

Eternal Security! Ch. #3

JOHN 10:27

**“My sheep
hear My
voice, and
I know them,
and they
follow Me.**



What's The Big Deal About Eternal Security?



- “The only thing better than **knowing** your saved, is having the **assurance** of salvation, because you **know** you can **never loose it!**”

➤ This Doctrine is Vital to All Believers.

1. Your Spiritual Health.

“There is a peace that won’t let your emotions ride the roller coaster.”

2. Your Productivity:

“If your confident of your future, you can concentrate on the present.”

3. Your Witness.

“If God is able to save you, He is certainly capable of sustaining you.”

What is Eternal Security?

- **A.K.A.= The Perseverance of The Saints.** “Those whom God has excepted 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 judgements on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be KEPT by the power of God through faith unto salvation.(**Bylaws: 2.13**)



Is Eternal Security A Baptist Thing, or a Bible Thing?

1. **Notice: (Rom. 8:38–39)** “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,(39) nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **will be able to separate us** from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
2. **Notice: (Jn. 10:27-28)** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; (28) and I give **eternal life** to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”
3. **Notice: (Phil. 1:6)** “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you **will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus.”
4. **Notice: (Heb. 10:14)** “For by one offering He has **perfected for all time** those who are sanctified.”
5. **Notice: (Eph. 1: 13-14)** “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, **you were sealed** in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

God's Sacred Promise!

➤ Examining: (Rom. 8:38-39)

- Convinced: DBL. Greek= Persuade, Obey; Be Certain.
- Death: Christ has changed death's sting from defeat to victory. (2Cor. 5:8) “we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”
- Life: It is in our present earthly life that spiritual dangers lie. It's in this life that we have to deal with the dangers of verse (8:35). Tribulation, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword, and many other dangers. These threats are EMPTY, because we have eternal life in Christ Jesus.
- Angels: Paul is referring to “holy angels” which is a hypothetical, and impossible situation. Another example of this usage is found in (Gal. 1:8) “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!”
- Principalities: Evil beings, fallen angels, specifically demons. Paul is saying that NO supernatural created being, good or evil, can sever our relationship to/with Christ.

- **Things Present and Things To Come:** These represent everything we are experiencing, and will **YET** experience.
- **Powers:** This word translates *dunamis*, it's the ordinary Greek word for power. Here in it's plural form, it often refers to miracles or mighty deeds. It is also figuratively used of persons in positions of authority and power. Paul is basically saying this is another obstacle the believer **never has to fear**.
- **Height and Depth:** This could be in reference to astrological terms. The high point, or zenith, of a stars path, to it's lowest point. Perhaps this is to signify the infinity of space, which is endless in every direction. The basic meaning is that of totality.
- **Nor Any Other Created Thing:** Paul adds this to leave NO DOUBT that eternal security is all-encompassing. Since God Himself is uncreated, everyone, and everything else is excluded.
- **Absolutely NOTHING:** "Shall be able to separate **US** from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus **OUR** Lord."
- Our salvation was secured by God's decree from eternity past and will be held secure by Christ's love through all future time and throughout all eternity.

God's Determined Purpose!

- Notice: (Phil. 1:8) **“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”**
 - Who's salvation is it? (Psa. 85:9) **“Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land.”** Also: (Psa. 98:2) **“The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations”** Salvation is the work of God, and He alone saves us!
1. He is The Convictor: You were not convicted by yourself. The Holy Spirit convicted you of your sin. Notice: **(Rom. 3:11) “THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;”** Also: **(1 Jn. 4:19) “We love, because He first loved us.”**
 2. He is The Convertor: (Col. 2:13-14) **“When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, (14) having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”**

God's Determined Purpose! –Cont.

3. He is the Completer! Again notice: (Phil. 1:6) “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you **will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus.” There may be a lot of times, and a lot of things that you were never able to complete, school, job, relationship, sports, promises, and many more, but God finishes (**completes**) everything He starts. Your salvation is **NO** exception.
- Notice: (1 Cor. 1:8) “who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - Notice: (Eph. 5:27) “that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.”

God's Sovereign Predestination!

➤ We Are Predestined To Be Like JESUS.

