



Shelby Christian Church

CORE 52: GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD - ETERNAL SECURITY

JOHN 10:28, 1 SAMUEL 17, JOHN 6:37, ROMANS 11:20-21, HEBREWS 6:4-6

11/2/2025

INTRODUCTION

Are you more of a glass half-empty or glass half-full type of person?

Is skepticism ever wise? Give an example of a time when doubt would be a good thing.

Finish the following sentence: Life is _____. Explain your answer.

Even well-meaning Jesus followers sometimes struggle to rise above the doubts and dread that comes with living on this sin-cursed earth. The very first Easter began in that exact way for Jesus' disciples. The enemy worked hard then, and he works hard now to deceive and dissuade us from walking in the hope Jesus came to bring. For those of us who chose Jesus, we have security in our salvation. However, we can just as easily choose not to follow Him anymore.

UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 10:28

What does "eternal life" mean in this passage? Is it only future, or does it have present implications?

How does the imagery of a sheep and shepherd illustrate security and care in the believer's relationship with Christ?

What does it mean that "no one will snatch them out of my hand"? How does this relate to God's sovereignty and protection?

Jesus assures His followers that those who follow Him have eternal life, a life that begins now and continues forever. He promises that those who belong to Him will never perish and that no one can take them out of His hand. The verse emphasizes both the security of believers in Christ and the permanence of the salvation He provides.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 SAMUEL 17

This event took place right after David was anointed the next King of Israel. How do you see both God's providence and David's free will at play in this story?

What does David's confidence in God reveal about his faith?

How does this story illustrate the principle that God can use the seemingly weak to overcome the strong?

Why do you think David refused Saul's armor and relied on his sling and faith instead?

1 Samuel 17 tells the story of David and Goliath, a defining moment in Israel's history. The Philistine army had a champion, Goliath, who taunted Israel for forty days, challenging them to send a warrior to fight him. The Israelites were afraid, but David, a young shepherd, arrived at the battlefield bringing food for his brothers. Upon hearing Goliath's defiance of God, David volunteered to fight him, expressing complete trust that God would deliver him.

Rejecting Saul's armor, David faced Goliath with only a sling and five stones, relying on God's power rather than his own strength. He struck Goliath in the forehead with a stone, killing him instantly, and used Goliath's sword to complete the victory. The Philistines fled, and Israel was empowered to pursue them. This chapter highlights themes of faith, courage, and God's ability to use the seemingly weak to accomplish His purposes, demonstrating that trust in God can triumph over overwhelming odds.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 6:37

What does it mean that "all those the Father gives me will come to me"?

How does this verse show the relationship between God the Father and Jesus in bringing people to salvation?

What is the significance of Jesus saying He will "never drive away" anyone who comes to Him?

Jesus assures that all who are given to Him by the Father will come to Him, and that anyone who comes will never be turned away. This verse highlights both the initiative of God in salvation and the gracious welcome of Christ. It emphasizes that coming to Jesus is met with acceptance, security, and unbroken fellowship. The promise underscores God's sovereignty in drawing people to Himself while also offering assurance that no one who seeks Christ in faith will be rejected.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 11:20-21

What illustration does Paul use to describe Gentile believers in these verses?

What warning does Paul give to those who are "grafted in" by faith?

How does this passage emphasize that salvation is entirely by God's grace and not by human effort?

In these verses, Paul warns Gentile believers not to become arrogant about their inclusion in God's covenant blessings. He uses the analogy of an olive tree: Gentiles, like wild branches, have been grafted in by faith, while unbelieving Israelites, like natural branches, can be broken off due to unbelief. Paul cautions that God's kindness should not be taken for granted; pride can lead to judgment just as unbelief can. The passage emphasizes that salvation and blessing are entirely by God's grace, calling believers to humility, gratitude, and dependence on God rather than self-confidence.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 6:4-6

Why does the author emphasize that those who fall away have "tasted the heavenly gift" and "shared in the Holy Spirit"?

What is the significance of the phrase “again to be brought to repentance”?

How do these verses balance God’s grace with the human responsibility to persevere in faith?

How can we guard against becoming complacent or drifting away in our faith?

Hebrews 6:4–6 warns believers about the seriousness of falling away after experiencing the blessings of salvation. The passage describes people who have “tasted the heavenly gift,” shared in the Holy Spirit, and experienced the goodness of God, yet then turn away from the faith. The author emphasizes that it is extremely difficult—if not impossible—to restore such individuals to repentance because they have decisively rejected Christ. The verses underscore the importance of perseverance, faithfulness, and ongoing commitment to God, reminding believers that salvation is both a gift of grace and a call to continual trust and obedience.

APPLICATION

Describe a time when you tried to walk away from something or someone but just couldn't (a lover, friend, family, job, team). What percentage of your decision was predetermined by choices outside your own will?

Do you have a strong sense of security in your salvation with God? Why or why not?

When you listen to sermons, do you hear more that you have free will or that you are eternally secure by God's power? What advantages has this messaging given your faith?

Think for a moment about the opposite side of the argument. What advantages might the other constellation of Scriptures offer you?

PRAYER

COMMENTARY

John 10:28

John 10:28 is part of Jesus’ teaching about Himself as the Good Shepherd. In this verse, He makes a profound promise to His followers: “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.” This statement highlights several key truths about salvation and the believer’s security.

First, eternal life is both a present reality and a future hope. Believers experience a restored relationship with God now, empowered by the Spirit, and this life continues forever. Eternal life is not merely unending existence—it is a quality of life in fellowship with Christ, characterized by peace, purpose, and righteousness.

