

Salvation Can Never Be Taken Away from Us

John 6:39-40 (New American Standard Bible).

³⁹ *And this is the will of Him who sent Me, **that of everything that He has given Me I will lose nothing**, but will raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”*

Introduction

There was a pastor who didn't believe in resurrection, either in Christ's bodily resurrection or his own. To him, once you die, that's it. Complete darkness. Nothing is waiting for you after you draw in the last breath. Well, this pastor was appointed to a congregation where in his first year he ended up doing scores of funerals. Guess what happened to him? He became a firm believer in the resurrection. Praise the Lord!

In a recent article in the New York Times, I read that American's life expectancy dropped by 1.5 years in 2020 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/21/us/american-life-expectancy-report.html>). Mainly due to the pandemic and its fears and worries, but that sure made me think about life and death.

On a personal level, in the past month alone, I lost my own mother, two members of our congregation, and attended/officiated three funeral services. Almost one funeral service a week. It sure made me think that we all must be prepared for our death and resurrection.

The question is; if you die tonight, will you enter the resurrection of life or the resurrection of judgment? (John 5:29). If God asks you at the Heavenly gate, "OK, what have you learned from your pastor on earth about eternal life and salvation," how would you answer? I pray that none of you will say you have learned nothing from me. So, listen carefully, folks. We shouldn't repeat the basics of Christian faith and practice over and over. But this morning we will. Please keep in mind what you hear from me today and be prepared for your eternal life. No one should say to God that Pastor Choi never talked about the salvation of soul and eternal life in Christ. Alright?

Content

Redemption/Sanctification/Glorification

First, I want you to look at your own faith journey. Begin with the day or moment when you consciously pledged your allegiance to Christ as your Savior and Lord. That day God has invited you to be His child and you responded with your faith. That day, believing

your sins were completely washed away through Christ's blood, you invited Christ into your heart. Since then, Christ dwells in you through His spirit. We call this "born-again" experience.

The next thing God has in mind for you is, we call, sanctification—the purification of your soul. It is a life-long spiritual training to prepare you for Heaven. It is an ongoing spiritual formation of your character into Christ's image. During your lifetime, God does everything He possibly can to transform/conform you into Christ's image (2 Corinthians 3:18). When your life journey is over, God will take you, the sanctified one, into His holy and eternal presence.

That is a brief overview of your faith journey. Redemption/Sanctification/Glorification. We all are somewhere in between our spiritual rebirth a.k.a. 'born again' and our eternal destination, we call, Heaven. Let me reiterate: You go into God's eternal presence through Christ and His merits, not through your own goodness. Christ is the way to salvation. No other name was given to us. You must believe in the name of Jesus as your Savior and Lord, because you cannot come to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

Now, a word of caution. Your faith journey to Heaven is not danger-free. On the contrary, it is a narrow path riddled with dangers, snares, and temptations from your spiritual enemy. In other words, there will be numerous attempts and attacks on you from your enemy to derail you from this heaven-bound journey. It would be naïve of us to think that the world we see, hear, and touch is the only world we have. We have an invisible world, the counterpart of the physical world, which we call spiritual world. In this spiritual world, there's warfare going on between God and the devil. Between God's army and the minions of the devil. Listen to Paul the Apostle.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

And the devil is coming after you. Listen to Peter the apostle.

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. So, resist him (1 Peter 5:8-9a).

Are you going to run away scared? No, that's not what God wants you to do. Resist him, God commands, and the devil will flee from you (James 4:7).

So, folks, don't avoid your spiritual battle. Don't run away from your enemy, either. Be a man/woman of faith. Stand and fight. God is with you. By the way, God knows what you and I are up against. He never leaves us alone. He is with us. He walks with us. He goes before/after us. He protects us. He grants us the victory in Christ.

During this faith journey, you can lose your salvation. Listen carefully again. Anyone can lose salvation. But if it ever happens to you, you cannot blame God. Because God never ever wants or causes you to lose your salvation. E.g. Don't say that you are being tempted by God, because God never tempts anyone (James 1:13).

Let's double check. Do you believe that on the cross Jesus has washed away your sins thoroughly and completely, eternally and once and for all? If you believe, say Amen. Do you absolutely believe with no shadow of doubt that your eternal life is so securely hidden in Christ that you will never lose your salvation to your enemy the devil? If you are not sure about this second question, today's sermon is for you.

Let's review how secure your eternal life is in Christ. First of all, do you know that you have eternal life already? You don't have to wait until you physically die to get it. Listen to Jesus in John 5:24: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but **has passed out of death into life.**"* You believe in Me, Jesus says, you have eternal life (present tense), and you don't come into judgment. Furthermore, you have already passed out of death into life. It is done in the past. It is a done deal. You have passed out of death into life in God's eyes (1 John 3:14). Eternal life is in your possession (John 6:47).

Your eternal life is secured in Christ at the moment when you invited Him into your heart. Furthermore, in God's eyes, you are **currently** (not in the future, but now) seated with Christ at the right side of God in Heaven. *Wait a minute, Pastor, you may say, that's not where I am. I am physically here sitting in the sanctuary. In Manahawkin.* You are correct. However, learn to look at your salvation from God's perspective. God, who is out of time, sees all your life events concurrently: things in the past, present, and even future. Your past life, current life, future and beyond. All at once sees God. In such an eye of God, you are already seated with Christ in Heaven.

Listen to Ephesians 2:5-6. ⁵ *even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),* ⁶ *and **raised us up with Him** (Christ-kc), **and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*** Note: all of them are a done deal. You're already seated in heavenly places in Christ. Your eternal life is secure in Him.

When it comes down to your salvation, God has made sure that nothing will happen to it. First of all, Jesus will not cast you out from eternal life: *Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me **I certainly will not cast out*** (John 6:37).

Second, the devil can never touch you or take salvation away from you. Jesus won't let the devil touch you: *We know that no one who has been born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and **the evil one does not touch him*** (1 John 5:18). Here's another promise of God in John 6:39. **Jesus** saying, *And this is the will of Him who sent Me, **that of everything that He has given Me I will lose nothing, but will raise it up on the last day.***" It is not God's will for Jesus to lose you. Neither is it God's will for you to lose your salvation.

Beware of two things that can derail you from heaven-bound journey. If it ever happens, the blame is not on God but on you. It is not on the devil, either. It is totally up to you. If you do these two things, you will lose your salvation.

First, when you deny the Lord Jesus in front of the people, you will not have salvation. Listen to Jesus. *But whoever denies Me before people, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven* (Matthew 10:33).

Next, when you don't keep His commands in your daily life, you will be denied by the Lord on the day of judgment. Lip-confession only wouldn't cut it. 'Listen' and 'obey' will. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness' (Matthew 7:21-23).

Conclusion

No one can come to Jesus unless it has been granted him from the Father God (John 6:65). God has chosen and granted you to receive eternal life through Jesus. You are truly privileged to come to Jesus for salvation. Your salvation is secure in Christ. It will never be taken away from you by God.

However, you can lose your salvation through your own decisions and actions. Beware of denial and disobedience.

Imagine you are in a plane ride—the plane of salvation. By denying the Lord and disobeying His Word, you eject yourself from the plane. In either case, you forfeit your salvation. Therefore, it's nobody's fault but yours.

Rest assured that your eternal life is secure in Christ.

There are other things that cannot be taken away from us such as peace and joy. But I will save them for next Sunday's sermon.

Let us pray.