Notice: **(Rom. 8:29-30)** “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; **(30)** and these whom He **predestined**, He also **called**; and these whom He called, He also **justified**; and these whom He justified, He also **glorified.**”

- If you are **genuinely** saved, then you are **eternally** saved. These two verses are perhaps the most explicit, and clearest presentation of this truth in all of God's word. Let's break this verse down for an easier understanding.

So what's the purpose of salvation anyway?

I. To Conform Believers To Christ. (Rom. 8:29)

“To become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.” God will complete the salvation of every sinner who is converted to Christ. Notice what Paul said in **(Rom. 8:1)** “**Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**” Verse **(9)** says that God's Holy Spirit indwells every believer. Every believer is already, in this life, an adopted child of God **(vv. 14-16)**, those children are therefore “**heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**” **(v.17)** and that “**the Spirit also helps our weakness**” and intercedes for the saints according to the will of God” **(vv. 26-27)**

- **When we go to glory we're going to receive a glorious body.**
It will work in the same environment and according to the same principles as does the resurrected glorified body of the Lord Jesus Christ. But I think it's even more than that. I think we're not only going to be like Him in whatever that glorified body is, but I think we're going to be like Him in the spiritual dimension as well. We will be outwardly perfect and we will be inwardly perfect.
- **Residing in us will be the very holiness of Jesus Christ.**
The divine, incorruptible nature given to us at the moment of salvation will be freed from the hindrance of the humanness which we now possess, and we'll be liberated, as it says in this chapter, “**unto the glorious liberation of the children of God**”. We will be delivered from the bondage of corruption, back in **(v. 21)**, and so we will have an outward appearance like that of Jesus Christ, and an inward holiness like that of Jesus Christ.
- **Notice: (1 Cor. 15:49)** “**As we have born the image of the earthly (or the earthy), we shall also bear the image of the heavenly,**” This is awesome! We are like the earthy. We will be like the heavenly. **That's His purpose, to make us like His Son.**
- **Notice: (Heb. 2:10)** “**For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.**”

II. To Make Christ Preeminent. (8:29) “That He might be the (*prōtotokos*) **first born** among many brethren.”

In the Jewish culture obviously the firstborn was the one who inherited everything. The firstborn was the one that was elevated. The firstborn was the one that uniquely represented the dignity of the family and carried the name. He was the supreme one, the preeminent one, and that's exactly what it's saying here. The reason we've all been saved is to make us like Christ, and the reason God wants to make us like Christ is so that there will be a whole redeemed and glorified humanity over which He will be the supreme one. That's what it's saying. That is the purpose.

- **Your salvation doesn't end with you.** Your salvation could be explained another way **Notice: (Phil. 2:9)** “God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.” You see what God wants to do is to bring into glory, to bring into heaven, to bring into eternity a redeemed humanity who will spend all of that eternity giving glory to the one who stands above and beyond them all, the *prōtotokos* (first born), the preeminent Christ.
- **Notice: (Col. 1:18)** “And He's the head of the body, the church. Who is the beginning, the *prōtotokos* from the dead that in all things **He might have the preeminence.**”
- Why did God create us in the first place? Tough question. He created us for His glory. He created us so that there would be a group of people who would give Him the glory due His name. Now you understand why you're saved? It isn't just to keep you out of hell. That's a nice by-product. It isn't just to make you happy here and now. You've been redeemed to be made like Christ so that you can be a part of a redeemed eternal community who will give to the preeminent one the glory due His name.

1. Foreknowledge: (Rom. 8:29) "For whom He foreknew."

- Yes, God is able to look into the future and beyond. His foreknowledge is not a reference to His omniscient "foresight," but to His **foreordination (1 Pet. 1:1-2)**. He not only sees faith in advance but ordains it in advance. God foresees faith, He foresees who is going to believe, **but the faith that He foresees is the faith that He Himself creates.**
- Notice what Jesus said: (Jn. 6:44), "No man comes unto me except the Father draw him. All that the Father gives to Me shall come to Me." We're born again not of the will of men, but of the will of God. It is not of ourselves, "it is a gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast," (Eph. 2:8-9). The Bible is very clear on this.
- This is illustrated in: (Acts. 13:48) "And when the Gentiles heard this they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord." They heard Paul and Barnabas preaching, and listen, "As many as were **ordained to eternal life believed.**" What were they ordained to? Eternal life. You can't have a salvation that doesn't end in eternal life. You can't have a salvation that doesn't ultimately end in glory. You can't have a salvation that doesn't ultimately end in the person being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, a part of a redeemed humanity for the purpose of exalting the One who is over and above them. **And the reason they believed was because they were ordained to that.**

