

Soteriology : The Doctrine of Salvation - Class 2 – August 11, 2019

III. An Overview of Election

IV. How is my salvation accomplished?

- We teach that Salvation is through faith in Christ alone. What does that mean? How do you define saving faith?

- FBC Statement of Faith: We believe that man's redemption and reconciliation with God occurs as an act of God's grace, not of works, that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in His death and resurrection are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. - Romans 3.21-24; I Corinthians 15.1-4; Ephesians 2.8-9; John 1.12-13; Titus 3.5-7; I Peter 1.18-21

- Faith Defined:

- Is salvation really a free gift?

V. What are the results of salvation?

VI. Is my salvation secure?

VII. Does God want us to be assured that we are saved forever?

SOTERIOLOGY – THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

The Issue:

A wrong understanding of salvation can dramatically affect a life!



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Liberty and Life: Summary of June 30 Class

All that we have looked at in our first class in June can be summarized by looking at 1 Corinthians 15.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15.22

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Liberty and Life: Summary of June 30 Class

1 Corinthians 15.45-49

⁴⁵ So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. are born dead. We enter the world living and breathing we are dead spiritually..

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Liberty and Life: Summary of June 30 Class

We are born dead. We enter the world living and breathing we are dead spiritually.

We have nothing good to offer God. All of our righteousness deeds are dirty rags.

Liberty and Life: Summary of June 30 Class

Until we come to the realization that we are hopelessly ensnared and enslaved to our sin we are not ready for the help that Christ offers.

It is only at the realization that we can't save ourselves that we are ready to embrace the good news of the Gospel.

God has taken the initiative by stepping into history, living and dying and rising again as a sacrifice for sins and for our justification. Indeed for sins and justification of the whole world.

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Liberty and Life: Summary

What's next?

Jesus calls us to consider what has been done and then decide what we are going to do with the knowledge we've been given. Are we going to ignore and continue to try to take care of our own salvation? Or are we going to admit we can't accomplish it and believe.

Liberty and Life: Summary

What's next?

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Romans 4:5

“⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.”

God is calling us to trust in Him just as we are, an ungodly sinner.

Outline for Today:

- **An Overview of Election**
- **How is my salvation accomplished?**

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- **What are the results of salvation?**
- **Is my salvation secure?**
- **Does God want us to be assured that we are saved forever?**

Major views of election:

Systems of human thought have tended to go either to one extreme where God's sovereign purpose is made absolute or to

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another extreme of magnifying the freedom of man until God is no longer in control. In attempting to resolve such a difficult problem, the only solution is to appeal to divine revelation and attempt to interpret human experience on the basis of what the Bible teaches. - Chafer, Lewis Sperry; Walvoord, John F.. *Major Bible Themes* (p. 230).

Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

Major views of election:

Foresight Election – This view holds that God chose Christ to save those who He knew would believe because of His foreknowledge of the future.

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Corporate Election – This view holds that God chose a group, the church, in Christ but not the individuals until they believe and become part of the church.

Individual, Pretemporal Election – This view holds “that eternal act of God whereby He, in His sovereign good pleasure, and on account of no foreseen merit in them, chooses a certain number of men to be the recipients of special grace and of eternal salvation.” - Ryrie, Charles C.. *Basic Theology* (p. 359). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

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Election Summarized:

Scripture reveals God as an absolute sovereign who by His own will has chosen to create the universe and to direct its history according to a foreordained plan. – Ephesians 1.11 -
Chafer, Lewis Sperry; Walvoord, John F.. Major Bible Themes (p. 230)

The act of election must be compatible with all the attributes of God.

Election Summarized:

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The ultimate purpose of election is the glory of God. We need to remember that it is God who elects, and He can do nothing unloving or unjust. - Ryrie, Charles C.. *Basic Theology* (pp. 362363)

Whether or not it is true that God elects those who will be saved, it is clear that there is human responsibility to believe in Christ. God is sovereign and yet we have responsibility. - Wilkin, Robert N.. *Confident in Christ: Living by Faith Really Works* (Second Edition) (p. 87)

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Election Summarized:

Whether God elects people to everlasting life is an open question. Individual passages on election must be examined to see what the person(s) is being elected to do or to be. -

Wilkin, Robert N.. *Confident in Christ: Living by Faith Really Works* (Second Edition) (p. 83).

We often look at the idea of election apart from the other items that make up God's plan for the ages, thus forming a theology based on partial information. We can't ignore the

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doctrine of election but our understanding of election must fit the larger context of the finished work of Christ.

