

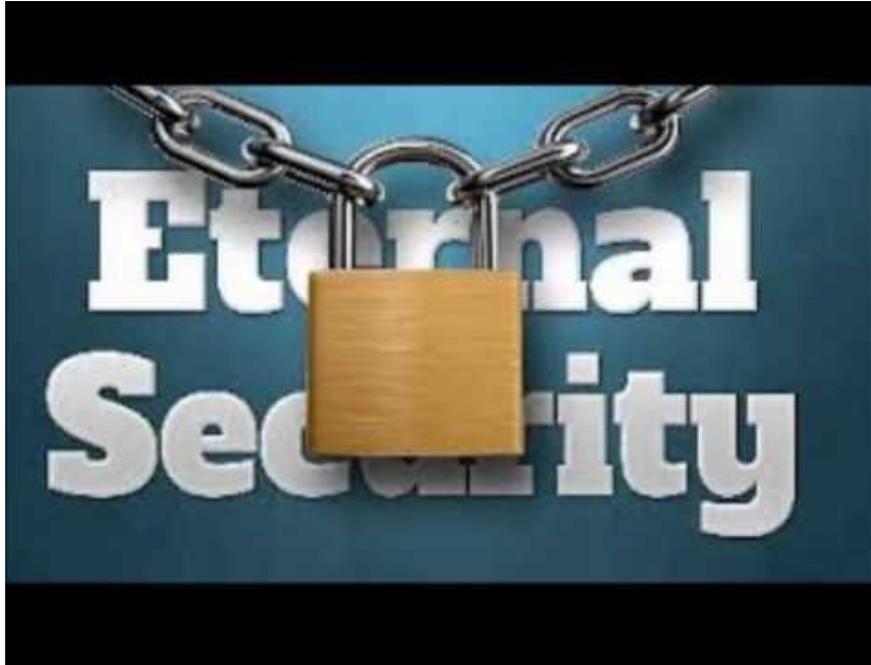
Eternal Security! Ch. #3

JOHN 10:27

**“My sheep
hear My
voice, and
I know them,
and they
follow Me.**



What's The Big Deal About Eternal Security?



- “The only thing better than **knowing** your saved, is having the **assurance** of salvation, because you **know** you can **never loose it!**”

➤ This Doctrine is Vital to All Believers.

1. Your Spiritual Health.

“There is a peace that won’t let your emotions ride the roller coaster.”

2. Your Productivity:

“If your confident of your future, you can concentrate on the present.”

3. Your Witness.

“If God is able to save you, He is certainly capable of sustaining you.”

5. BY THE GRACE OF GOD, YOU WERE CHOSEN.

- **Notice: The O.T. “Israel.” (Deut. 10:15-16)** “Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. (15) “Yet on your fathers did the **LORD set His affection to love them, and HE CHOSE** their descendants after them, **EVEN YOU ABOVE ALL PEOPLES, AS IT IS THIS DAY.”**
- **Notice: (Hag. 2:23)** “On that day,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will make you like a signet ring, for **I HAVE CHOSEN YOU,**’ ” declares the LORD of hosts.”
- **Notice: The N.T. “Bride of Christ.” (Matt. 11:27)** “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and **ANYONE TO WHOM THE SON WILLS TO REVEAL HIM.**”
- **Notice: (Matt. 22:14)** “For many are called, **BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN.**”

- **Notice: (Lk. 18:7)** “now, will not God bring about justice for **His elect** who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?”
- **Notice: (Col. 3:12)** “So, as those **who have been chosen of God**, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;”
- **Notice: (1 Pet. 2:8-9)** “**But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION**, so that you may proclaim the excellences of Him **who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**;
- **Notice: What God says about His APPLE, and BRIDE. (Rom. 11:28)** “From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, **but from the standpoint of God’s choice** they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;”
- **Notice: The “TRIBULATION SAINTS.” (Rev. 17:14)** “These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and **those who are with Him are the CALLED AND CHOSEN AND FAITHFUL.**”

- **Notice (Eph. 1-14)** The Bible says, ***“He set his love on us and chose us before the foundation of the world.”*** From **vs. 3** when the process of our salvation begins **to vs. 14** when it is over, God is the one taking all the action!
 - This is one, long **202-word sentence**. The sentence has **48 pronouns**: **30** of them belong to God. There are **24 verbs**, or action sequences in it: God does **20** of them, and only **4** of them we do.
- Vs. 3, GOD** blesses; **Vs. 4, HE** chooses.
- Vs. 5, HE** predestines and adopts **Vs. 6, HE** bestows grace;
- Vs. 7, HE** redeems and forgives; **Vs. 8, HE** lavishes;
- Vs. 9, HE** makes known and **HE** purposes; **Vs. 10, HE** unites together in Christ;
- Vs. 11, HE** works; **Vs. 13, HE** seals.
- **LISTEN TO THE 4 THAT WE DO**: we **listen**; we **receive**; we **believe**; and we **hope**. Isn't that beautiful?
 - **You may be thinking: “What part of salvation are we responsible for?”** **WE DID ALL THE SINNING. JESUS DID ALL THE SAVING.**

