, Can I be certain I am on the way to heaven?
2. Once I am saved can I be lost?

The expression, “Eternal” or “everlasting” life occurs 23 times in John's writings usually in the phrase, “hath everlasting life”. This indicates that it is something we can be sure about and have now, so the answer to the first question is “Yes, we can be sure of eternal life”. In fact, we can be more sure of getting to heaven than of any other event.

Eternal life is based on the promise of God. You are not born with eternal life. It is not automatic, you do not start out with it. It is something we have to get and we can only get it as a gift from God. Christ is essential to eternal life. There would be no eternal life without Christ.

How do we get eternal life? We need to believe.

We read about perishing, being condemned, the wrath of God abiding (John 3:36). We read about death as opposed to life.

If we have not accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour then we are perishing. Someone who drowns in water is said to have perished. They have lost their life, they have lost everything. If never been rescued from sin you are perishing. If you are sinking, one day you will sink altogether.

To perish in this world means to lose everything. To perish spiritually is to be barred from heaven and cut off from God and what He stands for – love, joy ,peace. It is not to lose existence.

“God is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9)

If your sins have not been forgiven, you are under judgment. You are condemned. “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23)

“That all the world might be guilty before God” (Rom 3:19)- guilty of turning against God and doing our own thing.

“All we like sheep have gone astray we have turned everyone to his own way”(Isa 53:6)

Going further, the wrath of God abideth on the one who hath not eternal life (John 3:36).

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb 10:31)

As far as the Bible is concerned, by nature we are dead - “dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph 2:1) , that is, cut off from the life of God. If we are saved, we know that He has “delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Col 1:13)

What side of the divide do you stand tonight?

Are you perishing? Is the wrath of God hanging over you?

Eternal life is give to “Whosoever believeth in Him” (John 3:15,16), not any one who tries their best, gives money to the poor, goes to church, prays daily. Many good things but none of them able to take you to heaven.

God is holy and can't overlook sin. He can't say sin doesn't matter. To say it didn't matter would deny His character.

God has provided the remedy in His “Only Begotten Son”.

He sent His Son (Gal 4:4); “God manifest in flesh” (1 Tim 3:16); “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim 1:15); He came “To seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). He called for them. He died for them.

No one else has loved you like the Saviour. No one else has done for you what He did on Calvary.

Is He your Lord and King? Is He in control of your life? Is your trust in Him?

He that believeth is not condemned because He took the judgment. God is satisfied to look on Christ and pardon me.

It is a completed work, it can't be added to, nothing can take away from it.

He has the highest position in the universe – no one can throw Him off.

How can I be sure? How can I know it is enough?

- It's a question of trust. The Lord Jesus who makes these claims has done what is necessary and done it perfectly.

“Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed” (Rom 10:10)

“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Tim 1:12)

Paul in himself was not worth anything. He called himself the chief of sinners.

It is not a question of us keeping it up but Him keeping us up.

Can I be lost if I'm saved?

The Bible speaks of salvation as new birth – born again – born into God's family.

As members of the human race we are all failures.

Once you're born into God's family you are in it forever. Once eternal life is given He will not take it away. No one can pluck us out of the Father's hand.

Can we then do what we like? - The Christian life is one of following Him.

“How can they who are dead to sin live any longer therein” (Rom 6:2)

Good works won't get us to heaven but they must definitely follow salvation.

Can I be sure? Yes, absolutely.

Can I be lost? Absolutely not.

“I am persuaded that neither life nor death, nor angels nor principalities nor powers can separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus my Lord” (Rom 8:39)