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How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Divine Persuasion / Special Calling:**

In agreement with Reformed theologians Dispensationalists believe that man is totally depraved or incapable of making a moral choice for God on his own.

So, where does that leave us?

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Divine Persuasion / Special Calling:**

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John 6:44 - No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 12:32 - And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”

Out of His love God calls or draws men to Himself!

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Divine Persuasion / Special Calling:**

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John 1:12 - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

God is the initiator, persuader, wooer. Man is the responder. Man is the receiver of the divine gift.

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Divine Persuasion / Special Calling:**

The special calling is simply an intensive and effectual working by the Holy Spirit. It is not the complete

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transformation which constitutes regeneration, but it does render the conversion of the individual both possible and certain. - Hixson, Whitmire, Zuck. *Freely by His Grace: Classical Grace Theology*
“The important truth to be observed in all of this is that, though divine persuasion be limitless, it still remains persuasion, and so when a decision is secured for Christ in the individual he exercises his own will apart from even a shadow of constraint.” - L. S. Chafer quoted in *Freely by His Grace*

How is my salvation accomplished? Conviction!

- **What is conviction?**

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How is my salvation accomplished?

- **What is conviction? Webster's definition.**

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A strong persuasion or belief.

The state of being convinced.

The act of convincing a person of error or of compelling the admission of a truth.

The state of being convinced of error or compelled to admit the truth.

How is my salvation accomplished?

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- **Conviction:**

Is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. There are some different views of who defines the world. - John 16.8-11, John 15.22, 24

“... he who “convicts” another places the truth of the case in dispute in a clear light before him, so that it must be seen and acknowledged as truth.” - Ryrie, Charles C.. *Basic Theology* (p. 374). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition. – Quoting B. F. Westcott from *The Gospel According to St. John* (London: Murray, 1908)

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How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Conviction:**

The Holy Spirit may speak through a man's conscience, through the word of God, through a believer's testimony or through the preaching of the word

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Faith / Salvation:**

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At FBC we teach that Salvation is through faith in Christ alone. What does that mean? How do you define faith?
How do you define saving faith?

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Faith / Salvation:** Webster's definition:

Belief and trust in and loyalty to God.

Belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion

Firm belief in something for which there is no proof.

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Complete trust

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Faith / Salvation:**

In the New Testament in about 115 passages, the salvation of a sinner is declared to depend only upon believing and in about 35 passages to depend on faith, which is a synonym for believing.

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The Gospel of John was written specifically for the purpose of bringing people to salvation. – John 20.30-31

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Faith / Salvation:**

Faith is the channel through which we receive God's gift of eternal life; it is not the cause. This is so man can never boast, even of his faith. But faith is the necessary and only channel - Ephesians 2.8 – 9, John 5.24, John 17.3, Romans 4.4 – 14 - Ryrie, Charles C.. Basic Theology (p. 377).

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How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Faith / Salvation:**

FBC Statement of faith puts it this way: We believe that man's redemption and reconciliation with God occurs as an act of God's grace, not of works, that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in His death and resurrection are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. Romans 3.21-24; I Corinthians 15.1-4; Ephesians 2.8-9; John 1.12-13; Titus 3.5-7; I Peter 1.18-21

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How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Saving faith / belief as defined by scholars / teachers / theologians:**

Ryrie – (R)eliance on the truth of the Gospel as revealed in the Word of God.

Chafer / Valvoord – By believing an individual wills to trust Christ. It is an act of the whole man, not just his intellect or his emotion. Faith or believing is the opposite of doing anything. – Scripture References: John 1.12; 3.16, 36; 5.24; 6.29; 20.31; Acts 16.31; Romans 1.16; 3.22; 4.5, 24; 5.1;

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10.4; Galatians 3.22 - - Chafer, Lewis Sperry; Walvoord, John F.. Major Bible Themes (p. 187).

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Saving faith / belief as defined by scholars / teachers / theologians:**

Hodges - What faith really is, in Biblical language, is receiving the testimony of God. It is the inward conviction that what God says to us in the gospel is true. That—and that alone—is saving faith. Faith, then, is taking God at His Word. Saving faith is taking God at His Word in the gospel. It is

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nothing less than this. But it is also nothing more. – Romans 4.9

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Saving faith / belief as defined by scholars / teachers / theologians:**

John Calvin - Faith is ‘something merely passive, bringing nothing of ours to the recovering of God’s favour but receiving from Christ that which we lack.’” - Hodges, Zane C.