- You may be thinking, “WELL, WHY DID HE CHOOSE ME? WHAT WAS IT ABOUT ME?” Did God see that I was going to make a great Christian and say, “Man, I gotta have that guy on my team! He’s such a great debater, or she has such potential for leadership—I want them!” **I DON’T THINK SO!**
- In one of the most beautiful and mystifying passages of the OT, when God was explaining to **ISRAEL** why he chose them, he said, (Deut. 7:7-8,) *“It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you...”*
WOW, IT’S NOT YOUR POTENTIAL. I didn’t choose you because you were great, Israel; **you became great because I CHOSE YOU.**
- You may be thinking, “I KNOW—MAYBE IT WAS THAT I WASN’T AS SINFUL AS OTHER PEOPLE; God saw that deep down I had a good and teachable heart.” • Well, that’s not true either. • Look again, at (Deut. 9:6): *“Know therefore that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people.”* In other words, “Yeah, it wasn’t your good heart either. Actually, your heart was even harder than most.” • God didn’t look down and say: “I know there’s still some good in you! I’ll save you.”

- **GOD DIDN'T CHOOSE US BECAUSE WE WERE *LOVEABLE***. In fact, chapter 2, Paul is going to tell us that sin had made us **GOD'S ENEMIES, SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE, OBJECTS OF HIS WRATH.**
- **SO, WHAT WAS IT THEN, ABOUT YOU, THAT CAUSED HIM TO CHOOSE YOU?** This is the mystifying part. Did you see that phrase in (Deut. 7:8) ***"IT WAS JUST BECAUSE THE LORD LOVED YOU."***
- Before we'd ever done good or bad, before the foundation of the world, **GOD SET HIS LOVE ON US. Glory, Hallelujah!**
- **NOTICE WHAT CHARLES SPURGEON SAID:** "I have no questions that God chose me, because I am quite sure that if God had not chosen me, I should never have chosen Him; and I am sure He chose me before I was born, or else He never would have chosen me afterwards; and He must have elected me for reasons unknown to me, for I never could find any reason in myself why He should have looked upon me with special love. So, I feel like I am forced to accept this doctrine."

- You may be thinking, “WELL, DIDN’T THAT VIOLATE MY **FREE WILL?**” No. The Bible says his choice is never against our will but always in concert with it. In some places, God says *“I chose you before the foundation of the world,”* but in others Jesus said, *“Whoever will may come.”*
- Jesus explained how it works in (Jn. 6:44) when he says, *“No one comes to me unless the Father draws him.”*
- Also: (Phil.2:13) *“for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”*
- OUR CHOICE TO COME AND THE FATHER’S DRAWING GO HAND IN HAND. The Greek word for **“DRAW”** there, *helkuo*; it carries the idea of a desperately hungry man being drawn to food. That is what God did to us: he created a hunger in us to know Jesus. And that hunger drew us to Jesus.
- THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT WE WANTED TO CHOOSE GOD AND WE COULDN’T; our problem is that deep down **none of us want to choose God**—we prefer to rule ourselves and be the center of our own universe. It’s our **“WANTER”** that is all out of whack. That’s what it means to be **SPIRITUALLY** dead. So, God, through the preaching of the gospel and the power of the Spirit, changes our hearts **so that we begin to WANT God.**

- You may be thinking, “WELL, WHY DIDN’T GOD CHOOSE **EVERYBODY?**” That’s a big question—let me just say **two** things:
- First: Keep in mind that **GOD IS NOT OBLIGATED TO EXTEND SALVATION TO ANYONE.** What is fair is that we all perish. The fact that any of us have a chance to receive forgiveness **IS A FREE GIFT OF UNDESERVED GRACE.**
- Second: This is the part of this discussion where a certain amount of mystery sets in, because Scripture never presents a lack of God’s choosing as the reason why someone didn’t come. **NOT ONCE! IT’S ALWAYS ON US.**
- Notice: (Matt. 23: 37), *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”*
- Notice: (2 Peter 3:9), *“The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance!”* The Bible itself ends with, *“Whosoever will may come.”* (Rev. 22:17) **IT’S YOUR CHOICE!**
- If you’re a Christian, it’s because God chose you. If you’re not, it’s because you have chosen to reject God, and *“the Lord is not willing that you should perish, but that you should come to repentance.”*
- Are you chosen? In one sense, you have the power to decide that. If you choose to repent and believe in Jesus, you’re chosen. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS!**

- Why does God do things the way that he does them? ***“For the praise of his glory.”*** He saved us the way that he did to demonstrate his glory, because until you learn this, a lot of the rest won’t make sense. That is the repeated phrase, ***“to the praise of his glory,”*** found in (vv. 6, 12, 14)
- This is not the only place we see this in the Bible, Notice what God said to Israel in (Eze. 36:22): ***“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.”*** Also: (Psa. 23:4), ***“He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”***
- This is why God sometimes saves impossible people— people you’d never think could be saved, because he likes do some things where he alone can get the credit. For some of you, when God saved you, the angels were like, “Well, I didn’t see that coming” and God was like, “I was just showing off.

