

**“Rejoicing in Our Great Salvation: Rejoice in God’s Power” 1 Peter 1:5, Sermon Notes**  
**Pastor Marc Wragg**  
**Saving Grace Bible Church**  
**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**Evening Worship Service**

“Who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1Pe 1:5 NAU)

**Sermon Main Idea:**

Direct the people of God to rejoice in God’s work of salvation

**Introduction**

Can you lose your salvation?

There are many who conclude the answer to this is yes

- Man can lose his salvation so he was to keep at it
- Make sure he does not lose it

The doctrine taught does seem to make it easy to control people, be careful you might lose your salvation, guilt people into a response, or even be used to explain why someone who looked so righteous turn out to be so ungodly

I get it

“Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble.” (2 Peter 1:10 NAU)

ESV – election

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; (Philippians 2:12 NAU) Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.” (Hebrews 4:1 NAU)

“And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds,<sup>22</sup> yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.” (Colossians 1:21-23 NAU)

“But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.” (Matthew 24:13 NAU)

“But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,<sup>6</sup> who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:<sup>7</sup> to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;<sup>8</sup> but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.<sup>9</sup> *There will be* tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,<sup>10</sup> but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.<sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God.” (Romans 2:5-11 NAU)

So on the one hand we have scriptures which teach that we must persevere or we will not be saved.

- Continue firmly in the faith – Col 1
- We must make our calling and election sure – 2 Pet
- Make sure you do not come short of the prize of salvation - Heb 4
- We must live by faith demonstrate our faith – faith without works is dead – James
- We must endure until the end – Matt 24
- The one who does good and perseveres in doing good will be saved – Romans 2
- We are to work out our salvation in fear and trembling – Phil 2

It is pretty clear from scripture that you need to do something. You cannot sit on your hands and say “Hey, I confessed and professed my allegiance to Christ so I am good to enter the Kingdom of heaven.”

- The scriptures themselves testify against you
- If there is no direct evidence of faith there is no hope of eternal life

These passages alone indicate our personal responsibility to walk in faith. They emphasize the importance of our work

But do these passages teach that we can lose our salvation?

- Clearly they teach that we must examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith - 2 Cor 13:5
- Clearly they instruct us to be careful how we walk
- Clearly we are to be warned against a false profession of faith

But the scriptures say more about our faith than be careful to make sure you have true faith

- It also says that God is protecting us

## **Body**

1. We are protected by the Power of God vs. 5
  - The inheritance and the heirs are protected by God
  - First the inheritance in verse 3
  - Now us here in verse 5

Shielded – it is a military term used in 2 Cor 11:32

“In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me.” (2 Corinthians 11:32 NAU)

Phil 4:7

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7 NAU)

True heirs need protection from enemies

- Present tense indicating a continual protection that takes place

The evil forces come against us but God’s power is protecting us

- This is happening all around us
- Some get overwhelmed by the idea that evil is crouching at our door ready to harm us
  - They are overtaken by the idea that God would allow evil in their lives

Rom 8:31-39

“What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; <sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." <sup>37</sup> But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:31-39 NAU)

We are being protected by the sovereign power of God

John 10:25-30

Eph 2:10 prepared for good works to walk in

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 NAU)

- He is working giving us opportunities to make our faith evident
- He is setting good works in front of us to respond to
- His power is at work shaping us into the image of the Eternal God
- By this the power of God is on display

2. We are protected through faith vs. 5

- “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine.” (John 8:31 NAU)
- “but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house-- whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.” (Hebrews 3:6 NAU)
- “Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself. (James 2:17 NAU)

“But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup> For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” (James 2:20-26 NAU)

- 1 John 5:4, 11-13

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.” (1 John 5:4 NAU)

“And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. <sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:11-13 NAU)

“*For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6 NAU)

- John 10:28

Now listen, the power of God is on display through the manifestation of our faith