2. Predestination: So it starts with foreknowledge; it moves to predestination. Back to Romans 8 again: "**For whom He did foreknow,**" verse 29, "**He also did predestinate.**" And then verse 30 picks it up: "**Moreover whom He did predestinate.**" So twice it says He predestinated. He did predestinate, *proorizō*. It's the word horizon with a prefixed pronoun. It means to **appoint before, to mark out before**. It's really the word to predestine, to predetermine. There's really no argument at that point, predestination, **predetermining destiny**.

- **In fact it is also used in (Acts. 4:28)** where it talks again about the death of Christ and it says that "**For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, (28) to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.**"
- **Notice also: (Acts. 2:23)** "**This Man, delivered over by the **predetermined** plan and **foreknowledge** of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.**"

- So the word “**predestined**” along with the word “**foreknowledge**,” both of them are used to speak of the crucifixion of Christ and if we're going to say then that “foreknowledge” simply means that God looks down history and sees what's going to happen and just responds to what **we decide**, then God did the same thing with Christ. He just looked down history, saw what Jesus, on his own prerogative was going to do, and reacted to it. **Absolutely heretical**, and if “**foreknowledge**” and “**predestination**” mean that God predetermined and planned the death of Christ for the redemption of man, and chose Christ to be the agent of redemption, then these words must mean in relation to us the same thing.
- **He Chose Us, And Predetermined Us To Be The Redeemed**. Notice: (Eph. 1:4-5) "He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world and predestinated us under the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ, who Himself according to the good pleasure of His will."
- **Notice: (Rev. 13:8)** “All who dwell on the earth will worship him, **everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.**” **Notice also: (Rev. 17:8)** Which says that our names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life “**before the world began.**”

3. Calling: Foreknowledge, predestination. Third word is “calling.”

- Verse 30 says, "**Whom He predestined, He called.**" He called. Now listen folks, here is where God's eternal plan intersects with your life. In eternity past He predetermined to have a love relationship with you; therefore, predestined your salvation. The calling is the time when God moves in your life. And now we come into time. We've been in eternity past, now we're in time. And this is the central truth. The first two preceded, the last two flow out of it. We are the called. **Verse 28** says that "**God is working all things together for them that love Him and them who are the called.**" This has reference not to an outward call but an inward call. It has reference to the work of God turning the heart, the heart that could **never turn** to Him, the heart that could **never know** Him, that could **never understand** the gospel, blind, dead, ignorant, all of those things, without God, without hope in the world.
- We know it must be a saving call because of where it's fitting here. It says, then He called...whom He called, then he also what? **Justified**. So all the people that were called were also what? **Justified**; therefore, the calling must be an effectual call. It must be a successful call. It's not just a wild invitation to anybody and everybody. It is a call to salvation. And if God, in eternity past, predetermined the love relationship and foreordained our salvation then He has to bring it to pass in time, by moving into our life, right? **That's why I say you're not saved because of something you decided, as if you could decide it alone. You're saved because of something God decided a long time ago.**

- God's saving call in time moves in. Well what happens? God moves and begins to convict the heart, to draw the heart away from sin, to draw the heart toward the Savior. **Notice: (2 Tim. 1:9), "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,"**
- This text says, **"He has saved us."** How? **"He has called us with an holy calling,"** listen to this, **"not according to our works."** He didn't call us because of something we did, **"but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ before the world began."** Now that's what it says. You were called to Christ, called to salvation to fulfill a purpose that was planned before the world began.
- Folk's, this is why we are **ETERNALLY SECURE**, because we're not in some whimsical rollercoaster deal. The reason we are saved is to be saved unto glory, **to be like Christ**, to be a part of a holy humanity that can **exalt His glorious name**, and if that is the end and God began it before we were ever born, then God will bring it to pass and there will not be any fallout.
- And so all the way along the line, all things are continually overruled **to be working together for our ultimate glory**. That's what it's saying. Just a tremendous passage! **That's the promise.**

Why Can't I Wrap My Mind Around This?



