

Another thing in thinking about the foundation of this sermon. It's not a license to sin. We hear people say often, "If I believed in eternal security, then I'd do what I wanted to do, since I'd be saved regardless." But Dr. Conner said once, "That's exactly right. I do what I want to do, but", he says, "in regeneration, Christ did something to my 'wanter.'" I just don't want to do the things you're talking about," he says. "When a man experiences the new birth, it creates in his heart a hatred for sin," Dr. Conner says.

We want to also see in this that it is not the argument of a man that will determine the truth of this, but it will be the word of God. The saint must depend upon the solid ground of the Bible. It is "Thus saith the Lord." And God has spoken of many great truths in the Bible, and I think that this is one of the most glorious that we have record of.

Goals Plan - Mans Position - Gods Power

I. God's plan

We note first God's plan for the human race, he placed man in this earth for a purpose and for a plan. God made man to have (dominion) over the fowl of the air, the fish of the sea, the cattle, and over all the earth, and every creeping

Intro: We come face to face with a subject that is one of the old problems of mankind. It has been discussed perhaps more than any other single doctrine in all the Bible, in the church and among Christians.

(Simply stated) it is this: Can a man be lost after he is saved? In other words, what is salivation, what does it mean? What does salvation involve? What does the Bible say about this doctrine? Can a man ever be lost after he has accepted Jesus Christ?

This introduces, really, (two systems of theology), in this old doctrine. In many religious denominations, we find, they think in terms of one or the other. One advocates salvation by works, or by work and grace, which means when works fail in whole or in part, the result is apostasy, and the one having professed faith in Christ and his works is lost. Now the other system advocates salvation by grace alone, without any mixture of works. This view holds that if sinners are saved by grace alone, they must be kept by grace unto eternal life, and that means they can never be lost. That means what we call in (theology eternal security).

The security of the believer does not mean that under some conditions he can backslide or grow cold and lose fellowship with God and thus for a time lose his salvation. He may fall

down but he does not and cannot fall out of the hands of Christ. When the Christian sins he will be stricken with grief and confess it to God.

David sinned woefully and shamefully against God and was made to suffer for it. But he was not cut off from his relationship with God. A true parent punishes his child for wrong doing. So does God,--punishes his child when he sins against him. God would no more damn his child for his misdeed than an earthly father would banish his child for the wrong deeds he commits. His punishment is administered in order to correct the erring child. Thus, God deals with us, very similarly, in the same way. Now Jesus once said, "No man can serve two masters." Matt. 6:24. Now that statement is applicable to the Christian as well as to the non-Christian.

We know the man who came to Jesus said, "What good thing shall I do to inherit eternal life?" In other words, this man wanted to do something. It was I. And when we come to deal with this matter of eternal security, it is not I, but it is Christ. If one must hold out faithful to the end, if one must work out his own salvation, then all Christian activity is ultimately selfish. But if one is held faithfully by Christ. If one works out what Christ has worked in, then all Christian activity is for the glory of God.

On the farm we used to clear away the underbrush, and get the undergrowth out of the way, then you could cut a tree or get vision for observation. Let us, just for a moment, sorta lay a foundation by saying to you

It is impossible to cover first all the ground in the sermon. Some scripture and some arguments that we'll not be able to touch on.

We must also acknowledge that no human being can factually say whether another is a Christian or not. "For man looketh on the outward appearance but the Lord looketh on the heart." I Sam. 16:7.

We must also keep in mind that we have two natures, that man is a spirit, and he has a body, and that the experience of the new birth brings life to the spirit, but the physical Paul says, is waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of the body. Rom. 8:23.

This doctrine does not do away with the possibility of sin. It is not in line with sinless perfection. John, who preached eternal life, says, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8. The fact is that if we are Christians, we are going to be more aware of sin. The greater concept we have of God, the greater consciousness we're going to have of sin. The Christian who sins will know it.

much afraid that she might fall. And it was given to me to say, "Well, why don't you do it?" "Well, preacher!" she said, "Where would I fall to?" "You would fall down onto the everlasting arms of God!" he replied, "for the Bible says that his everlasting arms are underneath his children. And if you should fall down into his everlasting arms, it is sure and certain that you would not fall through them.