- The natural man runs from difficulty, the Christian endures through it
- The wicked run to sensual desires the righteous deny them
- The godless worship other idols, the godly worship God alone

1Thess 1:8-10

- Now listen – this kind of faith is the result of having been born of God
- This is why faith demonstrated IS the power of God through us

Naturally we do not want the things of God

- Naturally we are opposed to God
- But supernaturally we are drawn to God

3. We are protected for a salvation yet to come vs. 5

- We are being saved for salvation
  - Here the emphasis is in a future sense
  - There is a past, present, future aspect to salvation
    - I have been saved
    - I am being saved
    - I will be saved
  - Past deals with the guilt of salvation and happens at Justification – Eph 2:8; Rom 5:1; rom 10:9-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God.*” (Ephesians 2:8 NAU)

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1 NAU)

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as Lord*, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;<sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10 NAU)

- Present deals with the power of sin to rule our lives – 1 Cor 1:18; Phil 2:12-13; 1 John 1:9

“For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18 NAU)

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;<sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12-13 NAU)

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9 NAU)

- Future deals with the presence of sin which will be entirely removed – Rom 13:11; Heb 9:28; Phil 3:20-21

“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (Romans 5:10 NAU) Past & Future

“*Do this*, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.” (Romans 13:11 NAU)

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;<sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.” (Philippians 3:20-21 NAU)

1Pet 1:5

It is ready to be revealed to us

- We do not need to do anything to make it happen
- God has already done the work
- It is waiting in anticipation

The wait is not because God is not ready for us. The wait is for God to complete His redemptive plan. And even in that it is not God who is slow but that God is patient giving people the opportunity to repent and turn to Him

## Conclusion

Here Peter says we have been made alive by God

- We have our inheritance protected by God
- We ourselves are protected by God's power

So on the one hand we have passages that talk about working out our salvation. On the other hand we have passages which talk about protected and preserved by the power of God. So how do we understand this apparent contradiction?

“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13 NAU)

Eph 1:5-15

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.” (1 Corinthians 15:10 NAU)

“Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.” (2 Corinthians 3:5 NAU)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 NAU)

“Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” (2 Timothy 1:9 NAU)

So how do we reconcile these ideas?

- How do we account for the passages which talk about our responsibility and account for the passages which talk about God's work?
- Is this another example of contradictions in the scriptures?
  - Certainly not, for there is no contradiction in God otherwise God is not God
- Is this an example where we take the clear passages and use them to explain the unclear passages?
  - Then which ones are clear?
  - Each side will say the verses they are using are the clear side

- What are we to do?

These verses are not in contradiction

- They are in fact perfectly harmonious

Notice what the text emphasizes

“Who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:5 NAU)

- God’s power is at work in our Faith
  - This is another proof of the doctrine that teaches regeneration proceeds faith
  - We must be born again to believe
  - Otherwise the power of God cannot be on display
- They are not at war – it is not either or it is both and
  - We have to work out our salvation with fear and trembling
  - God is the one who started this work, and will keep this work going, and will complete this work
  - 1 John 5:4 – the victory that overcomes the world – Our faith
  - Our faith given to us by God, strengthened by God, is lived out by us and we yield to the truth and walk in obedience

So stop picking one side of the equation and hold these scriptures in balance

- Rejoice in God’s work when you are tempted to doubt and be overcome by your failures
- On the other hand when you are tempted to give in to sin remember that God has not called you to ungodliness but godliness

The humble and downtrodden are reminded of God’s gracious work

The proud sinner is reminded of his duty to seek the glory of God

- If these twin realities are kept in balance, the Christian will navigate through the various dangers in a way that will protect him

In the end we are to keep rejoicing

- Rejoice in the pursuit of holiness knowing that God produced that desire in you
- Rejoice in the process of repentance knowing that God has called us to draw near to Him
- Rejoice in our faith
- Rejoice in yielding to the truth
- Rejoice in walking in love
- Rejoice in the way of Salvation
- We rejoice in the gift of salvation protected for us