

"SEVEN SUPERLATIVE STATEMENTS ON THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS"

TEXT: I John 5:1-13

THESIS: To set forth the doctrine of the security of the saints using scriptural logic.

INTRO: A. The Charismatics and other salvation-by-faith-plus-works crowd believe that a saved person may, under certain circumstances, lose his salvation. The reasoning is that if you teach the Bible doctrine of eternal security you give people a license to sin. They say that if a believer can commit any sin and still go to heaven it somehow flaws God or His gift of eternal life. But if salvation is by faith, then works cannot destroy it. The doctrine of the security of the saints does not flaw the character of God but rather demonstrates His boundless love and omnipotence. The fact that man sins even after he is saved only proves MAN'S dual nature and HIS inadequacy, not God's!

B. This doctrine of the INSECURITY of saints leads to all kinds of unbiblical aberrations. It teaches degrees of sin (some sins will cause you to lose it and other more minor ones will not), that Christ's blood is insufficient to cleanse from "all sin", that God's GIFT of eternal life may be revoked at any time, that Christ only died for our past sins but His death could not cover our present or future sins and that MAN is greater than the Savior and His sins more powerful than God's grace.

TRANS: Several principles in our text nail down the security of the saints.

1. The believer is "born of God" and thus has his Father's nature. v.1
2. We love other believers not because they are loveable but because of our common paternity. v.2
3. We believe in and keep His commandments because we know they are best. v.3
4. We are born of God thru faith which makes us victorious over Satan who wants to damn our souls and the world system which is powerful. v.4,5
5. That Jesus is the God-man, becoming man at His birth (water) and by securing our salvation by His death (blood). v.6
6. 3 witnesses in heaven, the Trinity, testify to our new birth. v.7
7. 4 witnesses on earth confirm the fact of our new birth. v.8-10
8. God's Word is the greatest witness of all. v.11
9. Every born again one HAS this new life. v.12
10. If we believe we KNOW that we HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. v.13

If this portion of Script. alone was all we had on the subject, we would be secure in Christ, but today we want to look at "SEVEN SUPERLATIVE STATEMENTS ON THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS"...

I. THE FAMILY OF GOD CANNOT BE UNBORN:

A. The New Birth Places Us Into His Family:

1. This is a supernatural birth by God, not a natural act of man:

Jn. 1:12-13

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

2. The new member of God's family is spiritual, not fleshly, therefore unlike flesh it is incorruptible, incapable of death. John 3:5-6

Jn. 3:5-6

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born 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.

B. Disobedient Children May Be Disciplined, But Not Unborn: Jn.6:36-39

Jn. 6:36-39

36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

ILLUS: Heb. 12:5-11 speaks of chastening by God. Physical death may result. (I Cor.11:29-32) Even gross sinner's spirits will be saved though their bodies destroyed. I Cor.5:1-5

II. THE BODY OF CHRIST CANNOT BE DISMEMBERED:

A. The True Church Will Be Presented Complete in Heaven.

Eph. 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

1. Every true believer has been baptized into Christ's Body.

I Cor. 12:12-13

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

2. Not even the "more feeble members" of the Body can be missing! v.22

B. Not One Member of the Body Can Be Missing:

Jn. 17:22-24

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

III. THE HOUSE OF GOD CANNOT BE DEMOLISHED:

A. All Believers Are "Living Stones" in God's Temple: I Pet. 2:4-8

I Pet. 2:4-8

4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

B. If The Living Stones Can Be Removed, What of the Corner Stone:

Eph. 2:20-22

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

ILLUS: IF even one stone could be torn out of the building of God, then the whole house of God could be destroyed, stone by stone.

IV. THE FLOCK OF GOD CANNOT BE SCATTERED: Jn.10:28-30

V. THE SEAL OF GOD CANNOT BE BROKEN:

A. The Holy Spirit Seals Us Till We Are Fully Redeemed:

Eph. 4:30

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

B. The Lord Knows Every Sealed Saint:

II Tim. 2:19-21

19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

1. Some saints do not always live up to the name. v.20
2. Some saints are more useful to the Lord than others. v.21

NOTE: The use or abuse of gifts, grace, fruit and power varies, but "the Lord knoweth them that are His. They are SEALED!

VI. THE PROPERTY OF GOD CANNOT BE STOLEN:

A. We Are His Property Purchased With His Precious Blood: I Pet. 1:18-19

I Pet. 1:18-19

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

B. He Has Sole Ownership of His Property:

I Cor. 6:19-20

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

C. He Has Hidden His Property "With Christ In God"!

Col. 3:3

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

ILLUS: Who is powerful enough to bind the "Strongman of the house" while he pilfers the property of the omnipotent God?

