

**THE ROMAN REVEALING**  
**Theme: The Reign of Righteousness**  
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**SUBJECT: ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE SAINTS.**  
**SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 8:38-39**  
**PART II OF THREE PARTS**

**Introduction**

In our last lecture we learned through Simon Magus the possibility of one making a profession of faith in Christ without possessing the new life in Christ. Keep in mind what the Scripture teaches; we are saved by grace and grace alone, not by what we do or say! Simon Magus did not have the true principles of grace within him! His heart was not renewed! He was full of covetousness, ambition, and hypocrisy. He was only interested in his own welfare, the applause of man and his worldly interest. *How are true believers distinguished?*

**I. THE SHEEP OF CHRIST. (John 10:27-30).** *"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."*

**1. Our Lord said, regarding his true believers, "My sheep hear My voice and I know them."** Of these others, these hypocrites, He implies that in spite of all their activity and accomplishments in life, in the day of judgment, he will have to say "I never knew you." That is a very sad thing.

**What about a hypothetical case like this:** Suppose a man who joined the church, who professed to be saved, who for a number of years was a very active Christian worker, maybe a minister, but after some years of apparent consistent Christian living he turns his back on it all, returns to the world, and now denies the gospel he once professed. How does that shape up with the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer?

**2. The apostle John tells us how we are to understand a case like that. He says in 1 John 2:19,** *“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”* It is quite possible to join a church, to make a Christian profession; it is quite possible to observe the Christian ordinances, to teach and to preach, and yet never be born again. However, if one teaches and preaches the truth, it will produce good results and will do men good whether the teacher or the preacher is real or not, **for it is God’s truth that God uses, not the hypocrite.**

God uses His truth regardless of who may proclaim it, and that explains how people may do mighty works in the name of Christ and yet never be born again! *This leads us to the reason we are eternally secure...*

## **II. CHRIST’S WAS THE ONE OFFERING FOR SIN.**

**(Hebrews 10:14).** *“For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”*

It is hard for me to understand how people, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit of God, can read the Epistle to the Hebrews and not see that throughout that Epistle the writer is contrasting the many

sacrifices offered under law with the one sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Under law every time an Israelite sinned, he needed a new sin offering, and every year the nation had to celebrate the great day of atonement when a new offering was presented to God for the people. Why? Because those sacrifices could never take away sin, they simply covered sin for the time being.

**1. The Sufficiency of Christ (Hebrews 10:14).** *“For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”*

When the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world and offered Himself without spot to God, the effect of His sacrifice was eternal. “For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” Perfected for how long? As long as they are faithful? No, that is not what it says! “He hath perfected for ever.” Why? Because the sacrifice of God’s Son is all-sufficient.

To deny the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer through the finished work of Christ, is reducing the sacrifice of Christ to the level of offerings bulls and goats in the Old Testament. To deny the eternal security of the believer is to dishonors the sacrifice and finished work of Christ. We are saved eternally because of the sufficiency of sacrifice of Christ.

**2. A Scornful Dishonoring View.** I thought when I was saved in Greenville, Mississippi in August 1956 that all my sins from the past were forgiven, and now God had given me a new start, and if I could only keep the record clean to the end of my life, I would get to heaven; but if I failed to keep it clean, I would ceased to be a Christian. That is the doctrine of works, not of grace! At the time I did not realize what a God-dishonoring view of the atonement of Christ I had! If only those of my sins that were committed up to the

moment of my conversion were put away by the atoning blood of Jesus, what possible way would there be by which sins I have confessed after that could be dealt with? The only ground on which God could forgive sin is that Jesus settled all one time upon the cross, and when I trust Him, all that He has done goes down to my account. *Think about it by asking yourself...*

“How many of my sins were in the past when Christ died on the cross?” They were all future when Jesus died for you. You were not even born. How could you have committed any sin?

**3. The Satisfaction of God.** When Christ died on that cross, all of your sins were future and God laid them all upon Jesus. Therefore, when you truly trust Christ, you are justified freely from all sin. But at the same moment your responsibility as a child is to honor and respect your heavenly Father begins. Now if as a child you should sin against your Father, God will have to deal with you about that, but as a father and not as a judge. That is a line of truth that stands by itself. It explains some things that bewilder people when this doctrine is brought before them. *Christ being a one time offering for sin opens the door to...*

### **III. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PERSEVERANCE.**

**(PHILIPPIANS 1:6).** *“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

**1. The Extenuating Work of the Holy Spirit.** We base the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer upon the perseverance and omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit of God, not on the individual. Writing to these saints, Paul thanked them for their fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. Who

began the good work in you if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus? The Holy Spirit of God did. It was He who convicted you of sin; it was He who led you to put your trust in Christ; it was He who through the Word gave you the witness that you were saved; it is He who has been conforming you to Christ since you first trusted the Lord Jesus.

**2. The Enjoyable Assurance in the Holy Spirit.** Because you have been saved by grace, not by works, the Holy Spirit has a definite purpose for you. He is eventually going to conform you fully to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ, and He never begins a work that He does not intend to finish. *“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

If when you were a poor lost sinner the Holy Spirit had power to break down your opposition to God and to bring to an end your unbelief and rebellion, do you think for one moment that He does not have power enough to subdue your will as a believer and to carry on to completion the work that He began?

People have used the term “once saved always saved” in reference to Baptist and Presbyterians. I do not know why this doctrine should be called Baptist or Presbyterian, only to the extent that Baptists and Presbyterians agree with the Book! The Word of God clearly shows that once God takes us up in grace nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. So the expression, “once in grace, always in grace,” is a correct one.

**3. The Endurance of Salvation.(Matthew 24:13).** “He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved”. If a man starts out and makes a profession but gives it all up, he will never be saved,

because he was never born again to begin with, he was never truly changed by divine grace!

The reason a person endures to the end is not because of any perseverance of his own. What the Word of God clearly teaches, is the perseverance of the Holy Spirit. When He begins a work, He never gives up until it is completed. That is our confidence.

### **Conclusion**

Fifty-one years ago the Spirit of God in grace led me to trust the Lord Jesus Christ. I have had many ups-and-downs since then, but the wonderful thing is this, the Holy Spirit of God has never given me up. Sometimes I was wayward and rebellious, and had to be spanked by my Heavenly Father, whipping me back into subjection, where I was ready to confess by failure and be restored to fellowship with Him. I was just as truly His child while getting a whipping as I was when the effects of it had restored me to His fellowship. When you whip your child it is because he is your child and because you want him to grow up to be a well-behaved boy that you do that. And so we believe in the perseverance of the Holy Spirit of God, that having begun the work He will carry it on to completion. This is the Eternal Security of the Saints.