Second, the verse emphasizes security and protection. Using the shepherd-and-sheep imagery, Jesus assures believers that they are under His constant care. “No one will snatch them out of my hand” underscores God’s sovereign power and the permanence of salvation. This security is not based on human effort but on Christ’s authority and faithfulness.

Third, this promise addresses both assurance and comfort. Believers can face persecution, doubt, or spiritual attack with confidence, knowing that their salvation is held securely by Jesus. The verse also

contrasts human weakness with Christ's strength; while the sheep are vulnerable, the Good Shepherd is powerful and attentive.

1 Samuel 17

1 Samuel 17 recounts one of the most famous stories in the Bible: David and Goliath. The chapter begins with the Philistines and Israelites arrayed for battle, with the giant Goliath challenging Israel for forty days. His taunts created fear among the Israelite soldiers, demonstrating how intimidation can paralyze even seasoned warriors. Into this scene comes David, a young shepherd, sent by his father to bring provisions to his brothers. David's encounter with Goliath is more than a physical confrontation—it is a clash of faith versus fear.

David's courage is rooted in his trust in God. Unlike the Israelite army, David does not rely on military experience, strength, or armor; he relies on God's power. His refusal of Saul's armor symbolizes that human resources cannot substitute for God's presence and guidance. By defeating Goliath with a simple sling and stone, David illustrates that God can use the weak, humble, and seemingly insignificant to accomplish great purposes.

This chapter also highlights themes of divine honor, faith, and God's sovereignty. David's victory is not merely a personal triumph; it demonstrates that the battle belongs to the Lord. His reliance on God contrasts sharply with Goliath's pride and defiance, showing that God's power overcomes human arrogance and might. The aftermath—the Philistines' retreat and Israel's pursuit—reveals the broader impact of one faithful act on an entire community.

Spiritually, 1 Samuel 17 challenges believers to confront their "giants" with faith rather than fear, to trust God's power over human strength, and to recognize that obedience and courage in God's name can inspire and deliver others. It serves as a reminder that God often works through unexpected people and ordinary means to fulfill His purposes.

John 6:37

John 6:37 comes from Jesus' teaching on the Bread of Life, where He explains the nature of salvation and the relationship between the Father and the Son. Jesus declares, "All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." This statement highlights two critical truths about God's work in salvation: divine initiative and gracious reception.

First, divine initiative: Salvation begins with God the Father, who gives people to Jesus. This reflects God's sovereign plan in drawing people to Himself. Those whom the Father gives are not left to their own devices; God actively works to bring them to faith in Christ.

Second, gracious reception: Jesus promises that anyone who comes to Him in faith will never be rejected. This demonstrates the certainty and permanence of salvation for believers. No one who sincerely comes to Christ is turned away, emphasizing God's mercy, love, and the security of those in His care.

The verse also reveals the Father-Son relationship in salvation. The Father sends and gives people to the Son, and the Son faithfully receives them. This unity underscores the collaborative work of God in redemption: the Father initiates, the Son accomplishes, and the Spirit applies salvation to the believer's life.

Romans 11:20-21

In Romans 11:20–21, Paul continues his discussion of Israel and Gentiles in God’s redemptive plan, using the metaphor of an olive tree. The “natural branches” represent Israel, God’s chosen people, while the “wild branches” symbolize Gentiles who have been grafted in by faith. Paul warns Gentile believers not to become arrogant about their inclusion. Their relationship with God is by grace, not by personal merit, and pride can lead to the same judgment that comes from unbelief.

Verse 20 highlights the principle of humility: although Gentiles now share in God’s blessings, their status is dependent on God’s mercy. Verse 21 underscores the seriousness of taking God’s kindness for granted. Just as natural branches were broken off due to unbelief, God has the power to remove those who rely on their own strength or become arrogant.

The passage teaches that salvation and blessing are acts of God’s grace, calling all believers to humility and gratitude. It also serves as a cautionary reminder that spiritual security is maintained through continued faith and dependence on God. Furthermore, the olive tree metaphor emphasizes God’s sovereignty in salvation: He grafts in and can also prune, highlighting His authority, wisdom, and purposeful plan for both Jews and Gentiles.

Spiritually, these verses challenge believers to trust God, remain humble, and honor His kindness by living in faith, dependence, and gratitude rather than self-confidence or pride. They also encourage sensitivity toward others, recognizing that God’s mercy extends beyond personal experience to all whom He calls.

Hebrews 6:4-6

Hebrews 6:4–6 is a sobering passage that addresses the danger of falling away after experiencing the blessings of salvation. The author describes individuals who have “tasted the heavenly gift,” shared in the Holy Spirit, and experienced the goodness of God—signs of genuine spiritual experience. Yet, if they turn away from Christ, the text warns that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to bring them back to repentance. This emphasizes the seriousness of apostasy and the consequences of decisively rejecting Christ after knowing His truth.

The passage highlights a key tension in the New Testament: God’s grace versus human responsibility. Salvation is a gift, but believers are called to persevere in faith. The warning is not meant to create despair for the faithful but to stress the importance of endurance, spiritual maturity, and ongoing obedience. It serves as a caution against complacency or superficial faith that does not lead to lasting commitment.

The imagery of “crucifying the Son of God all over again” underscores the severity of turning from Christ—it is a deliberate rejection of what has already been received. While God’s grace is immense, this passage stresses that the rejection of Christ after knowing Him is a serious matter with profound spiritual consequences.

In essence, this passage calls Christians to remain steadfast, appreciating the grace they have received and living in continual obedience to God, while understanding that salvation requires both God’s gift and a faithful response.