VII. THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD CANNOT BE FRUSTRATED:

A. His Purpose Is That We Be Holy and Without Blame :

Eph. 1:3-6

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

B. We Will All Be Conformed to His Image: Rom. 8:29; I Jn. 3:1-2

Rom. 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

I Jn. 3:1-2

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

C. We Have Already Been Perfected Forever: Heb.10:12-14

Heb. 10:12-14

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

D. We Are Positionally Seated Already In the Heavens:

Eph. 2:6

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

E. He Will Perform What He Started:

Phil. 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

CONCL: IF the family of God can be UNBORN; IF the Body of Christ can be DISMEMBERED; IF the House of God can be TORN DOWN; IF the Flock of God can be SCATTERED; IF the seal of God can be BROKEN; IF the property of God can be STOLEN; and IF the purpose of God can be FRUSTRATED; THEN and ONLY THEN can one born-again believer, be lost! Who dares call God a liar?

“SAVED FOREVER”

TEXT: Eph. 2:8-9

INTRO: Let's continue our study of Eternal Security or "Saved Forever." We will ask 7 more questions which are rhetorical from the Bible viewpoint, i.e., the answer will be obvious to those who believe God's Word...

1 CAN SALVATION BY GRACE BE LOST BY WORKS? Eph. 2:8-9

A. Grace Speaks Of A Gift.

B. Works Speak Of Earning or Payment.

ILLUS: Which man was saved the Pharisee who boasted of his works or the publican who knew he was a sinner? The Pharisee thought by his good deeds he would go to heaven. The Publican who asked for mercy was wrong when he could have gone out to do works to get saved or stay saved.

11 CAN SIN NEGATE THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST?

Heb. 10:12-14

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

A. One Offering Of Our High Priest With His Blood Saved Us.

B. That Offering Paid For All Our Sins: Past, Present and Future.

1. If some sin of mine can send me to hell then the blood of Christ did not really pay for all my sins.
2. If the blood did pay for my sins, then they are ALL paid for!
3. If any sin can send me to hell it is more powerful than the blood of Christ!

111 CAN A CHILD OF GOD END UP IN HELL?

- A. God's Children Have Been Born Into God's Family.**
- B. God's Children Are Guaranteed A Place In Heaven With the Father.**

Jn. 1:12-13

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

1. Born again people partake of God's nature.
2. If that person goes to hell, then God's nature goes to hell with him.

IV CAN GOD'S PROMISES FOR SALVATION FAIL?

- A. God Cannot Lie and He Has Promised Heaven To Believers.**
- B. God's Promises Are Not Based On Man's Merits But On God's Nature.**

V CAN ONE SAVED SINNER BECOME UNSAVED?

- A. If One Saved Sinner Can Be Lost All Are In Jeopardy.**
- B. Not One Perfect Christian Can Be Found In The Bible Yet They Are Shown To Be In Heaven. (Paul called himself the "chief of sinners"!)**

V1 CAN THE BELIEVER LOSE WHAT GOD GAVE?

- A. It Is God, Not the Believer Who Is Omnipotent.**
- B. It Is God, Not the Believer Who Guarantees Heaven.**

V11 CAN CHILDREN BE CHASTENED OUT OF GOD'S FAMILY?

ILLUS: When you chasten your children do they lose their family relationship? When your children do wrong are they removed from the family? Is God more unjust than a human father?

CONCL: If we use the Bible for our authority rather than human wisdom and reasoning then there is only one conclusion...that we are "SAVED FOREVER!"

**"ALL THINGS NEW"
or "HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?"**

TEXT: Revelation 21:5-7

THESIS: To provide a spiritual checklist to enable people to evaluate their spiritual condition.

INTRO: A. In our devotions this week, my wife mentioned someone who comes here with some regularity, whose salvation is questionable. I thought "What a horrible surprise, to die and wake up in God's presence unsaved, after spending time in a fundamental, Baptist, soul-winning, Bible-believing church. It is possible even to be a church member, of course, and be unsaved. But it may also be the reason some folks just attend, don't get baptized, don't join, are not committed and don't serve...

B. What follows then, is a checklist for believers and those who may think they are saved but are not. If saved, you will rejoice. If not, you need to repent. If saved, you will say 'amen.' If not, you need to say 'woe is me.' If saved check off those things which are true. If not, be honest and admit you are lost...but don't hesitate or procrastinate!

TRANS: So get out your pens and paper and check off the things you can securely and safely and sincerely say are true of you...