- **Notice: (1 Cor. 1:26-29)** *“For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; (27) but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, (28) and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, (29) so that no man may boast before God.”*
- **IF YOU ARE SAVED, YOU ARE ONE OF THE ELECT, FOR HIS GLORY.**

4. **JUSTIFICATION**: So, foreknowledge, predestination, calling, next word (justification). *“Whom He called He justified.”* It means made right with God. So, when He moved into your heart and called you to Himself, you were made right with God. You say, **“Well how close are calling and justification?”** I don't know. I guess it'd be like putting together two pieces of paper and shooting a bullet through them and asking which, how much time was between the bullet going through the first sheet and the second sheet. It's just a distinction in theological terms, not necessarily in time, for He calls you to be justified. He calls you to be right with God. But you understand the sequence. **The calling is the moving in to turn your heart. The justification is what happens.**

- What does it mean to be JUSTIFIED? To be made right with God, that's all.
- How do you get right with God? You have to get rid of something. What is it? **SIN.**
- HOW DO YOU GET RID OF SIN? God takes it and puts it on whom? **JESUS CHRIST.** And listen, if He predetermined to love you, and He predestined you to be redeemed, in eternity past before the world began, and in time He moved in and called you away from your sin and through your faith made you right with Him through Jesus Christ, it says **whom He JUSTIFIES, verse 30, them He also, what, GLORIFIES.** See anybody dropping in the cracks?
- In the moment that God predetermined to love you, your glorification was so secure He could speak of it as if it already happened. Marvelous thought, glorious thought. You were saved unto glory and all things are working toward that. **THAT'S HIS PURPOSE,**

CAN ONE WHO COMMITS SUICIDE BE saved?

- **SUICIDE is a grave sin equivalent to murder.** (Exo. 20:13; 21:23), but it can be forgiven like any other sin. And Scripture says clearly that those redeemed by God have been forgiven for all their sins--past, present, and future (**Col. 2:13-14**). Paul says in (**Rom. 8:38-39**) that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
- So, if a true Christian would commit suicide in a time of extreme weakness, he or she would be received into heaven (**Jude 24**). But we question the faith of those who take their lives or even consider it seriously--it may well be that they have never been truly saved.
- That's because God's children are defined repeatedly in Scripture as **those who have hope** (Acts. 24:15; Rom. 5:2-5, 8:24; 2 Cor. 1:10, etc.) **and purpose in life** (Lk. 9:23-25; Rom. 8:28; Col. 1:29). And those who think of committing suicide do so because they have **NEITHER** hope nor purpose in their lives.

SUICIDE?

- Furthermore, one who repeatedly considers suicide is practicing sin in his heart (**Prov. 23:7**), and (**1 John. 3:9**) says that ***"no one who is born of God practices sin."*** And finally, suicide is often the ultimate evidence of a heart that rejects the lordship of Jesus Christ, because it is an act where the sinner is taking his life into his own hands completely rather than submitting to God's will for it. Surely many of those who have taken their lives will hear those horrifying words from the Lord Jesus at the judgment--***"I never knew you; Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness"*** (**Matt. 7:23**).
- So, though it may be possible for a true believer to commit suicide, we believe that is an unusual occurrence. Someone considering suicide should be challenged above all to examine himself to see whether he is in the faith (**2 Cor. 13:5**).

THE *UNPARDONABLE* SIN!

- **WHO IS JESUS?** You only have **3** options and that is He is a liar, a lunatic, or He is Lord. And we see that kind of played out in the final verses of (Mk. 3:28-30), *“Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin.”*
- **WHAT'S THAT ETERNAL SIN?** Because they were saying He has an unclean spirit.
- **THE ETERNAL SIN FOR THEM WAS THIS...JESUS IS DEMONIC.** They went to hell for that. You say, “Wait a minute. What if I said that? Would I go to hell for that?” Not necessarily, if you said that without full information. That's a blasphemy that's forgivable, right? But if that's your ***FINAL CONCLUSION WITH FULL REVELATION***, if that's your response to the full understanding of the gospel, the full revelation of Christ contained on the pages of Scripture, if that's your **final conclusion**, you could never be forgiven because you've had full revelation, you've had full light. What else is there? You can't get anymore if that's your final conclusion, **THAT'S AN ETERNAL SIN.**