➤ Some Things Still Belong To God. (Deut. 29:29)

“The **secret** things belong to the LORD our God, but the things **revealed** belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

➤ “There are some things about God that we will **never** understand.”

Lets Start With Adam



- When Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden, he was warned not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the “knowledge of good and evil” on the threat of immediate ***SPIRITUAL*** death.
- **Notice: (Gen. 2:16-17)** “The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **(17)** but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it ***you will surely die.***”
- When Adam disobeyed and ate of the forbidden fruit consequently, he brought ***“spiritual death”*** upon himself and upon the race.

1. We Inherited “Spiritual Death.” Adam’s offspring are BORN with sinful natures, they do not have the ***ability*** to *Choose* spiritual good over evil. As a result man’s ***will*** is no longer free (i.e., free from the dominion of sin) as Adam’s ***will*** was free before the Fall. Instead, man’s ***will*** as the consequence of inherited depravity, is in bondage to his sinful nature.

- **Notice:(Rom. 5:12)** “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so ***death spread to all men, because all sinned.***”
- **Notice: (Psa. 58:3)** “The wicked are estranged ***from the womb***; These who speak lies go astray ***from birth.***”

Notice: (Eph. 2:1-3) “And you were **dead** in your trespasses and sins, **(2)** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **(3)** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, ***and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.***”

2. We Inherited a Darkened **Mind, corrupt **hearts**, and a Defiled **Conscience**.**

Notice: (Rom. 8:7-8) “because the ***mind*** set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for ***it is not even able to do so***, **(8)** and those who are in the flesh ***cannot please God.***”

Notice: (1 Cor. 2:14) “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and ***he cannot understand them***, because they are spiritually appraised.”

Notice: (Gen. 6:5) “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that ***every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.***”

Notice: (Jer. 17:9) “***The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick***; Who can understand it? “

- **Notice: (Gen. 8:21)** “.....for the intent of man’s *heart is evil* from his youth;.....”
- **Notice: (Eph. 4:17-19)** “So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, **(18) *being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God*** because of the ignorance that is in them, *because of the hardness of their heart;* **(19)** and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness”
- **Notice: (Tit. 1:15)** “To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but *both their (mind) and their (conscience) are defiled.*”
- **This is why Jesus said: (Jn. 3:5-7)** “Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **(6)** “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **(7)** “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘*You must be born again.*’

3. Our “Free Will” is in Bondage To The Influence of Sin And Satan.

- Before sinners are “**born again**,” they are children of the devil and under his control and influence, therefore making them slaves to sin.

Notice: (Jn. 8:44) *“You are of your father the Devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires.* He was a murderer from the beginning and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from **his own nature**, because he is a liar and the father of liars.”

Notice: ((Eph. 2:1-2) “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **(2)** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, **according to (or following) the prince of the power of the air**, of the spirit (**Anti-Christ**) that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Notice: (2 Tim. 2:25-26) “with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, **if perhaps God may grant them repentance** leading to the knowledge of the truth, **(26)** and they may come to their senses and **escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.**”

Notice: (1 Jn. 3:10) “ By this the children of God and the **children of the devil** are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.”

Notice: (1 Jn. 5:19) “ We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies **in the power of the evil one.**”

4. The whole World is in Bondage.

Notice: (Job. 14:4) **“Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!”**

Notice: (Job. 19:14-16) **“What is man, that he should be pure, Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? 15 “Behold, He puts no trust in His holy ones, And the heavens are not pure in His sight; 16 How much less one who is detestable and corrupt, Man, who drinks iniquity like water!”**

Notice: (Jer. 13:23) **“Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.”**

Notice: (Psa. 143:2) **“And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no man living is righteous.”**

Notice: (Prov. 20:9) **“Who can say, “I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin”?”**

Notice: (Rom. 3:9-12) **“What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; (10) as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; (11) THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; (12) ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”**

Notice: (1 Jn. 1:10) **“If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.”**

