

## The Doxology Of God And The Security Of The Believer

Jude 24-25

### Introduction:

1) There are few doctrines of Scripture more precious and comforting than the doctrine of eternal security. Spurgeon said, "If there is one doctrine I have preached more than another, it is the doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints even to the end." (sermon 1056) *The Abstract of Principles*: a confession of faith that all members of the faculties of Southern and Southeastern Seminaries must affirm, it was penned by Basil Manly Jr. in 1858, and it addresses this wonderful doctrine in article XIII entitled, "Perseverance of the Saints." It reads:

"Perseverance of the Saints. Those whom God hath accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation."

2) *The Baptist Faith And Message 2000* also speaks to this issue in article V on "God's Purpose of Grace." It states in paragraph 2:

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

3) I believe the doctrine of eternal security is absolutely necessary to a correct understanding of the gospel and the truth of the Bible's concept of eternal or everlasting life. The bottom line is this: if I can lose it, it is not eternal, if I can lose it, it is not everlasting, if I can lose it I can work my way out of salvation, if I can lose it, my salvation is ultimately dependent on me and not God. And if I can lose it, my confidence, comfort and hope is pulled out from beneath me and I am suspended in the midair of uncertainty as to my final destiny.

4) Fortunately the Bible addresses the doctrine of our security clearly and repeatedly.

- In John 10:27-30 Jesus says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."

- In Romans 8:38-39 Paul writes, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 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."

- In Ephesians 1:13-14 Paul adds, “In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”
  - In Hebrews 7:25 the author of Hebrews writes, “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”
  - And in Hebrews 13:5 he states further, “*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’*”
  - In 1 John 2:19 the beloved apostle writes, “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”
  - And in 1 John 5:13 he affirms, “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life...”
- 5) Now to all of this Jude adds, in a glorious doxology of worship, praise and adoration, that our God “is able to keep us from falling,” and that our God will “present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.” Thus the praise of God and the perseverance of the believer are joined in a tightly woven piece of spiritual cloth never to be rent, never to be torn, never to be separated.

**Transition:** Limiting ourselves to just these 2 verses, let me share with you 4 reasons why I believe in the eternal security of the believer.

I believe in the eternal security of the believer because of:

### **I. The power of God. v. 24**

Ultimately in one’s theology of salvation, they will either start with God or they will start with man, they will be theo-centric or anthropocentric. The author of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is the author and finisher of faith (Hebrews 12:2). Jude began his epistles telling us we are “preserved in Jesus Christ” (v.1). Now he closes by telling us we are kept from stumbling and falling prey to false teaching by “Him who is able.”

#### **1) God will preserve us.**

God has power to keep up from stumbling. “Keep” has the idea of guard or preserve. Yes we are to keep ourselves in the sphere of God’s love (v.21), but it is our Lord who keeps us from stumbling or falling. Xenophon used the word for a sure footed horse who does not stumble, and Epictetus of a good man who does not lapse morally (Vaughn, 234). God watches over us and by his omnipotent power keeps us from falling into the error and the sin of false teachers. He preserves us in Christ.

#### **2) God will protect us.**

He will keep “you” from stumbling. The promise is personal and individual, corporate and all encompassing for every child of God. The one who preserves us is God. The one who protects us from stumbling is Father. We are related to His sovereign power to keep us. We are related

to his Fatherly care to be protected from stumbling, falling away.  
 Hebrews 12:5-13 is so helpful here. Discipline is a sign of our security.

## II. The promise of God. v. 24

My eternal security is grounded in God's power not mine. My eternal security is grounded in God's promise not mine as well. In the latter part of v. 24 there is a truly magnificent promise of hope and assurance. We will be kept from stumbling by the Him who is able God. Kept where? Kept for what? Great questions with great answers.

### 1) We will see His glory.

Because he keeps us from stumbling, He will present us "faultless". Faultless means unblemished, irreproachable. The same idea is applied to Jesus in 1 Peter 1:19 where He is said to be "a lamb without blemish." In the same way God looked until His sinless Son as He placed Him on the cross as our sacrifice, so He will present you and me sinless, faultless, clothed in the imputed righteousness of Christ. But now note the place of this presentation: "before the presence of His glory." We will not just stand faultless anywhere, we will stand faultless before/ in the presence of the glory of God. Can you believe it? We will see His glory. We will know His glory. We will enjoy His glory. However, there is another wonderful aspect to this promise.

### 2) We will share His joy.

Jude says in His presence, as we see and experience His glory, there will be great, exceeding joy. There will be a celebration, rejoicing, exulting. In Rev. 19 we catch a glimpse of this joy in the marriage supper of the Lamb. Four times there is the shout, "Hallelujah." Why? Verse 7 tells us, "Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready." "Faultless to stand before the throne, dressed in His righteousness alone." What a promise of security.

Transition: We will share His glory.

