

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How You Can Be Sure You Are Eternally Secure
SERMON REFERENCE:	John 10:27-29
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1728

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The only thing more wonderful than knowing you can be saved is being certain that you're saved and knowing that once you're saved, you can never lose your salvation.
- b) John 10:27-29
- c) Eternal security of the believer is not incidental but fundamental.
 - i) Knowing that we are eternally secure is necessary for our spiritual health.
 - (1) Just as it is necessary for a child's emotional strength to know that he is part of a family, so it is in the spiritual world.
 - (a) Those who don't know that they are saved and secure do not have the emotional stability that a child of God ought to have.
 - ii) It's important to know that we're eternally secure if we are going to be productive, fruit-bearing Christians.
 - (1) When we know that our future is secure, we can concentrate on the present.
 - iii) It is important to know that we are eternally secure in that it helps us in evangelism and soul winning.
 - (1) Some people never get saved because they are afraid that they won't be able to hold out.
 - (a) They fear making a false start and falling away.
 - d) The God who saves us is the God who secures us.
 - e) What does it mean to be a believer?
 - i) A believer is not someone who just has head knowledge.
 - ii) This is not someone who just joins a church, is baptized, gives money and does religious things.
 - (1) These things are well and good, but these things cannot save.
 - iii) A believer is a person who has received Christ into his heart by faith.
 - (1) A believer has become a partaker of the divine nature.
 - (a) A believer has been twice-born; he has received the new birth.
 - (2) This person can never again be a lost soul.
 - iv) There are people whom we may think were saved who were never truly saved.
 - (1) Matthew 7:22-23
 - (a) Jesus did not say, "I once knew you, and you lost it."
 - (b) Jesus said, "I never knew you."
 - v) A believer is not someone who professed to be religious and then turned away.
 - (1) A believer is someone who has truly received the Lord Jesus.
 - (2) John 10:27-29
 - (3) If a person joins a church, gets baptized, lives for God for a while, then goes away and stays away, then they were never saved.
 - (a) 1 John 2:19
 - (i) The reason they fell away was because they were never truly saved.

- (b) The faith that fizzles before the finish had a flaw from the first.
- (c) They didn't lose their salvation; they never had it.
- (4) Judas never lost his salvation; he was never saved.
 - (a) Jesus knew from the beginning that Judas did not believe in Him.
 - (i) John 6:70-71
- f) When speaking of eternal security, we are not talking about eternal security for those who have never been saved, but for those who have a personal, vital relationship with God through Christ.
- g) The rest of today's message will give reasons why and how you can know that you are eternally secure.

2) PROMISE

- a) God has promised us eternal security.
- b) Romans 8:38-39
 - i) The word "persuaded" means that he has a deep conviction.
 - ii) Paul gives a list of ten mighty opponents that cannot separate us from the love of God:
 - (1) Angels cannot do it, which includes good and bad angels.
 - (a) Satan is a fallen angel.
 - (2) "Principalities" means that kingdoms cannot do it.
 - (3) "Powers" means that authorities cannot do it.
 - (4) "Things present" means that anything that happens in the world today cannot do it.
 - (5) "Things to come" means that anything that may ever be created or come into being cannot do it.
 - (6) "Heights" means anything in Heaven above.
 - (7) "Depths" means anything in Hell beneath.
 - (8) "Any other creature" covers all the bases.
 - iii) There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

3) PERSEVERANCE

- a) God will complete what He has begun.
- b) Philippians 1:6
 - i) When we get saved, it is God (not us) who begins the good work in us.
 - ii) 1 John 4:19
- c) The Holy Spirit is the agent of the new birth.
 - i) He is the convicter.
 - (1) He is the one who convicts us of sin.
 - (2) He is the one who shows us that we are sinners who need to be saved.
 - ii) He is the converter.
 - (1) He is the one who opens our eyes.
 - (2) He is the one who helps us understand the Gospel.
 - (3) He is the one who puts faith in our hearts and helps us receive the Lord Jesus Christ.

- iii) He is the completer.
 - (1) Philippians 1:6
 - (2) God has never started anything that He can't finish.
 - (3) If any child of God were to perish, then that would mean that God the Father is defeated in His purpose.
 - (a) It would mean that God the Son is disappointed that His blood has no saving efficacy to keep.
 - (b) It would mean that God the Holy Spirit is disgraced because He's not able to complete that which He began.
 - d) It's not the saints who persevere; it is the God of glory who is able to complete that which He has begun.
- 4) PREDESTINATION
- a) Romans 8:29-30
 - i) "Predestinate" means that your destiny is already predetermined.
 - (1) You cannot be more sure than predestined.
 - ii) In these verses, God gives us a chain with five golden links:
 - (1) Foreknowledge
 - (2) Predestination
 - (3) Calling
 - (4) Justification
 - (5) Glorification
 - iii) If you are a child of God, then God already sees you glorified.
 - (1) This passage in Romans does not say that He "will" glorify, but that you are already glorified.
 - b) Our salvation did not begin with us.
 - i) It began before the world was created.
 - (1) God saw us before He ever created this world, and He saw us glorified.
 - c) God sees the past, present and future all at one time.
 - i) God sees us now already in Heaven.
 - d) God sees us predestined to be like Jesus.
 - i) How could we ever lose our salvation if we are already predestined to be like Him?
 - e) What is settled in eternity cannot be undone in time.
 - f) What has been decreed by Heaven cannot be annulled by Hell.
 - g) Romans 11:29
 - i) God never changes His mind.
 - (1) God foreknew, He called, and He predetermined that we would be like the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 5) PERFECTION
- a) Hebrews 10:14
 - i) That one offering is the precious blood of Jesus poured out on Calvary's cross.