Therefore, God's plan, was to provide saving grace, that his people, through grace, might be saved. This was a finished work that God had in mind, and when Jesus said, on the cross, he declared that there every demand of God's broken law had been met. If any man sin, we have an advocate with the father Jesus Christ the righteous. Here the problem of sinning by the believer is squarely met. John knew no such thing as sinless perfection in the flesh. A Christian may sin, but sooner or later he suffers for it. "My sin is ever before me," David cried, as he prayed, "Restore unto me the joy of my salvation."

II. The Christian's position

As we turn from God's plan, let us see what the Christian's position is. The God I worship is the almighty, and as we look at our lives, we are sin-scarred, hell-bound

thing. Gen. 1:26 After the wicked men were destroyed, during the days of the (flood) we know that having placed man upon the earth, God slowly worked out his design of redemption. (Abraham) was chosen to produce a nation, that through him Christ might come to the earth. God said of Abraham, "In thee, shall all the families of the earth be blessed." Gen. 12:3 God did build a great nation through Abraham, and they turned their backs upon God, and he sent them off for 400 years into slavery in Egypt. He was working out his plan, for he said to them in Exodus 12:13, "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. God gave special protection to his people. "Thy shoes shall be iron and brass, and as thy day is, so shall thy strength be." Deut. 33:25. God promised specifically that his cause was not going to fail. He said through Isaiah, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth. It shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the things whither unto I sent it."

Now, did God provide (2 types) of salvation or one? If God provides eternal life for man, as indeed his word says, if a

man can be saved and then lost, the only conclusion that we can draw is that there must be two kinds of salvation, namely salvation that is eternal life, and salvation that is temporary, that can save a man today and allow him to be lost tomorrow.

(God) not man, determined the elements included in salvation, for it was God who designed it. God put in salvation eternal life. It would appear that the very power of God is here involved. God can either (save eternally, or he can't). Christ's (blood cleanses from all sin, or it doesn't). The Bible means what it says about eternal life, or it doesn't. Salvation is either determined by God or is determined by man.

The prophet declared "Salvation is of the Lord." Jonah 2:9 Salvation was planned in the will of God, provided as an actuality as the work of God, and we read that the Christian experienced this in God's work, in (Romans 8:29-30). There was foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, glorification. This was accomplished by God himself, and we as Christians experienced these. God predestined man to be conformed to the image of his son that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Now we need thoroughly to comprehend that this was God's work. Before we set sail we need to know that God had a

plan to save, and God never does things foolishly, he foreknows. He is the beginning, he is the end, he is the alpha. Now Christ tasted death for every man. His blood is sufficient for all, but it is likewise true that his blood must have been shed to (save even one man). For me to be saved, Christ must die on the cross. Let us suppose that I become a Christian for (30 days) or 30 years, and then I lose my salvation. For me to be saved even that 30 days, Christ would have to die on the cross, and tell me, would God have lost the plan of salvation and have given his son on the cross, knowing all the time that the plan would fail? and I would die in my sins? No, my salvation depends upon the eternal plan of God. He foreknew, he justified, and he's going to glorify. For Jesus said, "I know my sheep". Concerning others, he said, "I never knew you" in Matt. 7:23.

The basic testimony here is that we are confident with Paul that (God who has begun this work in us had a plan and that he will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ). He had been shipwrecked, imprisoned, beaten, thrown out of the city, left for dead, stood every test, and yet he knew that God had a plan to save him.

(Dr. Hinson) once said, "An old lady came to me at the close of my sermon, many years ago, and said that she was very much

abideth forever. And when this is planted in a man's heart, John says, that God will give him eternal life. John is particularly interested in repeating this, eternal life, the gift of God, over and over again. He picks out that promise of Jesus, and this is the promise that he has promised us, even eternal life. 1 John 2:25. It is the quality of this thing, and the quantity of it. It is primarily a description of a life, rather than the duration that is in view. What kind of life is this that Jesus gives? Every student of the Bible knows that it is eternal existence, that Jesus identifies us with himself, and he identifies himself with God, and God is eternal, and therefore, the position of the believer is that he has eternal life through the new birth.

In Texas they herd the cattle, and they brand them with a red hot iron which bears the initial of the owner. The purpose of the branding is to designate and establish the ownership of the cattle. Now when one is purchased of the blood of Jesus Christ, he is sealed and branded as God's property. Paul says, "Know ye not that ye are not your own, you are bought with a price." Thus the new birth, anchors the soul, and gives us the glorious assurance that we are saved for time and eternity.

sinners. When once the redemption comes to a sinner, God will never permit Satan to rob him of his glory, by snatching that Christian from him.