I. THE "NEW BIRTH" PRINCIPLE: Jn. 3:3,5

A. Regeneration:

1. Our first (water) birth imparts physical life and a human nature.
2. Our second (spirit) birth imparts eternal life and a Divine nature.
 - a. Regeneration is the key that unlocks the door to God's eternal Kingdom.
 - b. Regeneration is imperative, not optional, and marks the demarcation between eternal life and eternal death; between eternal sonship and eternal damnation.

ILLUS: Birth is an act, not a process; an act of God, not of man. There is no life without birth. Regeneration is not evolution but involution (the communication of new life) and revolution (a change of direction resulting from that new life). It is a crisis leading to a process.

The necessity of regeneration stems from the axiom that something which belongs to one kingdom cannot enter another, higher kingdom unaided. (Jn.3:5,6) Ex: Mineral kingdom to vegetable kingdom. Vegetable kingdom to animal kingdom. Man is in the kingdom of nature which is under a curse and has become a kingdom of darkness, even Satan's kingdom; unless he is born from above, he will remain there forever. The life of the Spirit of God must reach down into that kingdom and impart itself to those who are its subjects and translate them into the kingdom of God.

- c. On the Divine side, it is a sovereign act.
- d. On the human side, it is a twofold act: man must believe and receive the written Word, and believe and receive the Living Word.

NOTE: Nelson's Bible Dictionary: "The new birth is a decisive, unrepeatable and irrevocable act of God."

ILLUS: Like every new born, with the birth, the baby is named. The "new name" given to the baby believer is "Christian" identifying him or her with the heavenly Father and His Son. The new name is then permanently recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life!

Can you mark this first principle off the checklist?

II. THE "NEW CREATURE" PRINCIPLE: 2 Cor. 5:17

A. Sanctification:

1. Regeneration is what God does for us, while sanctification is what God does in us.
2. We become a child in regeneration, we become an obedient child in sanctification.
3. There are two aspects to sanctification: we are set apart to God and set apart from the world and sin.
4. The initial stage of our sanctification or “setting apart” is positional, as a son we are separated to God, in the progressive stage which is practical, we are separated from the world and manifest our works as “new creatures.”
5. The “new creature” stage of salvation means we have a nature like God’s and we are in the process of conformity to the “image of His dear Son.”

ILLUS: If I were to ask you what has changed since you made a profession, could you give me specific answers? Could you check this item off on your checklist? ARE YOU a “new creature?”

III. THE “NEW BORN” PRINCIPLE: 1 Pet. 2:1-2

A. Hunger for God’s Word: v.2

ILLUS: A baby is born hungry! It wants to eat and eat and eat! It instinctively knows the food it wants and where and how to get it! (Ask any mom.)

1. New life demands new food, i.e., the incorruptible “Word of God”: 1:23,25
2. Only unhealthy babies shun milk!

ILLUS: If you are really saved, you will have a hunger for the “milk of the Word.” That hunger begins immediately after the new birth. They were born again by the Word and they must grow thru the Word. Only unhealthy, or backslidden believers have no appetite for the Scriptures.

B. Happy with God’s People: v.1

1. The believer is a member of a family and he or she must keep family relationships clean and free from interferences.
2. Perhaps the reason you don’t get along with your brothers and sisters in Christ is simply because you are not in the family!

1 Jn. 2:9-11

He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

QUES: Can you check off the “new born” principle on your checklist?

IV. THE “NEW SONG” PRINCIPLE: Ps. 40:3; 96:1; 98:1

A. Peace and Stability: Ps. 40:1-2

B. Singing, Praise and Soul-winning: Ps. 40:3

1. We sing because we have peace and stability; in a world of turmoil and unrest that’s something to sing about!
2. There is no such thing as a non-singing saint!

- a. You may not have much of a voice, but the desire to sing cannot be stifled!

ILLUS: Saints have to sing! The Church of Christ is known for its joyful music! The child of God can't help praising Him! In other religions they don't sing or sing in the minor key. When did you ever hear Buddhists sing "There's Just Something About That Name?" Or Hindus sing "Oh How I Love Vishnu!" Or a Mormon sing "Oh Happy Day, When Joseph Smith Washed My Sins Away!" Or a J.W. sing "All For Watchtower ...All My Days and All My Hours" (although they probably could!) Or a Confucianist sing "All To Confucius, I Surrender, All To Him I Freely Give..." But Christians sing the praises of their Savior in literally hundreds of thousands of songs!