## III. The person of God. v. 25

Eternal security has its source in the person and character of God. An intimate, personal, and biblical understanding of God will aid our assurance and confirm our confidence in the Lord who saves and who saves completely. Note what Jude tells us.

### 1) He is our Sovereign.

He is the only God, the *mono theo*. Paul tells us in I Tim. 1:17, "He is the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God..."(ESV). Jude is quick and concise. He is the only God, the only Lord, the only Sovereign to whom and with whom we must reckon and give account. All will stand before Him. None shall escape. He is our sovereign. But, for those who know Him...

### 2) He is our Savior.

NKJV says "our Savior." ESV and NIV say "our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord." Our God is a saving God. He is a saving Father, saving

Son, and saving Spirit. The Father saves us, the Son secures us, and the Spirit seals us. God did not save me to lose me. He saved me to keep me. That is just the kind of God He is.

#### IV. The praise of God. v. 25

- Jude brings this short, but powerful, letter to a close with a doxology, a word of praise to the only God who is our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. A four-fold acknowledgement of the greatness and awesomeness of God is made.
- A quick look at each is instructive, especially since Jude charges us to recognize these truths about our God “before all time and now and forever” (ESV).
  - 1) Praise Him for His glory forever.
    - “Glory” is *doxa*, from which we get our word doxology. Glory is the honor rightly ascribed to God for who he is and what He has done. It is the outshining of His character and nature.
    - In one sense glory is not what God has, it is what God is. James Merritt well says, “Glory is an attribute that is inherent and intrinsic to God. Glory is as essential to God as light is to the sun, as blue is to the sky, as wet is to water. You do not make the sun light, it is light. You do not make the sky blue, it is blue. You do not make the water wet, it is wet. Likewise, you do not make God glorious, God is glorious. You do not really give God glory; you acknowledge the glory that God already has.”
    - Glory is indeed the outward manifestation of the inner essence and character of our God. It is what He is!
  - 2) Praise Him for His majesty forever.
    - “Majesty” is *megalosune*. It speaks of our Lord’s greatness, His awesome and marvelous transcendence, His status as the King and Sovereign over all. It is His greatness being loosed and spread throughout all of His creation.
  - 3) Praise Him for His sovereignty forever.
    - Dominion is *kratos*. It speaks of His control over all creation. Our God is omnipotent, capable of doing anything consistent with His character and attributes. He is not limited by might, space or time. The past is His, the future is His, and the present is His.
  - 4) Praise Him for His authority forever.
    - “Power” is the word *exousia* and is translated as “authority” (ESV, NIV). Moo says it is “his intrinsic right to rule all things” (p.301). It informs us that all things are in His hands, indeed, “He’s got the whole world in His hands.” The world is not running willy-nilly out of control in a course with no direction, no one at the helm.
      - Human extinction is not a possibility because He has all things in His hands.
      - Nuclear annihilation is not a possibility because He has all things in His hands.

- Evangelistic defect is not a possibility because He has all things in His hands.
- Missionary failure is not a possibility because He has all things in His hands.
- Losing my salvation is not a possibility because He has all things (including me) in His hands.
- Never forget: in the end our God wins! He is glorious and majestic, He has dominion and power. For His glory He will keep me. In His majesty He will keep me. Through His dominion He will keep me. By His power He will keep me.

### **Conclusion**

I conclude quickly and practically.

- 1) Why do people lack assurance, doubt their eternal security? I believe there are at least 5 reasons:
  1. Faulty understanding of the fact that it is God who does the saving.
  2. Faulty methods of assurance at the time of salvation. (works, tongues, etc.)
  3. Doubt of God's faithfulness to keep His word.
  4. Lack of proper teaching on the Christian life.
  5. Presence of sin in one's life!
- 2) What can we do to help people settle the issue and gain the security they should experience in Christ?
  1. Look to the cross and use God's word, remembering 2 crucial truths:
    - By His work on the cross Jesus obtained my salvation.
    - By His work on heaven Jesus maintains my salvation.
  2. Ask questions about their experience of the Christian life.
    - a. Do you believe the gospel and trust Christ?
    - b. Do you experience remorse over sin and have a desire to please God?
    - c. Do you see any evidence of fruit in your life?
    - d. Does the Holy Spirit witness to your spirit that you are a child of God?
    - e. When you sin, do you experience the discipline of the Father?
- 3) Augustus Montague Toplady said it beautifully:  
 My name from the palms of His hands eternity will not erase;  
 Impressed on His heart it remains, in marks of indelible grace.  
 Yes, I to the end shall endure, as sure as the earnest is giv'n;  
 More happy, but not more secure, the glorified spirits in heav'n.  
 Augustus Montague Toplady
- 4) Psalm 37:23-24 provides a fitting, final and encouraging word: "The steps of a good man are ordered (established) by the Lord, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand." Secure in Him. Secure forever.