Sample Lesson

**A series of lessons emphasizing our need to stand for Biblical truth in this day of apostasy. We are to enjoy the liberty we have in Christ, but that liberty must be bounded by standards of holiness and motivated by the law of Christian charity. These lessons consider various aspects of the Christian life, Baptist doctrine, and local church policies.**

**T**

 **"Stand fast...**

 ***In the liberty..."***

 ***Galatians 5:1***

**Lesson # 6**

**Section I: Questions regarding salvation and related issues**

***How do you know you can't lose your salvation? What about those verses the Pentecostals use?***

For the purposes of this study we will divide "faiths" into five groups:

* + 1. Atheists (Agnostics included) 
		2. Eastern religions (Hindu, Muslim, Buddhists, etc.)
		3. Mainline churches (Lutheran, Catholic, Episcopal, etc.)
		4. Cults (JW's, Mormons, Worldwide Church of God, etc.)
		5. Evangelical (Baptist, Assembly of God, Church of God, Community churches, etc.)

***The truth that a person is saved by grace alone, through faith in Christ alone, is the main doctrine that distinguishes Evangelicals from all other faiths***. Almost every other group teaches that you are saved by some element of works mixed with faith. These good works include things like church rituals, self-denial, personal sacrifice, or other similar deeds. Most Evangelical groups teach that salvation is obtained by repenting of sin and trusting in Christ, and that good works are to be manifest in our lives as obedient children of God. Evangelicals generally believe that members of the other groups are lost and need to be saved.

Among evangelical Christians there are two "camps." While they generally agree on salvation by faith (apart from works), they differ on the doctrine of eternal security. Most Baptists teach that a person in this age is saved by faith in Christ alone, **and that he is *kept* saved by God**. This teaching is termed "eternal security" because we believe that we can never lose salvation once we genuinely believe in Christ. The other "camp," comprised mostly of Pentecostal groups, believe that a person is saved by faith in Christ, but that it is possible for him to lose his salvation. This teaching takes on various wrinkles, but generally they believe the volition of man allows him to "cast off" his faith and ultimately go to hell, even though he was saved at one time. They believe that you are "kept" saved by staying faithful. They frequently teach that if you do some very wicked deed, or if you backslide into the world, that you lose your salvation. These two views have been the source of debate for years. As Baptists, we consider the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer to be very important, and the only true Biblical interpretation.

We will consider several things in this lesson: The doctrinal soundness of our teaching on eternal security; some of the objections to eternal security, and some thoughts on the verses used by Pentecostal groups to teach "temporary security."

**I. The doctrinal soundness of our teaching on eternal security**

* 1. When a person is truly saved, he has the promise of God for his entire future.
		1. (John 3:15-16) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have \_\_\_\_\_\_ life. {16} For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
		2. (John 4:14) But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.
		3. (John 5:24) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but \_\_\_\_\_\_ passed from death unto life.
		4. (John 6:37) All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wise cast out.
		5. (1 John 5:13) These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
	2. When a person is truly saved, he is known and kept by the True Shepherd, Jesus Christ.
		1. (John 10:14-15) I am the good shepherd, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my sheep, and am known of mine. {15} As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep
		2. (John 10:26-29) But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. {27} My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: {28} And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. {29} My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.
		3. (1 Pet 2:25) For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	3. When a person is truly saved, they are born into God's family, an irrevocable birth. We are not saved by being good enough to deserve salvation, nor lost because we are bad.
		1. (John 3:3-7) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. {4} Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? {5} Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of water and of 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} Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