Paul says, "(All things) are going to work together." Here is a guarantee that every wheel, everything will work for good in this world for the Christian.

In (2 Cor. 5:17), the Christian's position; "If any man be in Christ, and Christ be in you, the hope of glory," Col. 1:27. We must look well, in Christ, and Christ in you. Paul proclaims that faith unites the believer with Christ, that the believer is made one with Christ. In him we are justified, are made new creatures, are reconciled, are made children of God. Joined to him, we become members of that spiritual body of which Christ is the head.

Paul states that he no longer lives, but Christ lives in him. (Gal. 2:20) And the great apostle states that there is no power that can destroy. Listen to him as he says, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, persecution," etc. Rom. 8:35-37. The union is a permanent one. It is as permanent as the power of God.

Quiet often we have seen the picture of the woman with the long flowing hair, clinging with numb fingers to a cross that is shaped out of a rock, rising from a storm in the sea.

Well, now truthfully that is not really salvation. It does not depend upon my ability to cling to the cross, but we must thank God that we are in the rock of ages, cleft for me. We do not do the holding on. God does it through his power. And sin does not destroy the Christian's position here. Satan cannot do it. God declares he that is begotten of God, God keeps him, and the wicked one cannot touch him. 1 John 5:18. Notice it is Christ that keeps him.

Referring to the trial by fire, Simon Peter boasted of his faithfulness. told him that Satan had obtained him for the asking. Satan can do nothing to the Christian apart from God's permission. You remember this was the experience of Job. The loving heavenly father would never permit the evil one to destroy one of his children.

The Christian's (position) is that sin cannot have dominion over him. Rom. 6:14. Everyone who holds the idea of falling from grace, must answer this (question). How much sin would be necessary for a Christian to be lost? Now the Bible simply says "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" in Ezekiel 18:4. It doesn't say, the soul that sinneth much or the soul that sinneth little. If any amount of sin could take a redeemed soul from God, then one sin could do it.

The Christian is in a position where temptation can't break his relationship of his salvation. He'll suffer tempt-

ation. I Cor. 10:13. The world can't do it, for this is the victory that overcometh the world, even your faith. 1 John 5:4

We know that there is nothing that is in existence in life or death...there is nothing among the forces of the angels or the principalities, or the powers of the air, or the powers that be, or the powers to come...there is nothing that can separate us from this Christ and from this God.

The Christian's position is that he has experienced the new birth, he is a new creature. He realizes an amazing truth. A Christian is a new man... not just a (remodeled) person. He's not just a (patched) up individual, but he's entirely new, he's entirely different. Whereby we are given unto us an exceeding great and precious promises that by these we might be partakers of the divine nature. 2 Peter 1:4. In regeneration, God's nature is imparted to the believing soul. This nature, enables a man to escape this corrupt world.

The farmers today spend millions of dollars looking for a perfect seed. They do this because they have confidence in the harvest, that whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Now, if we can find a perfect seed, we can expect a perfect harvest. In the spiritual realm, the perfect seed is available, the word of God, incorruptible, liveth and

Jesus believed this, "They shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:28.

But somebody says, what about King Saul? It is a doubt whether he was ever a child of God. He was a man after the flesh, in whom there were some splendid qualities, and who at one time, gave great promise, but he was never really surrendered to God.

III. God's power

Now we have moved from God's plan to the Christian's position, and we climax what we have to say by centering it around God's power and (ability to keep) that which has been committed unto him.

We see that God made this available when we look back into the (Jewish life) for it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sin. Heb. 10:4. Now we read, "Every priest standeth daily ministering, and oftentimes the same sacrifices which can never take away sin, but this man Christ, after he has offered one sacrifice for sin, forever sat down at the right hand of God." Hebrews 10:11,12.

We must notice carefully here that neither in the tabernacle nor in the temple were there any chairs for the priest to sit down. They stood constantly for their work was never done,

Dr. F. B. Meyer once used an illustration about a little girl who goes to her mother and asks her to show her how to make a dress for a doll. The mother cuts out the material, shows her how to sew the seam, threads the needle, and goes on back to her work. The child works and soon she brings her imperfect piece of work. There are long stitches, short stitches, crooked stitches, and some are straight. But the mother sees her child has done the best that she could, and she does not scold or criticize her, but to the child it is a blameless piece of work. We are imperfect children of our heavenly father. We may do our best to please him, he does not blame us for our imperfections. He judges us by the motives which prompt us, and by the faithfulness of our effort to please him. 1 Peter 1:3-5.

