

A secure eternity

I would venture to say that each one of us has been faced with the reality of existence after death. For some of us, it was a dark, lonely, sleepless night that caused our mind to consider our eternity. Others may have been confronted with life after death at a church service, reading the Bible, or in a tract someone handed to us. Almost all of us have encountered the reality of our eternity, while grieving the death of a loved one.

There are only two options for the way you will spend eternity. Today, while reading this booklet, you will decide what future lies ahead for you after death.

Option number one, you can remain as you are: not right with God and destined to live forever in the Lake of Fire eternally apart from God's glory (Romans 3:23, Revelation 20:15). Your good deeds or religious observances are not going to save you (Romans 4:5, Ephesians 2:8&9). You need a Savior!

Option number two, you can trust that Christ paid for your sins and provided for an eternal life in Heaven through His death, burial, and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:1-4). Your faith in Christ's work alone can save you. By doing so, your eternal life in Heaven is secure in Jesus Christ.

Maybe you have already made the decision to trust Christ as your personal Savior. Rest assured, Christ's work is enough. Heaven is your home. A glorious body waits for you.

What are the results of being in Christ?

In the last section, I pointed to Scripture to show you that the Bible tells us we are secure. There are believers who know this but fail to fully comprehend the completeness and fullness of being "in Christ." The result is they still feel like there is some portion remaining for them to do.

I cannot stress enough that WE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM (Colossians 2:10)! Let's look at what Christ's work credited to our account does for us.

In my time serving as pastor, one of the greatest blessings that I have been able to experience is enlightening people to what God accomplished for us through the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The riches of our salvation in Christ Jesus are almost unfathomable! Partially due to our experiences in the world in which we live, many have a hard time grasping what God has truly accomplished through Christ.

The first obstacle to overcome when talking about eternal life is our experience with the word "free." Let's face it, we live in a world where nothing is truly free. Even though Publishers Clearing house claims you don't have to purchase magazines in order to be a finalist for the \$1,000,000 prize, you have a greater chance of winning if you do. The "free" items that we do receive are usually cheap imitations that break within the year.

trusting in Christ alone to save them (Galatians 4:11, 20; 5:1-5). God is the only one who knows if someone has genuinely placed their faith and trust in Christ to save them. However, when we see people trying to keep salvation through the Law, church dogma, or their own good deeds, we need to make it a point to show them that our Savior's work on the cross saves us AND keeps us.

Finally, I write because a proper understanding of our security in Christ should lead to a motivation to serve. Since getting to Heaven is not the issue, we can (through the Holy Spirit and His Word) focus on serving as God's ambassadors on earth. We can (through the Holy Spirit) live according to the purpose and standards that God sets forth in His Word. When we realize the love that God demonstrated by sending His Son and all the riches as a result, it should rekindle the fire for service. When we acknowledge that Christ willingly laid down His life, so that we may have life through Him, we should humbly consecrate our lives to God.

If you haven't done so, won't you do so today? Those sleepless nights can be spent contemplating other things. Your eternity will be secure.

Why do we need to focus on eternal security?

First, I write on eternal security because it is truth. Since it is God's truth, there is benefit in having it known. If we want to glorify God, truth is necessary (John 4:24).

In this booklet, I do not spend time addressing the many erroneous teachings regarding one's security (or lack of) in Christ. The truth of eternal security lies not in our church's doctrinal dogma, but in the Word of God. I will attempt to simply present the truth of eternity security for this present Dispensation of Grace. (See the section entitled, "Concluding Thoughts" for further comment.)

Second, I write to set people free. There are many people who say, "Hallelujah," when we speak concerning the majesty of Heaven. They would like to go there.

Unfortunately, some of these same people may have been taught that salvation is never guaranteed. They are led to believe that they have to continually work towards salvation. In their minds, they are never sure whether they've done enough to warrant eternal life. They worry about an unconfessed sin that will keep them from heaven. When the day of Christ arrives, they fear that they will be left behind. This thinking leads to despair and hopelessness. I want to give these people assurance that eternity is secure with faith alone (not of works) in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we are counting on our works to save us and keep us saved, then is our faith really in Christ's work to save us? Paul had the same question regarding the Galatians. He had heard that circumcision was being taught to the people and worried that these people were not truly