- b. There is even a hymn book in the Bible: the Psalms.
c. No one but a Christian has any legitimate reason to sing.
d. The believer will not only sing down here, but when he gets to heaven.
e. The first consequence of the Spirit-filled life given by Paul was not mountain-moving faith speaking in tongues or even dynamic speaking ability, but praise in "psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs." Eph.5:18-20

TRANS: Do you want to sing, even though you don't have a great voice? Does your heart impel you to sing? Can you check this off on your checklist?

IV THE "NEW COMMANDMENT" PRINCIPLE: Jn. 13:34; 2 Jn. 1:5

A. Brotherly Love:

1. This is a "commandment" not a suggestion!
2. This is as much a part of the Christian life as any of the above new things, maybe even more so!

1 Jn. 4:20-21

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

CONCL: How many of the above "principles" were you able to honestly check off? "HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?" Are "ALL THINGS NEW" with you? Or have you been pretending, "playing church" and not honestly facing your spiritual deficit? Do whatever you need to do and have to do NOW!

"THE SAVED CAN BE LOST IF..."

TEXT: II Tim. 1:12

THESIS: To show how ridiculous it is to teach that the saved can be lost.

INTRO: A. I am saved because "I know whom I have believed" - not what but Whom, not me but Him, not later but now, not a man but Jesus Christ!; "and am persuaded" -not "think so" or "hope so"; persuaded from the Script. "that He is able" - I'm not!; "to keep" - not lose, misplace, or drop; "that which I have committed" - deposited, secured, invested; "unto Him" not trusting myself, my beliefs, my works or my religion; "against that day" - when I stand before Him in judgment! My salvation, certainty

and security rests not on me, but on Him! I am saved because of His finished work on the cross, not because of my works here on earth; what I do or do not do has no bearing on whether I make it to heaven!

B. What are YOU trusting in? Your character? works? religion? beads? candles? ceremonies? rituals? crucifixes, crosses? good luck charms? medals? baptism? Lord's Supper? Mass? ancestors? priest, pastor, rabbi? scapulars? the Bible? Last Rites? If you are saved by any of these, YOU CAN BE and WILL BE LOST. But if you are trusting in what Jesus did alone on the Cross as your sin-bearing Substitute you will never be lost. A believer can only be lost if certain things are so...

TRANS: "THE SAVED CAN BE LOST IF..."

I. ...SALVATION IS BY WORKS: Rom. 4:1-8

A. Abraham: v.1-5

1. The Jewish tradition (the Rabbis) taught that Abraham had a surplus of merit from his works that as avail. to his descendents.
2. Paul agrees that to be true IF Abraham was justified by works. v.1,2
3. Paul asserts that if Abraham were to boast it would be before men, but that he had nothing to boast about before God. v.2b
4. Then Paul appeals to the authority the Jews recognized: the Scripts. v.3a
 - a. Paul quotes from Gen.15:6 which states that it was Abraham's belief that credited him (an accounting term) with righteousness!
 - b. Then he says in v.4 that works only receive wages owed, not a gift of grace.

ILLUS: Suppose you work for me for 40 hrs. and at the end of the week I call you in and give you a check for \$400.00 and tell you it is a "gift"! You will say "No way, man, I WORKED for that check!" Suppose at the same time I call a friend in and had him a \$400 check at the same time - that is a gift!

5. Paul next states the unthinkable: that the "believer" not the "worker" is justified (saved).
6. Paul climaxes his teaching that God justifies the "UNGODLY" who simply believes and his FAITH (in God) is credited to his account for (in the absence of) righteousness.

B. David: v.6-8

1. Righteousness is imputed, not earned. v.6

ILLUS: Instead of God recording his sins, he credits his account with righteousness. Since all the sinners "righteousnesses are as filthy rags" they don't even count, so any right. he has credited to him must be by grace!

2. Forgiveness and covering are twin acts of grace on God's part. v.7
3. Not only does the bel. have right. credited to his account, but his sin is expunged from the record!

TRANS: "THE SAVED CAN BE LOST IF...SALVATION IS BY WORKS" but not if it is by God's grace and our simple faith in His provision. "THE SAVED CAN BE LOST IF...

II. ...CHRIST'S BLOOD ATONEMENT IS INSUFFICIENT: Heb.10:11-14

A. Priestly Sacrifices: v.11

B. The High Priest's Sacrifice: v.12-14

1. The Savior's one sacrifice accomplished what the thousands of sacrifices of the OLD TESTAMENT priesthood could not do and only symbolized.
2. To attempt to add anything to this "one sacrifice" is to make null and void the efficacy of His blood.
3. This "one offering" (v.14) "perfected forever" (!) "(we) who are sanctified."