Absolutely Free: A Biblical Reply to Lordship Salvation. Grace Evangelical Society. Kindle Edition. Quoted by Hodges from *Calvin and English Calvinism to 1649* by R.T. Kendall (Oxford: University Press, 1979) (p.19)

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How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Saving faith / belief as defined by scholars / teachers / theologians:**

Anderson: Though saving faith begins as an assessment of revealed truth— most notably, God’s promises—it is not consummated until one trusts those promises. One must appropriate those promises for himself and be fully persuaded and confident in those promises as his only hope for life eternal. Such faith is not a casual, detached, intellectual process and conclusion. It is an act of trust, whereby one puts the full weight and consequences of his sins on the cross of Christ to open the

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gates of heaven. - Anderson, David R.. *Free Grace Soteriology: Revised Edition*
. Grace Theology Press. Kindle Edition.

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Saving faith / belief as defined by scholars / teachers / theologians:**

Wilkin: Saving faith is the conviction that “whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16), and that “he who believes in Him is not condemned” (3:18). Jesus promises to give everlasting life to all who merely believe in Him for it. - Wilkin, Robert N.. *Confident in Christ: Living by Faith Really Works* (Second Edition) (p. 35). Grace Evangelical Society. Kindle Edition

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How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Is salvation really a free gift?**

The notion of gaining salvation by works has been with us since the beginning. All religions, including Judaism and Christianity, are filled with people who believe that if their good deeds outweigh their bad, they will make it to heaven. -

Wilkin, Robert N.. *Confident in Christ: Living by Faith Really Works* (Second Edition) (pp. 33-34).

If you died today and stood before God in heaven and He asks why should I let you in? What would be your answer?

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Grace is not cheap. It's free. – Charles Stanley

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Is salvation really a free gift?**

At least is free to us. It was costly to God. It caused the death of His Son.

Our only requirement is belief. – John 3.16

The thirsty are called to come and take the water of life without cost. - Revelation 22.17

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As noted throughout the NT the only requirement for salvation is belief. Those who believe have passed from death to life. - John 5.24

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Regeneration:**

Means to be born from above or born again.

Is a ministry of the Holy Spirit. - Titus 3.5

Through God's mercy we are born again through the resurrection of Jesus. – 1 Peter 1.3

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How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Regeneration:**

The tool that God uses to accomplish regeneration is the Word. This is one place where the idea of regeneration before belief is debunked. If a person believes in the baptismal regeneration of infants how can this occur? Can an infant understand the word of God? - 1 Peter 1.23, James 1.18

Regeneration occurs at the moment of faith in Christ. It is not a process, but rather an event. The Greek verb tenses

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(aorist) in 1 Peter 1.3, James 1.18 support the idea of past action, i.e. the new birth is complete.

How is my salvation accomplished?

- **Regeneration:**

The agent of rebirth is the Holy Spirit. We are born from above (again) by the Holy Spirit. - John 3.6

In 1:33 John the Baptist predicted that the Messiah would baptize with the Holy Spirit. This suggests that the new birth effected by the Holy Spirit occurs at the time when the Holy

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Spirit baptizes the believer. - Hixson, Whitmire, Zuck. *Freely by His Grace: Classical Grace Theology*. Grace Gospel Press. Kindle Edition.

Regeneration is the addition of a new nature. - Chafer

What are some results of salvation?

- **Justification:**

God is judge of all the earth (Genesis 18.25). We stand condemned before God. Though our faith in Christ we are declared righteous before God. - Romans 8.24-26, 2 Corinthians 5.21, 1 Corinthians 1.30

- **Complete / Eternal Forgiveness –**

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Ephesians 1.7, Acts 2.38, Colossians 1.14

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What are some results of salvation?

- **The Judgment of the Sin Nature**

We have been “Vitaly Conjoined to Christ for Judgment of the “Old Man” Unto a New Walk:” As described in Romans 6.1 – 14” Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *The Collected Works of Lewis Sperry Chafer*. (9 Books in 1) (p. 21).

We have been united (baptized into) with Christ in his death. We are crucified with Christ.

We have died with Christ. 1 Peter 2.24, Romans 6.1-11

We are raised to walk in newness of life. Consider yourselves dead to sin. - Colossians 3.1, 2 Corinthians 5.14, 17, Romans 8.1-11

What are some results of salvation?

