

Romans Part 12: FURTHER EXPLANATION ABOUT THE SECURITY OF OUR SALVATION (misc passages)

I. ESSENCE OF SALVATION: SEPARATION BETWEEN YOU AND GOD PERMANENTLY REMOVED

--our sin separates us from God... not only in this life but also in eternity (eternal separation from God is the essence of hell)

--the essence of all false religions is an attempt to remove the separation by our own efforts

--Romans 3:20: "Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

--when we trust in Christ, all of our sin (past, present, and future) is instantly and permanently removed by Christ's one-time payment...

--Hebrews 9:26-27: "He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."

--Colossians 2:13-14: When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us **all our sins**, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; **he took it away, nailing it to the cross.**"

--not only did He forgive all our sins, but He eliminated the potential for sin to separate us from Him – "having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us..."

--in other words He eliminated the law in the equation of our being justified in His sight - He gave us "the righteousness of God apart from the law..." (Romans 3:21)

--in the words of Romans 4:14-16: "For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, 15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law [*in the equation of our being justified before God***] there is no transgression. 16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace..."

**this doesn't mean that the moral law doesn't matter anymore... That is why Paul begins Romans 6 with the emphatic statement "Shall we continue in sin that grace might abound? Certainly not!" The equation has been changed so that the *ceremonial* law is totally obsolete and the *moral* law, rather than separating us from God, causes God to discipline us as His children... (Hebrews 12:5-8, Romans 8:15-16)

--because our sin is permanently removed by Christ's one-time payment...

...we have been "perfected forever" (Hebrews 10:14)

...God said, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." (Hebrews 10:7 quoting from prophecy in Jeremiah 31:34)

...we are "holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight." (Colossians 1:22)

...we have "become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

...the "righteousness of God" (Romans 3:22) has been "credited" to our account (Romans 4:3, 4:5, 4:9, 4:11; Galatians 3:6)

--to lose our salvation is to become separated from God again, but this is not possible because Christ's one-time payment forever removed the only thing that can separate us from God! All of our sin (past, present, and future) is already nailed to the cross and paid for and "remembered no more!"

--every time we commit a new sin it is immediately covered by Christ's one time payment; this dynamic is referred to as Christ "interceding" for us (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25)

--Hebrews 7:22-25: "...Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. [*the New Covenant*] 23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. [*one technical difference between the old and new covenant was that the old covenant depended on human priests who were subject to death and the new covenant is dependent on Christ who "lives forever"*] 25 Therefore **He is able to save completely** those who come to God through him, because **he always lives to intercede for them.**" [**we commit sins every day, but His intercession for us will never end because He lives forever!** "Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him!"]

--Romans 8:31-39: "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 **Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?** It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes **intercession for us.** [**nobody can bring a charge against us because Christ intercedes for us and covers all our sins!**] 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

--because all of our sins are covered by Christ's one-time payment and "remembered no more" we can REST...

--we can rest in knowing that there is nothing we can do to mess up our salvation! If our salvation depended on us then we would mess it up!

--Hebrews 4:8-10: "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works [*ceased from being justified by works*] as God did from His."

--joy stems from resting in Christ, and this joy strengthens us to turn from sin more... "the joy of the Lord is your strength!" (Nehemiah 8:10)

--when the weakness of our flesh seems overwhelming, rather than fearing that we can mess up our salvation, "we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness [*the righteousness we will have in our new bodies in heaven*] by faith" (Galatians 5:5) and this hope is a source of strength in our moments of weakness! But satan wants us to feel hopeless because when we are hopeless we get even weaker and lose even more ground to our flesh.

--both Hebrews 10:14 and Colossians 1:22 seem to add a condition for all of our sin to be removed, but in reality they are only emphasizing that genuine faith is always accompanied by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives... because **salvation removes the separation between us and God, and when that separation is removed, the Holy Spirit enters our life... so if there is no evidence that He is working in our lives there is no evidence the separation has been removed!**

--Colossians 1:23: "...if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard."

--Hebrews 10:14: "...those who are being sanctified."