***Bless God and Shame on the Devil!***

***P***

* + 1. (1 Pet 1:23) Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
		2. (1 Pet 1:3-5) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} Who are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
	1. When a person is truly saved, he is sealed by the Holy Spirit for the remainder of his earthly life. Then when Jesus returns for him, he gets a new glorified body that will no longer want to sin.
		1. (2 Cor 1:21-22) Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; {22} Who hath also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.
		2. (Eph 1:12-14) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. {13} In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, {14} Which is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
		3. (Eph 4:30) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	2. While we are in this flesh, we will always have the two natures. We admit that we are still sinners, and so we are not surprised when we fail. The apostle Paul was saved, but he still had trouble ***in the flesh***. This assures us that a Christian can sin and still be saved.
		1. (Rom 7:14-15) For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, sold under sin. {15} For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.
		2. (Rom 7:18-23) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth \_\_\_\_ good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. {19} For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. {20} Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. {21} I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. {22} For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: {23} But I see another law in my members, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.
	3. There are many other sound reasons for believing in eternal security. I will not take the room in this lesson to expand on them, but they include verses on the following:
		1. The promises of the resurrection for the saved. (John 6:38-40)
		2. The fact that salvation is a free gift given by God (Rom 6:23)
		3. We have an inseparable relationship with Christ. (Rom 8:38-39)
		4. The securing prayer of Jesus for us. (John 17)
		5. We are made perfect "in Christ" (Heb 10:14) (Eph 1:6)
		6. We are “sealed” by the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13)
		7. We are “kept” by the power of God, not our own human effort. (1 Pet 1:5)
1. **some of the objections to eternal security**
	1. **Teachings of eternal security give Christians "permission" to live wicked lives.**
		1. While it is sadly true that some professed Christians do live wicked lives, our doctrine is not determined by what we see exhibited in the lives of people. The promises of God for the salvation of true believers in the church age are plain and secure: we are safe in Christ and kept by God.
		2. Our response to those who raise this objection has two key elements:
			1. We recognize that some who profess Christ never truly got saved! This explains their wicked life.
				1. (Mat 7:22-23) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
			2. Secondly, we know that God is grieved when true Christians sin. **If they are truly His children He will chasten them.** If they don't get "spanked," they are not His "kids." This is how we learn to grow and to obey Him.
				1. (Heb 12:6-8) For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ son whom he receiveth. {7} If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? {8} But if ye be without chastisement, whereof \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.
				2. ***We further recognize that God is able to forgive any sin, no matter how vile.***

This assures us of the vastness of God's love and the importance of Christ's forgiveness. Those who won't repent can die prematurely!

(1 John 3:20-21) For if our heart \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. {21} Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God*.*

* 1. **Teachings of eternal security make Christians lazy in their service.**
		1. Again we re-iterate that the validity of any doctrine is not determined by whether or not Christians actually believe or follow that doctrine. The plain declarations from God in the Bible will stand forever as eternally true and they are absolutely unaffected by anything that anyone on earth ever does!!!
		2. While we acknowledge that many Christians are lazy (like the liars, evil beasts, and slow bellies of Crete - Titus 1), God still loves them and is working on them to help them become what they ought to be. That is why Paul left Titus in Crete.
			1. (Eph 4:11-13) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; {12} For the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: {13} Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
		3. A third response to this objection is that Christians should primarily be motivated to serve the Lord by love, not by fear. While it is true that we are to fear God and keep His commandments, it is equally true that "the love of Christ constraineth us..."
			1. (2 Cor 5:14) For the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ constraineth us; ...
			2. (Gal 5:13) For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ serve one another.
		4. Fourthly, we need to point out that those who fear losing their salvation live under a shadow of disapproval their whole life. The constant battle of sin within their hearts causes many who profess salvation to forsake Christianity. They feel so condemned at not being able to "live it" that they just quit on God completely. Those who teach eternal security have to deal with those who live carnal lives, but those who reject eternal security have to deal with many who never find "the peace of God that passeth all understanding." They never enter into the "faith rest" of Hebrews 4.
1. **What about the all verses that the Pentecostals use that make it look like you can lose your salvation?**
	1. We recognize that there are some passages that are difficult to understand in the Bible. But we must be certain to “rightly divide” the Bible. Most of the confusion comes from mis-applying the Scriptures. A basic law of Biblical interpretation is that you always use the clear passages in the Bible to interpret the obscure ones. You never use the obscure passages to interpret the clear ones. The clear teaching is that true Christians are secure in Christ. We need to properly interpret the Scriptures on this issue:
		1. Most verses they use to “prove” that a person can lose their salvation simply pertain to Israel as a nation – and how they temporarily lost their standing with God - instead of pertaining to individuals in the church age.
		2. Some of the verses they use are mis-applications of the parables, like the ten virgins.
		3. Some of the verses they use are actually talking about Christian service, not salvation.
		4. Some of the verses used refer to physical death, not spiritual.
		5. Some of the verses were written and apply to people who are not even in this dispensation of Grace. 
	2. Nowhere in the Bible is there a clear case of any individual professing faith in Christ (being SAVED), clearly being declared righteous in the sight of God, and then subsequently forsaking the Lord, and ultimately being cast into hell or the Lake of Fire. If it is true that a person can actually have salvation and then lose it, wouldn’t you think that there would be at least one clear case?
	3. Often we are told by those who believe that you can lose your salvation that you have to “hang on” or “endure to the end” or “forsake all sin” or else you will lose your salvation. But they can never answer the questions of, “How long must I hang on?” or, “How much sin can I have before I actually lose it?
	4. What a wonderful comfort it is to know that we can rejoice in the security that we have in Jesus Christ!
		1. (John 5:24) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but \_\_\_\_\_\_ passed from death unto life.
		2. Once we have “everlasting life” it is ours forever. If we could ever lose it, then by its very definition it was NOT EVERLASTING. We ARE passed from death unto life. This is a “positional truth.” Because we are IN CHRIST, we HAVE life and we “SHALL NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION.”