5. By The Grace of God You Were Chosen.

- **Notice: The O.T. "Israel."** (Deut. 10:15-16) "Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. (15) "Yet on your fathers did the **LORD set His affection to love them, and He chose** their descendants after them, **even you above all peoples, as it is this day."**
- **Notice: (Hag. 2:23)** "On that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like a signet ring, for **I have chosen you,**' " declares the LORD of hosts."
- **Notice: The N.T. "Bride of Christ."** (Matt. 11:27) "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and **anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."**
- **Notice: (Matt. 22:14)** "For many are called, **but few are chosen."**
- **Notice: (Lk. 18:7)** "now, will not God bring about justice for **His elect** who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?"
- **Notice: (Col. 3:12)** "So, as those **who have been chosen of God**, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;"
- **Notice: (1 Pet. 2:8-9)** "**But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION**, so that you may proclaim the excellences of Him **who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**
- **Notice: What God says about His Apple, and Bride. (Rom. 11:28)** "From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, **but from the standpoint of God's choice** they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;"
- **Notice: The "Tribulation Saints."** (Rev. 17:14) "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and **those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."**

- This passage says “**He set his love on us and chose us before the foundation of the world.**” **From vs. 3** when the process of our salvation begins **to vs. 14** when it is over, God is the one taking all the action!
- This is one, long **202-word sentence**. The sentence has **48 pronouns**: **30** of them belong to God. There are **24 verbs**, or action sequences in it: God does **20** of them, and only **4** of them we do.

Vs. 3, God blesses;

Vs. 4, he chooses;

Vs. 5, he predestines and adopts

Vs. 6, he bestows grace;

Vs. 7, he redeems and forgives;

Vs. 8, he lavishes;

Vs. 9, he makes known and he purposes;

Vs. 10, he unites together in Christ;

Vs. 11, he works;

Vs. 13, he seals.

- **Listen to the 4 that we do:** we **listen**; we **receive**; we **believe**; and we **hope**. • Isn't that beautiful?
- **You may be thinking: “What part of salvation are we responsible for?”** We did all the sinning. Jesus did all the saving.

- **You may be thinking, “Well, why did he choose me? What was it about me?”**
Did God see that I was going to make a great Christian and say, “Man, I gotta have that guy on my team! He’s such a great debater, or she has such potential for leadership—I want them!” **Not at all.**
- In one of the most beautiful and mystifying passages of the OT, when God was explaining to Israel why he chose them, he said, **(Deut. 7:7-8,) “It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you...”**
WOW, it’s not your potential. I didn’t choose you because you were great, Israel; **you became great because I chose you.**
- **You may be thinking, “I know—maybe it was that I wasn’t as sinful as other people;** God saw that deep down I had a good and teachable heart.” • Well, that’s not true either. • Look again, at **(Deut. 9:6): “Know therefore that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people.”** In other words, “Yeah, it wasn’t your good heart either. Actually, your heart was even harder than most.” • God didn’t look down and say: “I know there’s still some good in you! I’ll save you.”
- **God didn’t choose us because we were loveable.** In fact, chapter 2, Paul is going to tell us that sin had made us **God’s enemies, sons of disobedience, objects of his wrath.**
- **So, what was it then, about you, that caused him to choose you?** This is the mystifying part. Did you see that phrase in **(Deut. 7:8) “It was just because the Lord loved you.”**

- Before we'd ever done good or bad, before the foundation of the world, **God set his love on us. Glory, Hallelujah!**
- **Notice what Charles Spurgeon's said:** "I have no questions that God chose me, because I am quite sure that if God had not chosen me I should never have chosen Him; and I am sure He chose me before I was born, or else He never would have chosen me afterwards; and He must have elected me for reasons unknown to me, for I never could find any reason in myself why He should have looked upon me with special love. So, I feel like I am forced to accept this doctrine."
- **You may be thinking, "Well, didn't that violate my free will?"** No. The Bible says his choice is never against our will but always in concert with it. In some places, God says "**I chose you before the foundation of the world,**" but in others Jesus said, "**Whosoever will may come.**"
- **Jesus explained how it works in (Jn. 6:44)** when he says, "**No one comes to me unless the Father draws him.**"
- **Also: (Phil.2:13)** "**for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**"
- **Our choice to come and the Father's drawing go hand in hand.** The Greek word for "draw" there, *helkuo*; it carries the idea of a desperately hungry man being drawn to food. That is what God did to us: he created a hunger in us to know Jesus. And that hunger drew us to Jesus.

