

The Big Idea: God guarantees that whoever believes in his Son has eternal life. He makes sure we stay saved forever.

I. Overview

A. What God BEGINS he FINISHES

B. Our salvation involves the whole TRINITY

1. Father’s PURPOSE (Romans 8) and POWER (1 Peter 1:3-5)
2. Son’s PROMISE (John 10) and PRAYER (John 17)
3. Spirit’s PLEDGE (Ephesians 1:14) and SEAL (Ephesians 4:30)

II. The doctrine of eternal life (i.e. – eternal security)

A. CLARIFYING the issue involved:

1. Is the eternal nature of my salvation conditioned upon my BEHAVIOR? (if so, we’re back to WORKS)
2. Is the eternal nature of my salvation UNCONDITIONAL, regardless of my behavior? (if so, it’s by GRACE) John 6:37f.

B. Some practical QUESTIONS we need to answer:

1. What if a believer FALLS into sin, STAYS in sin, and dies in that state? (will that person go to HEAVEN?)

2. What happens if a person BELIEVES in Christ as Savior but later RENOUNCES their faith? (can you UNDO your salvation?) 2 Timothy 2:11-13 / Matthew 11:3-11

3. Isn't the doctrine of eternal life a LICENSE to live anyway you want? Romans 6:1

C. Some passages that we need to try our best to UNDERSTAND

1. Galatians 5:4 (LEGALISM)

2. 2 Peter 1:10 (FELLOWSHIP)

3. 1 John 5:16-17 (DISCIPLINE – Hebrews 6, 10)

4. 1 Corinthians 9:27 (REWARD)

5. Philippians 2:12 (PRESENT salvation)

III. What we take away...

Salvation is not obtained by good works, or maintained by good works. It's a gift from God, based on what Jesus did, not what I can do. When God makes a promise, he always fulfills his promise!