Devotion #251

**Eternally Secure**

**Ephesians 1:13 (NASB)** *“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.”*

I remember the first time I heard a message on hell. I was a young man, still in my teens, when a lay speaker came to our church. It was a week of revival, and he delivered a message like I had never heard before. It was from that message that I learned that there are only two places to end up in eternity, heaven or hell. I can still remember his red face and passionate delivery. In fact, there weren’t many people saying anything, no “Amens” or “Preach it brother”, nothing. I look back on that now and think it was such a penetrating message that all of us were stopped in our tracks.

I also remember that God began to work on my heart. It was then that I realized most of my christian life was filled with how to feel good about life and love my neighbor. These are good and right, but it was from that message that I began to truly examine my heart to see if I really believed what the Lord meant when He said that there is a heaven, and I would eventually end up in one place or the other for all of eternity. So, it wasn’t much long after that that I surrendered my heart to Jesus. I accepted the truth of God that my heart was full of sin, just like all people. (Romans 3:23) But I also learned about the true love of God and how He came to earth to rescue all who will put their hope in Him. (Colossians 1:13)

Since those early days in my walk with the Lord, I also learned that God is not a bop-them-on-the- head kind of God who is looking to judge and punish people and make them feel terrible about themselves. His goal is to rescue from eternal death all who will come to him, and he will never kick us out of the family. Once we are born again, we are born again forever. Listen to how Jesus puts it. **John 6:37 (NASB)** "*All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out*.”

Sadly, there are many who have taught that a person can lose what God once gave them - their salvation. But God never says that. In fact, He tells us just the opposite. When you and I give our lives to Jesus, we are His forever. Notice what Paul says in his opening words to the Ephesian church: “After accepting the gospel of salvation, or the truth of salvation, when you believed, you were sealed in Him by the Holy Spirit.” That word sealed means to stamp, such as with a signet ring or private mark for security or preservation. That’s what a king or some official would do in those days when making something official that could not be changed. He would stamp it with his signet ring that only the King or official had. That was so all who saw the mark would know it was official and, therefore, was irrevocable.

Here is another verse that helps us know this same truth. **Ephesians 4:30 (NASB)** “*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption*.” The point here is that God does not want us to do anything that would go against Him. Why? Because we belong to Him. And He has sealed us or put His stamp on us declaring that we belong to Him. Nothing will change that. So why would we ever go against Him when He has given us such a great gift? And to further solidify our security, God has given to us the Holy Spirit to live in us as a guarantee that we will never lose our salvation.

Please understand, beloved, when you trusted Christ as Lord and Savior, He sealed you in Him. He secured your salvation and preserves your salvation. And to verify His sealing of you, He gave you a pledge, the Holy Spirit. And by the Holy Spirit living in you, you have the guarantee of your future eternal home. So as much as God warns us about being on the right road to the Kingdom, if you have trusted Christ, you are safe, He guarantees that.