- **The problem is not that we wanted to choose God and we couldn't**; our problem is that deep down **none of us want to choose God**—we prefer to rule ourselves and be the center of our own universe. It's our **"wanter"** that is all out of whack. That's what it means to be **spiritually dead**. So, God, through the preaching of the gospel and the power of the Spirit, changes our hearts **so that we begin to want God**.
- **You may be thinking, "Well, why didn't God choose everybody?"** That's a big question—let me just say two things:
 - **First**: Keep in mind that **God is not obligated to extend salvation to anyone**. What is fair is that we all perish. The fact that any of us have a chance to receive forgiveness **is a free gift of undeserved grace**.
 - **Second**: This is the part of this discussion where a certain amount of mystery sets in, because Scripture never presents a lack of God's choosing as the reason why someone didn't come. **Not once! It's always on us**.
 - **Notice: (Matt. 23: 37), "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"**
 - **Notice: (2 Peter 3:9), "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance!"** The Bible itself ends with, **"Whosoever will may come."** (Rev. 22:17) It's your choice!
 - **If you're a Christian, it's because God chose you**. If you're not, **it's because you have chosen to reject God**, and **"the Lord is not willing that you should perish, but that you should come to repentance."**
 - **Are you chosen?** In one sense, you have the power to decide that. If you choose to repent and believe in Jesus, you're chosen. The choice is yours!

- **Why does God do things the way that he does them?** “For the praise of his glory.” He saved us the way that he did to demonstrate his glory, because until you learn this, a lot of the rest won’t make sense. That is the repeated phrase, “to the praise of his glory,” found in (vv. 6, 12, 14)
- **This is not the only place we see this in the Bible**, Notice what God said to Israel in (Eze. 36:22): “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, **but for the sake of my holy name**, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.”
Also: (Psa. 23:4), “He leads me in paths of righteousness **for his name’s sake.**”
- **This is why God sometimes saves impossible people**— people you’d never think could be saved, because he likes to do some things where he alone can get the credit. For some of you, when God saved you, the angels were like, “Well, I didn’t see that coming” and God was like, “I was just showing off.”
- **Notice: (1 Cor. 1:26-29)** “For consider **your calling**, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; (27) but **God has chosen** the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and **God has chosen** the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, (28) and the base things of the world and the despised **God has chosen**, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, (29) **so that no man may boast before God.**”
- **If you are saved, you are one of the elect, for His glory.**

4. **Justification**: So, foreknowledge, predestination, calling, next word (justification). “Whom He called He justified.” It means made right with God. So when He moved into your heart and called you to Himself, you were made right with God. You say, “Well how close are calling and justification? I don't know. I guess it'd be like putting together two pieces of paper and shooting a bullet through them and asking which, how much time was between the bullet going through the first sheet and the second sheet. It's just a distinction in theological terms, not necessarily in time, for He calls you to be justified. He calls you to be right with God. But you understand the sequence. **The calling is the moving in to turn your heart. The justification is what happens.**

- **What does it mean to be justified?** To be made right with God, that's all.
- **How do you get right with God?** You have to get rid of something. What is it? **Sin.**
- **How do you get rid of sin?** God takes it and puts it on whom? **Jesus Christ.** And listen, if He predetermined to love you, and He predestined you to be redeemed, in eternity past before the world began, and in time He moved in and called you away from your sin and through your faith made you right with Him through Jesus Christ, it says **whom He justifies, verse 30, then He also, what, glorifies.** See anybody dropping in the cracks?
- In the moment that God predetermined to love you, your glorification was so secure He could speak of it as if it already happened. Marvelous thought, glorious thought. You were saved unto glory and all things are working toward that. **That's His purpose,**

Can one who commits suicide be saved?

- **Suicide is a grave sin equivalent to murder (Exo. 20:13; 21:23),** but it can be forgiven like any other sin. And Scripture says clearly that those redeemed by God have been forgiven for all their sins--past, present, and future (**Col. 2:13-14**). Paul says in (**Rom. 8:38-39**) that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
- So if a true Christian would commit suicide in a time of extreme weakness, he or she would be received into heaven (**Jude 24**). But we question the faith of those who take their lives or even consider it seriously--it may well be that they have never been truly saved.
- That's because God's children are defined repeatedly in Scripture as **those who have hope (Acts. 24:15; Rom. 5:2-5, 8:24; 2 Cor. 1:10, etc.) and purpose in life (Lk. 9:23-25; Rom. 8:28; Col. 1:29)**. And those who think of committing suicide do so because they have neither hope nor purpose in their lives.