(Has anyone ever been saved and then lost?) Can we find an illustration in the Bible about anybody every being saved and then being lost. The moment one becomes a Christian, the moment we commit ourselves to him, that moment we belong to him, and we are in Christ, and we belong to him for eternity, and there is our security that God is able to protect his property. And we can find no place in the Bible where it says that one was saved and then lost.

Take for example the illustration of David. The Bible says that David was a man after God's own heart. And after he had

written the psalms in the Bible, served his nation well, he committed sins, he even committed murder. Now the sin of David was so great that it shook the nation, and it colored the life of the people for generations. God did not cast David off, but even after this experience, David was still a child of God. David cries out in Psalm 51, "Have mercy upon me, O God, wash me thoroughly of mine iniquities." David is simply saying here that his salvation was not lost, but the joy of his salvation was lost.

Or, for example, take Simon Peter, who followed Jesus for three years, who swore, who cursed that he didn't even know Christ. Was Simon Peter a lost man while all of this was going on? If Simon Peter had fallen in death while he warmed at the fire of the devil, would he have been lost? Man's (human nature) wants to say yes, but (God's word) says no. Peter had been redeemed by Jesus Christ. "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he might sift you as wheat, and I have prayed for you that thy faith fail not, and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren," Luke 22:31. Now Christ had prayed for him, that his faith would not fail, and he is telling Simon Peter that after he has gone through this bitter experience and is once turned around again, he is to go and strengthen his brethren. by

relating to him the experience he had? No, there is no illustration in the Bible that a man was ever saved and then lost. It was his arrogance and his pride. He boasted as though all others might fail, he would not. To that boast, Jesus said that he had allowed him to be sifted as wheat. That was a terrifying experience, -- the denial of his Lord. Did Jesus fail to hold him? Listen to his own testimony "Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:3-5

Peter says that he was kept by the power of God through faith. He didn't hold on, God held on. But someone may ask, But (what if you were to lose) your faith. The answer is you can't. Faith is not something that is earned. Christ earned your faith. You became convinced that He could be trusted. For that faith to be destroyed, Christ must do something that would prove him to be untrustworthy.

Jude believed that, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and present you faultless before the presence of his glory." Jude 24.

die on a cross to pay the price to rend the veil, but now the Spirit is actually the agent of regeneration. He convicts us of sin...he creates a longing for salvation...he bears witness to Jesus, the lamb of God, it is the spirit that quickeneth.

John 6:63. That same spirit is at work today, but his work is not do. He has further work to do, Paul says, being confident of this very thing, which he has done a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6. So we discover in the word of God that we are kept by the power of God, by the Holy Spirit, and his power assures us that we are kept by this power, it is faithful. Being confident of this very thing, Paul says, that God is willing to keep us. He has promised to keep us. This is eternal security in Christ.

What does the Bible mean when it says (eternal life)? If the words mean anything, I believe that we are safe in saying that it means we are secure.

The sweetest verse in the Bible, perhaps is, whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them that follow me, and I give unto them eternal life." How wonderful, and they shall never perish, neither shall they be plucked out of my hand.

They are eternally secure and can never be lost. When Jesus

but when Jesus offered himself, he sat down, he alone could say it's finished. The priest's sacrifice was offered and there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin. The atonement is complete. "The blood of Jesus Christ his son, cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7. He didn't say past sins, but all sins, he didn't say part of my sins, but all sins. We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Christ once for all." Hebrews 10:10. We have here that our high priest is made a perfect sacrifice and a perfect work in completing what he was doing. He was able to save unto the utmost. Paul states it that "It is Christ that died, yea that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God." "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (if words mean anything, these scriptures declare that we have a high priest sitting at the right hand of God. He is one that can be touched with feeling of our infirmities, and when a Christian sins, he has a high priest. Charge that to my account for my blood has already paid it. Jesus said, "I have paid this price on the cross." This is God's power that Jesus was both the sacrifice and the high priest. (He died to save) (he lives to keep us saved). Numbers 35:25, and he says in John 14:19, "Because I live, ye shall live also."