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- **We have fellowship with God - 1 John 1.3**
- **The End of the Law**

We are dead to the law through the body of Christ. Romans 7.4

We are delivered from the law. 2 Corinthians 3.7 – 11 The Mosaic Law was done away in its entirety as a code. It has been replaced by the law of Christ. - Ryrie, Charles C.. Basic

Theology (pp. 351-352)

What are some results of salvation?

- **Adoption**

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We have been placed into the family of God. John 1.12,
John 3.3, Ephesians 1.5

Adoption means we have full rights to all the privileges of being in God's family. We can cry to God as father and we are fellow heir with Christ. - Romans 8.15-17

What are some results of salvation?

- **We are positionally acceptable to God.**

We have been made righteous. – Romans 3.22, Philippians 3.9

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We are positionally sanctified. - 1 Corinthians 1.30, 6.11

We are perfected forever. – Hebrew 10.14

Seated with Christ in the heavenlies. - Ephesians 2.6

What are some results of salvation?

- We are complete in Christ. – Colossians 2.10
- We possess every spiritual blessing. – Ephesians 1.3
- We have been given everything we need for life and Godliness.
2 Peter 1.3-4

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- We are saved for a purpose. To walk in the good works that God has prepared for us. – Ephesians 2.10, Titus 2.14

Is eternity with Christ secure?

- Eternal Security and Assurance of Salvation are not the same thing. As Don Den Hartog once said in a class: “Every believer has eternal security. Every believer does not have assurance of their eternal security”.
- Ryrie describes it this way: “Eternal security is the work of God that guarantees that the gift of salvation, once received, is forever and cannot be lost.”

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Is eternity with Christ secure?

- **Once you remove the confusion surrounding this doctrine from various theological camps a simple question arises: Is the completed work of Christ sufficient to pay for all of man's sin or sinfulness?**

Under the OT dispensation of the Law of Moses the Jews had to offer sacrifices year after year. The sacrifice only dealt with the sin of the past year.

Jesus sacrifice was once for all time. – Hebrew 10.10, 12
His sacrifice perfected for “all time” those who were being sanctified.

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Is eternity with Christ secure?

- **Does this mean that believers are perfect?**

Positionally yes, conditionally, while we are in this physical body no.

After Christ's sacrifice He sat down at the right hand of God. The work was complete / finished. Remember Christ's last words on the cross. It is finished. - John 19.30

Is eternity with Christ secure?

- **When I believe in Christ I know my past sins are forgiven. Don't I have to keep confessing for my future sins to be forgiven?**

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The sacrifices offered by the priest (the year after year repeating sacrifice) couldn't take away sin. Christ's sacrifice removed for all time the curse of our sin. - Hebrews 10.11-12

God tells us that the offering of Jesus, His provision for our sins, has permanently made us holy and whole!

Is eternity with Christ secure?

- **The Reasons for Eternal Security / The Preservation of the Saints**

Eternal security rests solely in the grace of God provided to us through Christ. We have eternal security because of the

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relationship established with the Father through believing in Jesus.

Is eternity with Christ secure?

- **The Reasons for Eternal Security / The Preservation of the Saints**

In the final analysis the eternal security of the believer rests on the power of God to preserve the saints, not on the power of the saints to persevere. - Anderson, David R.. *Free Grace Soteriology: Revised Edition*

God purposed to glorify those whom he justified. This statement would be false if one who had been previously

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justified could lose his salvation. - Romans 8.30, Romans 4.21.

Is eternity with Christ secure?

- **Eternal Security Rests in the Power of God!**

God is greater than all and no one is able to remove a believer from His hand. You can't even jump out. – John 10.28-30

Who will bring a charge against God's elect? Who is the one who condemns? Our eternal security is based on the

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finished work of Christ: His death, burial, resurrection, His place at the right hand of God and His constant intercession. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. – Romans 8.33 – 39

Is eternity with Christ secure?

- **Eternal Security Rests in the Power of God!**

It is God's will that none who believe in Jesus will be lost. We have the promise of resurrection (being raised) with Christ on the last day. – John 6.39 – 40

Christ is our advocate. After we believe God's love doesn't suddenly lessen for us and our sins (after belief) cancel out the benefit of Christ's death for us. - 1 John 2.1

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To lose our eternal security the regenerating, indwelling, baptizing and sealing work of the HS would have to be undone. Something, our sin or our choice, would have to trump God the Holy Spirit.

Jude 24

Is eternity with Christ secure?

