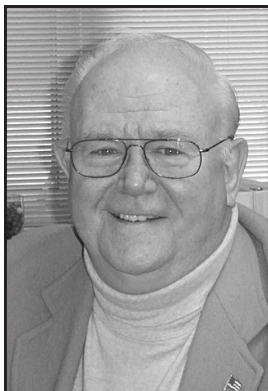


# ***SECURE IN CHRIST!***

At times folks will ask why I believe in eternal security. It is not difficult to answer because eternal life is a "gift" from God. He even tells us in I John 5:13 that we can "know" that we have eternal life...pretty neat. Charles Ryrie gives an excellent definition of eternal security as he says, "Eternal security is the work of God that guarantees that the gift of salvation, once received, is forever and cannot be lost."

(So Great salvation; Wheaton: Victor Books, 1989, page 137).



The Apostle Peter certainly believed in eternal security for he stated that believers are "kept by the power of God through faith for salvation." (I Peter 1:5). The word *kept* is a military term that means God has placed a divine garrison around believers to guard and protect them. What does that mean? It means that if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior (John 3:16), your security does not depend on anything you do, but rather on the triune God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (see Ephesians 1:3-14). God has declared that those who accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior will eventually be glorified, indicating that their destiny is eternally secured (Romans 8:28-30).

Doubt your salvation? You might want to read the following chapters in the Gospel of John: Chapters 3, 6, 10, 17. To doubt eternal security is to doubt the plan of the Father, the work of the Son, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Personally, I trust the one who planned salvation and carries it out; I find it a great blessing to rely on God. True salvation also brings about good works as James tells us, "Faith without works is dead" (James 3:17). A true Christian loves to work for God. The Christian's purpose is to glorify and please God (Isaiah 43:7; Revelation 4:11). Try it; you might like it (John 3:16).

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