As we think about it, (what is kept?) You are kept. (How much of you?) The whole being. Does God want part of you and

not another? Why we know that God does not want keep us in a general way, as though to just get us saved as by fire, but there are some people who think God will keep them in spiritual things, but in temporal things, God has no part. But God is with us through every experience. In the times of trial, God keeps us, but in times of prosperity, people say, I do not need his keeping, then I can forget about him. They think that in times of prosperity, things are smooth, and they do not have to worry about God. Why do you not believe that God can keep you in all things? God can keep you in prosperity. God can keep men from (drunkenness.) God can keep men from an outbreak of (temper) You think little importance of it. Many people do, and they do not remember the commandment in the New Testament "Love one another, as I have loved you", and when hasty judgment or sharp words come out, they sin against the highest law of God, God's love, and yet they say, "Well, God can't keep me in this", but dear friends, in this text, we discover that God will keep us. He is able to do it.

It is (a continuous keeping) for a week, or a month, God has kept us wonderfully, say I have lived in his countenance, I cannot say that now next week, I will not have his keeping and watchcare.

A pastor, once, in England for more than 20 years, was a man of deep godliness, but there was not the complete knowl-

edge or consciousness that he had a victory over his sin. When he heard about the possibility of it, he was interested. He listened to a message on rest and faith, and when he heard the story of the nobleman who came from Capernaum to Cana to ask Jesus to heal his child, he followed that story with interest. He did not know all that Christ was going to do for that man, and when Jesus said, "Go thy way, for thy child liveth", that man believed the word of God. He rested in his word, and the proof that he had was that when he arrived home, they told him that about 1 o'clock the afternoon of the previous day his child was healed, and he was seven hours away from home. And friend, when it dawned upon this man that when God comes with a promise of his keeping, and when we have tested God, that his word is enough, that we're kept by his power, then what joy will come to us, and this preacher went out on the streets of Oxford, and told his friends, I've found it, I've found it, and the moment that you realize it in your life, that it will be such a blessing to you.

Moment by moment, I'm kept in his love

Moment by moment, I've life from above

Looking to Jesus, the glory doth shine -

Moment by moment, Oh Lord, I am thine.

The Holy Spirit is involved in this. God's power, through the Holy Spirit, he loved the world, that he sent his son to

said, "No man having put his hand to the plow and looking
back is worthy is of the kingdom." he was talking about
service.

those who say they were once saved and have now gone away
from God, evidently were never saved at all, 1 John 2:19
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 they were not
of us.

Hebrews 6:4-6, "For it is impossible for those who were
once enlightened and have tasted the heavenly gift, and were
made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good
word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they
should fall away to be renewed." (He is saying that you can
be saved just once.) He is saying that if you could be saved
more than once it would be necessary to crucify Christ all
over again. But Christ was crucified once for all, and man
can be saved only once. Calvary must be repeated before a
man could be saved a second time.

One sin would be sufficient. James 2:10 says, "For who-
soever should keep the whole law and yet offend in one point,
is guilty of all." If a man could be lost after he is saved,
then one sin could cause him to be lost. This would make the

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whole doctrine of salvation certainly rest upon questionable ground.

Now Paul says, "For I know, whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

Jude says "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling." This is the meaning of eternal life.

There is a song that we sing:

"I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me he hath made known;
Nor why unworthy, Christ is love
Redeemed me for his own.
But I know whom I have believed and am persuaded
That he is able to keep that which I've committed
Unto him against that day."

So we must rest upon the record that God has given to us eternal life, and his life is in his son. 1 John 5:11.

That eternal life is not in our being good, but in Christ's being God. It is in his son, and he ~~that~~ hath the son hath life. Jesus said that the believer should never be brought to trial. Now notice carefully. The Bible says that God has given to us eternal life.

Now God would have to go back on his word. Satan would

have to be bigger and larger than the heavenly father if he should deceive him. The Holy Spirit would have to give up his work and go on a vacation, and Jesus's sacrifice would be no better than the sacrifice of one of the animals on an Old Testament altar. All of this would prove the inadequate plan of God. We are safe and we stand on a firm foundation.

Do you know Him? Have you Believed?
Have you rested your case with the Lord!
Have you Accepted Gods' PLAN?