- **According to the scripture it is possible for a believer to be fallen from grace. That doesn't mean the loss of salvation.**

Galatians 5.1 – 4

Believers will not always persevere in godliness. Peter received correction from Paul because he stood condemned. Did that mean that Peter had lost his salvation? - Galatians 2.11

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At the judgment seat of Christ there will be those whose works are burned but who will be saved as through fire. – 1 Corinthians 3.10 -15

Is eternity with Christ secure?

- **According to the scripture it is possible for a believer to be fallen from grace. That doesn't mean the loss of salvation.**

Paul calls a believer who doesn't provide for his family as worse than an unbeliever. Paul doesn't say that one who doesn't provide for his family is an unbeliever. Paul says that he has denied the faith. - 1 Timothy 5.8

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Paul reminds us that God is true to his character even if we are faithless. The consistency of God's character guarantees our salvation / eternal security. - 2 Timothy 2.13

Is eternity with Christ secure?

- **According to the scripture it is possible for a believer to be fallen from grace. That doesn't mean the loss of salvation.**

God sees the heart of man. We may question the salvation of a person based on his works, words or appearance. In the mind of God there is no question. – 1 Samuel 16.7

Is eternity with Christ secure?

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- The ultimate answer to the insecurity or security of the believer rests on the question of who does the work of salvation. The concept that a believer who is once truly saved is always saved is based on the principle that salvation is the work of God not resting on any merit in the believer and not sustained. It may be concluded, then, from this extensive body of truth that the eternal purpose of God which is for the preservation of His own can never be defeated. To this end He has met every possible hindrance. Sin which might otherwise separate has been borne by a Substitute who, in order that the believer may be kept, pleads the efficacy of His death before the throne of God. The believer's will is held under divine control (Philippians. 2.13), and every testing is tempered by the infinite grace and wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 10.13). - Chafer, Lewis Sperry; Walvoord, John F.. Major Bible Themes (p. 223, 228)

**Is eternity with Christ sure? Are you sure of your salvation?
Of your eternity?**

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Assurance is the realization that one possesses eternal life. Lack of assurance often brings unnecessary but terrible trauma to a person's life. To know without a doubt is assurance. - Ryrie, Charles C.. Basic Theology (p. 380)

Why do people lack assurance?

Some doubt the reality of their commitment to Christ.

Some doubt because they question the procedure of their salvation. Did they follow the right steps?

Some doubt because they have been taught from scripture that they can't have assurance.

Why do people lack assurance?

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Some doubt because of persistent or egregious sin in their life.

Does God want us to be assured that we are saved forever?

Yes

Assurance is based on the finished work of Christ. Galatians 2.21

Christ's sacrifice for sin was sufficient for all time and eternity. –
Hebrews 10

God's basis for dealing with us is on the work of Christ. Christ never changes. – Hebrews 13.8

Does God want us to be assured that we are saved forever?

Yes

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Assurance is based on the unfailing promises of God's word. – 1 John 5.13,

God put His guarantee of our assurance in writing. All who believe in Jesus Christ may know they have eternal life.

God's word is eternal, unchanging, trustworthy.

God expects us to know and trust His word. 2 Timothy 2,.15, 3.16

God wants us to believe His witness. 1 John 5.9 – 13

Does God want us to be assured that we are saved forever?

Yes

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The only essential ground for the assurance of the believer's salvation is the promises of God. They are sure and firm. The experience of the believer can offer confirming evidence, but it is only secondary to the promises of God's Word and is nowhere taught in Scripture as essential for assurance. -

Anderson, David R.. *Free Grace Soteriology*: Revised Edition

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Resources for more study:

Anderson, David R.. Free Grace Soteriology: Revised Edition .
Grace Theology Press. Kindle Edition.

Wilkin, Robert N.. Salvation from What? A Biblical Study, Grace
Evangelical Society. EBook

Chafer, Lewis Sperry; Walvoord, John F.. Major Bible Themes
Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

Stanford, Miles J., The New Birth Explained, FBC Missions
reprint

Wilkin, Robert N.. Confident in Christ: Living by Faith Really
Works (Second Edition) Grace Evangelical Society. Kindle
Edition.

Resources for more study:

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Hixson,
Whitmire, Zuck. Freely by His Grace: Classical Grace Theology
. Grace Gospel Press. Kindle Edition.

Hodges, Zane C. Absolutely Free: A Biblical Reply to Lordship
Salvation . Grace Evangelical Society. Kindle Edition.

Chafer, Lewis Sperry. The Collected Works of Lewis Sperry
Chafer: (9 Books in 1) CrossReach Publications. Kindle
Edition.