- (1) That one offering makes us perfect forever.
 - b) When we get saved, we don't just get a fresh start.
 - i) God doesn't make the down payment and then leave it up to us to make the monthly installments.
 - (1) He paid it all the way through.
 - ii) We are made perfect forever in God's sight.
 - (1) We didn't get a fresh start; we got a new nature.
 - c) Nowhere in the Bible can we find anyone who was ever saved twice.
 - i) It is impossible to be saved twice.
 - (1) In order to be saved twice, Jesus would have to die twice.
 - (2) Jesus is not going back to the cross.
 - (a) For by one offering, we are perfected forever.
 - (i) Hebrews 10:14
 - d) In our flesh, we are not perfect.
 - i) We can disobey God, and He will discipline us if we do.
 - (1) Hebrews 12:6
 - e) Romans 4:5-6
 - i) We are not saved by doing good works.
 - ii) "Impute" means to put on your account.
 - (1) God imputes, or puts, righteousness on our account.
 - (a) Not one thing did we do in order to get saved.
 - f) Romans 4:7
 - i) Not only does God forgive our sins, but He won't bring them up again.
 - (1) They are gone.
 - (2) Because we confessed them, God forgave them.
 - g) Romans 4:8
 - i) One-half of one sin would send us to Hell forever.
 - ii) Blessed are we to whom God will not impute sin.
- 6) POSITION
- a) We are already positioned in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b) 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - i) The old creation is Adam and his children.
 - ii) The new creation is Jesus and His children.
 - c) Everybody is either in Adam (the old creation) or in Christ (the new creation).
 - i) As Christians, we are in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) What pertains to Jesus pertains to us.
 - (a) We lose our relationship with God the Father when Jesus Christ loses His because we are in Christ.
 - (2) What is true of Christ is true of us because we are in Christ.
 - (a) We are not Christ, but we are in Christ.
 - (b) We are part of His body.
 - (i) Someone once asked, "What if you slip out of His hand?"
 - 1. We can't slip out; we are one of His fingers.

2. We are in the Lord Jesus.

- d) This is illustrated by Noah's ark.
 - i) Peter tells us that Noah's ark is a picture of our salvation.
 - (1) 1 Peter 3:20-21
 - ii) Noah's ark is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - iii) God did not leave Noah and his family on the outside of the ark trying to hold on as best they could.
 - iv) God brought Noah and his family inside the ark.
 - (1) If any man be in Christ.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - v) Genesis 7:1
 - (1) When God said, "Come in," that meant that God was inside.
 - vi) Genesis 7:16
 - (1) God shut the door; it wasn't Noah who shut the door.
 - (a) He shut the door to shut the water out and to shut Noah in.
 - (2) There wasn't a doorknob on the inside.
 - (a) Ephesians 1:13
 - (i) After we have believed, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.
 - (3) God shut Noah in the ark with Himself.
 - vii) The only way that Noah could have gone down would have been for the ark to go down.
 - (1) The only way we can lose our salvation is for Jesus to go down because we are in Christ.
 - (2) Noah may have fallen down many times inside the ark, but he never fell out of the ark.
- e) Some people think that they will only be secure when they get to Heaven.
 - i) Why would we be safe in Heaven if we're not safe down here?
 - ii) The angels fell from Heaven.
 - (1) Security is not in a place; it is in a person, and His name is Jesus.

7) POSSESSION

- a) John 5:24
 - i) Everlasting life is not something we get when we die.
 - ii) Everlasting life is something we get when we believe.
- b) If a person could lose their salvation, then what they had was not eternal life.
- c) Eternal life is our possession right now.
 - i) Our eternal life began the moment we received the Lord Jesus.
- d) 1 John 5:12

8) PRAYER

- a) Jesus is interceding for us.
 - i) He is praying for us.
- b) John 17:9, 15

- i) "The world" in this passage means the unsaved.
 - ii) The Lord Jesus has never prayed a prayer that wasn't answered because He always prays in the will of the Father.
 - iii) The Lord Jesus was not praying this prayer just for Peter, James and John.
 - (1) John 17:20
 - (a) The Lord Jesus has prayed for us that we'll be kept.
 - (i) If we were not kept, then His prayer would not be answered.
 - c) Luke 22:31-32
 - i) Jesus prayed for Peter that his faith would not fail, and it did not fail.
 - (1) Though Peter stumbled, he was the mighty apostle of Pentecost.
 - d) Hebrews 7:25
 - i) We have a Savior who is praying for us day by day, night by night, and year by year on the basis of His perfect sacrifice.
- 9) POWER
- a) 1 Peter 1:3-5
 - i) We are kept by the power of God.
 - b) John 10:27-28
 - i) There is no power strong enough to pry open the mighty hand of God and of the Lord Jesus.
 - (1) John 10:29
 - c) Some question whether or not Satan is able to pluck us out of God's hand.
 - i) In John 10:29, the word "man" is italicized, meaning that it is supplied by the translator to make it read more smoothly.
 - (1) This passage literally says, "neither shall any pluck them out of my hand."
 - ii) Luke 22:31-32
 - (1) Satan desired Peter.
 - iii) If Satan is able to pluck us out of the Father's hand, then why hasn't he done it?
 - (1) The only reason he hasn't is because he can't.
 - iv) If Satan were able to take us out of the Father's hand and he hasn't done it, then that would mean that Satan has been good to us.
 - (1) And we would be going to Heaven by the goodness of the devil.
 - d) Some have questioned whether or not we can take ourselves out of God's hand.
 - i) John 10:27-28
 - (1) "They shall never perish" is in the middle voice, which literally means, "they shall never destroy themselves."
- 10) CONCLUSION
- a) Give your heart to Jesus today.
 - i) He will save you and keep you.

- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16