

THE ROMAN REVEALING
Theme: The Reign of Righteousness
From the Sermon Notebook of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan

SUBJECT: ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE SAINTS
SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 8:38-39
PART ONE OF THREE PARTS

Text: “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor power, 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.”

Introduction

The subject upon which I speak has caused a great deal of controversy among the people of God. In this series my object is not to cause controversy nor the blasting away of any opponent, but rather the edification and enlightenment of the people of God, so that the knowledge and authority of Scripture might deliver from bondage and give true liberty.

In this lecture we shall observe the scriptural answer to the question, “Can a Believer Ever Be Lost?” We shall also discover the real Scriptural Meaning of Eternal Security.

I. CAN A BELIEVER EVER BE LOST?(8:38-39) *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor power, 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.” This is the inspired answer to the question of verse 35:
“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”*

Once we have been justified by faith, who can and what power can separate us from the love of Christ? And the answer is, without even one doubt, given by the apostle Paul that neither death nor life shall separate! Can you think of anything which is not included in the phrase *in death nor in life*?

1. No Unseen Powers Can Separate the Believer From Christ, Paul is persuaded that *“neither angels, nor principalities, nor powers can separate the believer from Christ.”* These terms are used again and again in the New Testament for angelic hosts, good and evil. When our Savior rose from the dead He defeated all principalities and powers, all the hosts of evil led by Satan. The expression “neither angels” referred to here are good angels, and the principalities and powers refer to evil angels. In other words, there is nothing that good angels would do and nothing that evil angels can do which will separate the believer from Christ.

2. Nothing Present or Future Can Separate the Believer From Christ. Paul is further persuaded that *“neither things present nor things to come”* can separate the believer from Christ. Can you think of any experience through which a believer might ever go which is neither a thing present or a thing to come?

3. Nothing In Heaven or Hell Can Separate the Believer From Christ. Again, Paul is persuaded that *neither height nor depth, nothing in heaven, nothing in hell, can separate the believer from Christ.* As if that is not enough Paul says, *I am persuaded that any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

My friends by the authority of God’s Word we are safe if we are true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Question: Can a believer

ever be lost again? The answer is NO, based upon the authority of God's Word! *This leads us to the need for understanding...*

II. THE TRUE MEANING OF ETERNAL SECURITY.

(Matthew 7:21-23). *“Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”*

1. Positive Meaning. When we speak of the eternal security of the believer, we mean that once a poor sinner has been regenerated by the Word and the Spirit of God; once he has received a new life in Christ and a new divine nature; once he has been justified from every charge before the throne of God, it is absolutely impossible for him to ever again be a lost soul.

2. Negative Meaning. What do we not mean when we speak of the eternal security of the believer? We do not mean that if one professes to be saved, if he comes down to the front and shakes the preacher's hand, and says, “I have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior”, that does not mean that he is eternally secure. It does not mean that if one joins a church and is baptized, that he is eternally secure. It does not mean if that person takes an interest in Christian work, that they are forever secure. It does not mean that because one manifests certain gifts and exercises these gifts in Christian testimony, that that person is necessarily eternally secure.

An example of a false profession is seen in...

3. Simon the Sorcerer in Acts Chapter 8. Verse 9, *But there was a certain man called Simon, which before time in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one.*

i) Simon was a magician, who had learned diabolical arts, and used enchantments and divinations, as Balaam and the magicians of Egypt did: He astonished the people with the strange feats he performed, which were so unheard of and unaccountable, that they were thrown into an ecstasy through wonder and admiration at the amazing things that were done by him. He purposely misled the people, telling them that he was some great one like a divine person, or an extraordinary prophet. Simon had a great following as do the false prophets in our day. *But this was about to change..*

ii) Because of the preaching of the Gospel in Samaria by Philip, a great revival broke out. God's miracles were witnessed through unclean spirits coming out of many who were possessed. Those that were lame with paralysis were healed. The entire city was filled with great joy. Verse 12 tells us why their was great joy.. *But when they believed Phillip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.* Notice the phrase "when they believed". What did they believe in? *Their belief consisted in two things...*

a- They believed Philip preaching concerning the kingdom of God. What does the kingdom of God involve? It involves the kingdom of grace, which is spiritual and internal, not in external things, as meat and drink; it involves righteousness which is peace, joy, and the kingdom of glory, which lies in regenerating grace, and the right to enter, which is the righteousness of Christ.

b- They believed in the name of Jesus Christ, God's Son as entrance into God's kingdom. What does the name Jesus Christ involve? It involves the person of Christ, as the Son of God; the offices of Christ, as prophet, priest, and King; and the virtue of the blood sacrifice of Christ for pardon, justification, and atonement. After their belief in these two doctrinal requirements as an act of God's grace, we are told that they were baptized. The Scripture does not say that they believed in baptism as a mode of salvation!

iii) The hypocrisy of Simon's profession. (8:13). *Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.* He pretended to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, and professed that he believed what others believed, but he did not possess salvation. (Some of you are thinking.."here it comes, get ready for the O'Nolan Factor.") *Just being fair and balanced..*

Peter and John come down from Jerusalem to assist Philip.

These men of God prayed for the believers and layed hands on them they received the Holy Ghost. (15-17). (Okay, get ready, here comes the O'Nolan Factor)

a- Simon tries to buy the gift of God. Notice verse 18-19. *And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.* His response demonstrates his lack of spiritual life. He does not ask them to lay their hands on him, that he might receive the Holy Ghost, and have these gifts to exercise himself, but that he might have the power of conferring them on others. He sought to use God's miraculous gifts for his own benefits. *The next two verses are so important..*

b- Peter's perception of Simon's true condition Verses 20-21.

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Notice verse 23. Peter says, I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity!

Simon did not have a renewed heart, nor a right spirit within him. The true principles of grace was not in him; his heart was full of covetousness, ambition, and hypocrisy. His view was not the spread and confirmation of the Gospel, or the enlargement of the kingdom and interest of Christ, and the glory of God, but his own applause, welfare and worldly interest.

Conclusion

Christian Work is Not Security. Just because people and ministers may have been very active in what is called Christian work, their influence has been such that men and women have found deliverance from satanic power through their ministry in the name of Jesus not them. They have professed with their lips, they have accomplished many wonderful works, but they are found in that day of judgment among the lost, and when they plead their great activity of works and their earnestness in Christian testimony, the Lord says to them, *"I never knew you."* Notice, He does not say to them, "I used to know you, but you have forfeited My favor and I do not know you any longer." He says, *"I never knew you."*