Suicide ?

- Furthermore, one who repeatedly considers suicide is practicing sin in his heart (**Prov. 23:7**), and (**1 John. 3:9**) says that "no one who is born of God practices sin." And finally, suicide is often the ultimate evidence of a heart that rejects the lordship of Jesus Christ, because it is an act where the sinner is taking his life into his own hands completely rather than submitting to God's will for it. Surely many of those who have taken their lives will hear those horrifying words from the Lord Jesus at the judgment--"I never knew you; Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness" (**Matt. 7:23**).
- So though it may be possible for a true believer to commit suicide, we believe that is an unusual occurrence. Someone considering suicide should be challenged above all to examine himself to see whether he is in the faith (**2 Cor. 13:5**).

The Unpardonable sin!

- Who is Jesus? You only have 3 options and that is He is a liar, a lunatic, or He is Lord. And we see that kind of played out in the final verses of (Mk. 3:28-30), “Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin.”
- What's that eternal sin? Because they were saying He has an unclean spirit.
- The eternal sin for them was this...Jesus is demonic. They went to hell for that. You say, “Wait a minute. What if I said that? Would I go to hell for that?” Not necessarily, if you said that without full information. That's a blasphemy that's forgivable, right? But if that's your final conclusion with full revelation, if that's your response to the full understanding of the gospel, the full revelation of Christ contained on the pages of Scripture, if that's your final conclusion, you could never be forgiven because you've had full revelation, you've had full light. What else is there? You can't get anymore if that's your final conclusion, **that's an eternal sin.**

- **Now this is the work of an Apostate.** The one who was blaspheming against the Holy Spirit was saying Jesus is demonic.
- **How does that blaspheme the Holy Spirit?** Because when Jesus came into the world, the N.T. says, He set aside the prerogatives of His own power. NOTICE: (Jn. 12:49) “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.”
- That's what the incarnation meant, Jesus laid aside His glory, became a man, He restricted the independent use of His divine attributes and He left Himself to the will of the Father and the power of the Spirit. Whatever He did was the Father's will and was done through the Spirit's power. So if you say Jesus is satanic, you have just blasphemed the Holy Spirit cause the Holy Spirit doing His work through Him. The Holy Spirit came upon Him at His baptism, led Him from there into the wilderness to be tempted, was with Him through His temptation, and anointed Him to preach.

- **If you were a witness** to the Master's work, and your final conclusion was He's demonic...you're damned, you can't be saved because that's your ultimate conclusion with full revelation. So this is unique to those people who had that full revelation.
- **What about today?** Could somebody commit this? He could? Look, we've all been forgiven for rejecting Christ, haven't we? We've all been forgiven for rejecting Christ because **we weren't born saved**. So we've all been forgiven for that. But the one who won't be forgiven is the one called the **apostate** who gets full exposure to the truth, full exposure to the gospel, full revelation and makes the final conclusion...it's not true, **I reject Christ**. It's a deception.
- If that's where you end up after full exposure, that's what's called **apostasy...that's unforgivable**. The Holy Spirit's testimony is that He is Lord. The Holy Spirit did this mighty work through Him to demonstrate that **He is... Lord**.

- **Notice another warning to the same people in (Heb. 6:4)** In the case of those who have once been **enlightened**...that's knowledge, mental...you had information, revelation, you **tasted** the heavenly gift...heavenly gift being the kingdom, Christ, the message of salvation, the gospel, you tasted it, and you were partaker of the Holy Spirit.” Maybe you got healed. Maybe somebody you know got healed. You were there when the miracles were poured out by the power of the Holy Spirit and you tasted the good word of God when Jesus taught it and you tasted the power of the age to come miracles. In other words, you were exposed to all of it and you've now fallen away...turn away, walk away. It's impossible to renew you to repentance because you crucified to yourself the Son of God and put Him to open shame.
- You say, “I reject full revelation and enlightenment, you tasted it, you touched it, you were there, you're exposed to it, your decision is to walk away...you join the crucifiers. You conclude He's not God. And with those supernatural powers, must be satanic.
- You're left with that. You say He has an unclean spirit after full revelation. You can't be saved. **Verse 6, “It's impossible to renew them again to repentance.”**