ILLUS: No priest, pastor or rabbi can purchase for you one iota of credit toward heaven thru any sacrifice he can make, even the sacrifice of his own martyr's blood. Only Christ has the "coin of the realm" of heaven: "His precious (sinless) blood"!

TRANS: "THE SAVED CAN BE LOST IF..."

III. ...GOD'S CHILDREN CAN GO TO HELL: Jn.1:12,13

A. Sons of God:

1. We become "sons of God" thru the new birth.

ILLUS: In a sense, as Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Ghost, and the Son of God was the result, so too we are the result of being born again by His agency and thru His Seed, the incorruptible Word (I Pet.1:23) and we became sons of God.

2. The Holy Spirit never has "still births" or abortions!
3. The Bible speaks of being born-again, but never about being unborn. I Jn.3:2

ILLUS: A lady recently told me she was a "deacon" for several yrs. and that she was "born-again every day"! When I asked for her authority she had none! I told her the Bible says a man is only born once physically and once spirit!

4. Once you are in God's family you are there forever and if that is so, a "son of God" can never be in hell!

ILLUS: The Bible teaches that the bel. is a part of the Bride of Christ. It is a strange doctrine that teaches that the Bridegroom will be in heaven and the Bride in hell. We are a part of His Body. Can the Head be in heaven and parts of the body in hell? We are a part of His Building. Can the foundation be in heaven and the building be in hell? (Only if the bldg. Is built upside down!)

TRANS: "THE SAVED CAN BE LOST IF..."

IV. ...GOD'S PROMISES ARE NOT TRUE: Jn. 10:27-30; Rom. 8:33-39

A. The Shepherd's Sheep: John 10:27-30

1. The text talks about the Shepherd's sheep, not about goats or wolves.
2. A sheep doesn't get to be a sheep by following the shepherd; he has to be BORN A SHEEP!

ILLUS: Sometimes sheep get so dirty they don't look like sheep are supposed to look! When Peter was cursing, he didn't resemble a sheep. When David was committing adultery he didn't look much like a sheep. When meek and mild

Moses was smiting the rock, yelling, "You rebels, I'll give you water" he didn't look much like a sheep. When John Mark deserted Paul he wasn't acting much like a sheep. When Paul stubbornly refused to follow the Shepherd and resisted the Spirit's leading he didn't act much like a sheep.

3. It is not the sheep's disposition, but his position that is crucial.

ILLUS: If I place a \$100 bill in my hand I can allow an infant the opportunity to try to open my hand without fear of losing it, because I am more powerful than the infant. So with our position in Christ's hand!

If we could jump out of His hand or if Satan could pluck us out, then he would surely do so and He (or we) would be more powerful than God!

B. The Lord's Elect: Rom. 8:33-39

1. We have been elected by God and He never loses an election!
2. Nothing in this universe is more powerful than God and therefore nothing can separate the bond between the Elector and the elected!

TRANS: "THE SAVED CAN BE LOST IF..."

V. ...OUR FAITH EQUATES WITH RELIGION: Eph. 2:8-9

- A. **The Catholics Add Works to Faith, God Says "For by grace...."**
- B. **The Cultists Add Works to Faith, God Says "Thru faith..."**
- C. **The Charasmatics Add Works to Faith, God Says "Not of works..."**
- D. **The Muslims, Modernists Add Works to Faith, God Says "Lest any man..."**
- E. **The Lodges Add Works to Faith, God Says "(don't) Boast..."**

ILLUS: Jesus said "Done!" religion says "do!" Jesus said "It is finished!" religion says "keep working"! Jesus said "Paid in full!" religion says "work off your debt to God!"

TRANS: "THE SAVED CAN BE LOST IF..."

VI. ...THE APOSTLE PAUL WENT TO HELL: I Tim. 1:15

- A. **Paul said: "I am the chief of sinners!"**

ILLUS: In the navy there are "chief petty officers" and at the very top Admirals. If Paul was "chief sinner" I am "Admiral Sinner"! Rom. 3 tells us there is no difference...we are all sinners! All Christians sin and if the chief of sinners is in hell, the rest of us have no chance for heaven. IF ONE SAVED SINNER CAN BE LOST THEN ALL SAVED PEOPLE WILL GO TO HELL, BECAUSE ALL BELIEVERS SIN!

The only person who would ever make it into heaven would be the person who dies the very second he/she gets saved!

CONCL: The great doctrine of eternal security doesn't encourage people to sin. The love of a mother for her child doesn't encourage her child to sin. Why should God's great love encourage His children to sin? A mother may punish her disobedient child, and God will punish His, but He cannot go back on His Word, break His promise or refute His doctrine. **THE SAVED CAN BE LOST ONLY IF GOD CAN LIE!**