

2017: Week 28

Sunday, July 9th 2017

"The Security of God's Children"

Hebrews 13:5b

"...for He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you, nor will I ever forsake you.'" (NASB)¹

This past Sunday John asked the question, "Can a believer ever lose his or her salvation?" Another way of asking the question might be, "Is there anything a saved person can do to disqualify him/herself from the salvation that God had promised?" This week we will be looking at various passages, primarily two texts from **Joshua 1** and **Deuteronomy 31**, in which we will be reminded of the Lord's faithfulness to His children. If you have trusted in Christ as your Savior, be assured that the Lord is with you now *and will always be with you*. Caution— this truth is not an encouragement to sin nor does it mean that the Lord will approve of everything that you do. If you choose to sin, the Lord will not approve of your sinful decisions, and there will be consequences for your sins. However, one of those consequences will never be eternal condemnation. Instead of viewing eternal security as an excuse to sin or a reason for taking advantage of God's grace, we should rather view eternal security as a motivation to live well for the Lord. Our God is gracious and faithful to us, and such truths should inspire us to want to please Him. When you find yourself doubting your status as a child of God, focus your attention on God and the promises in His Word. Is your worth, your forgiveness, and your eternity based upon *your* merits or the merits of Jesus Christ? Praise the Lord that we as believers have been credited with the righteousness of Christ, "the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith" (**Philippians 3:9**).

1. "THE TEXT"

READ Joshua 1:1-9

- How many times does the Lord command Joshua to "be strong and courageous" in these nine verses? What are the reasons the Lord provides Joshua as to why he should "be strong and courageous?"

READ Deuteronomy 31:7-8

- To whom is Moses addressing in this passage? What reasons does Moses give him that he should not fear?

READ Deuteronomy 31:1-6

- To whom is Moses addressing in this passage? What reasons does Moses provide that they should not fear?

2. "YOU"

- Have you ever doubted that you might lose your salvation? How might these passages today give you confidence that the Lord will never leave you, never forsake you, and never take your salvation away?
- How might God's faithfulness to you be a motivation for how you want to live for Him?
- In Sunday's message, John reminded us of the foundation of God's promises to the believer:
 - the character of God the Father (**Numbers 23:19**),
 - the plan of the Father (**Romans 8:29-30**),
 - the work accomplished by the Son (**Hebrews 10:14**)
 - the intercession of the Son (**Hebrews 7:25**)
 - the birth by the Spirit (**John 3:5-6**)
 - the sealing of the Spirit (**Ephesians 4:30**)

Which of these truths most resonates with you and provides encouragement for you to "be strong and courageous" in the Lord this week? What can you do when you start doubting God's promises?

3. "REMEMBER"

- **Romans 11:29** "29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."
- **Matthew 28:20** Jesus: "20 ...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

FAMILY PRAYER: Dear Lord, thank You for promising to never leave us nor forsake us. We can be confident and courageous in this world because we know that You are with us and You are faithful to Your promises. Amen

¹ All Scripture notations taken from the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** unless otherwise noted.