



Sunday, September 22, 2019
Pastor Doug Phillips

Intro to 1 Peter 1:3-5

The doctrine of the eternal security of believers is both comforting and often misinterpreted. On the one hand, many find great comfort in the fact that God’s love secures us in Christ. For those who believe in Jesus, nothing can separate us from Him. Nothing external can separate us—like suffering, trials, or anything else whereby we might think He has abandoned us. And nothing internal can separate us—our doubts, fears, and besetting sins. Truly, it is great comfort that all that the Father has given to Jesus will be saved (John 6:35-37). Once someone is truly saved, they will always be saved.

On the other hand, it is crucial that we don’t misinterpret the common phrase “once saved, always saved.” Many people (perhaps some of us), have claimed to have faith only to have our lives completely unaffected by the truths of the gospel. So, for us to trust that we are “always saved,” we must understand the fullness of what it means to be “once saved.” It does not mean that we did some outward action (praying a prayer, walking an aisle, filling out a card). It does not mean that we assent to a set of truths about God. Rather, it is a trust in His goodness and grace that leads to sincere loyalty and dependence upon Him. As we grow in that kind of trust and loyalty, we can make our calling and election (our salvation) sure (2 Pet. 1:10).

Context

1 Peter is a letter written to people who faced difficult circumstances. In 1:1-2, Peter explains that he is writing to “elect exiles.” This word “exile” carries great biblical significance (including the weight of doubts about God and salvation). To call them “elect,” however, is to remind them that though they cannot now see their salvation, they are going to be kept by God for salvation because He who promised is faithful.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5

“Kept by the Power of God through Faith”

Main Idea: Believers are kept...

- 1) By God’s power
- 2) Through faith
- 3) Unto final salvation

Discuss

- 1) What kinds of things might people mistake for genuine faith?
- 2) What gives you assurance that you are saved?
- 3) Read 2 Peter 1:5-11. How have you seen God grow you in those qualities? Has that reinforced your assurance of faith?
- 4) Read John 10:27-30. How does Jesus’ teaching here impact your understanding of God’s love?
- 5) How has God satisfied your longing for happiness even now in your relationship with Him?