- One final warning that I want to show you is in (Heb. 10:26) “If we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.” If you just go on living your life of sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there's nothing else. There's no other sacrifice. If you reject Christ and His sacrifice, there's nothing waiting for you except **verse 27**, “A terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.”
- And then **verse 29**, “How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and regarded as unclean the blood of the Covenant by which He was sanctified as insulted...whom?...the Spirit of grace.” The Holy Spirit is the power behind the life and ministry of Jesus.”
- Some of you perhaps have thought that you were guilty of some blasphemy that could never be forgiven. May I remind you in final comments that the Apostle Paul made in **(1 Tim. 1:12)** “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who strengthened me because He considered me faithful, putting me into ministry even though I was formerly a...what?...blasphemer.” All manner of blasphemy can be forgiven except that final blasphemy that says with full revelation, “**I reject Christ.**” And you're left with the fact of explaining His supernatural power as satanic. And you stand then with the crucifiers, crucifying Him again and putting Him to open shame.

The Saint, The Believer, The Bride, The Born
Again, Adopted Child, and The Elect

HAVE ETERNAL LIFE NOW!

- **Notice:** (Jn. 5:24) “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but **has** passed out of death into life.”
- **Notice:** the word “**Has**” 13.51 μεταβαίνω^b; εἰμι εἰς (an idiom, literally ‘to be into’): **to change from one state to another—‘to change, to become.’** μεταβαίνω^b: εἰς κρίσιν οὐκ ἔρχεται ἀλλὰ μεταβέβηκεν ἐκ τοῦ θανάτου εἰς τὴν ζωὴν **he will not be judged, but has **already changed** from death to life’** Jn.5:24. εἰμι εἰς: καὶ ἔσται τὰ σκολιὰ εἰς εὐθείαν ‘and the crooked ways will become straight’ Lk 3:5.
- **When Does Eternal life Begin?** when you die? **NO!** It starts the moment you **believe** in Jesus Christ. You **HAVE** eternal life **NOW!**
- **Jesus is Praying For You:** Notice: (JN. 17:9) “I ask (pray) **on their behalf**; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of **those whom You have given Me**; for **they are Yours**,”
- **What Did/Does He Pray For?** Notice: (Jn. 17:15) “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but **to keep them from the evil.**”

You Have The Highest Power Praying For You

JESUS!

- **Remember:** (Lk. 22:31-32) “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat. (32) but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail;”
- **Now, did Jesus ever pray a prayer that went unanswered?**
Absolutely NOT! Notice: (Jn. 11:41-42) “So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. (42) “I knew that You always hear Me;” Why? Because He always prayed in the Fathers will.
- **Jesus prayed for these disciples,** “Father I pray that You keep them.” I bet Peter is grateful that Jesus prayed for him, because he went from cursing, swearing, and denying Christ, to the apostle of Pentecost. The one who wrote two books in the N.T. because Jesus prayed for him.
- **Jesus is Praying For You Too:** Notice: (Jn. 17:20-21) “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; (21) that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”
- **If Jesus Prays For You, His Prayer Will Be Answered:** Notice: (Heb. 7:25) “Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

The Almighty Power of God is On Your Side!

- **Notice:** (1 Pet. 1:3-5) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy **has caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **(4) to obtain an inheritance** which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven for you**, **(5) who are protected by the power of God** through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
- **Here Are A few Blessings Found In These 3 Verses.**
 1. **You have an inheritance:** Lawyers can’t steal it, inflation can’t touch it, and decay can’t destroy it! Halleluiah.
 2. **Your Kept By The Power of God:** It’s not a matter of you holding on to Him; it’s a matter of Him holding on to you.
 3. **These blessings Come With A Responsibility:** Notice (Heb. 12:6) **“FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”** This is not a license to sin.
 4. **Remember:** It’s great **to be saved**, it’s even greater to **know your saved**, but the greatest thing is to **know you can’t loose it!**