

Eternal Security Through Christ

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I. PROMISE OF SECURITY



The death of Jesus Christ **SAVES** us from hell (“**Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him**” - Rom. 5:9). However, the resurrection and High Priestly ministry of Christ in Heaven **KEEPS** us SECURE (“**Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost**” – completely and forever – “**that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them**” – Heb. 7:25).



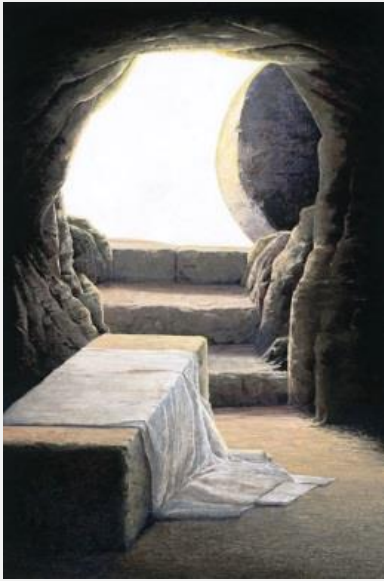
We are “**saved by his life**” (Rom. 5:10) because Christ’s resurrection life and priestly ministry, which involves Christ declaring the value of His sacrifice on our behalf in Heaven before God’s throne, **MAINTAINS** our justified standing of acquittal (positional forgiveness) and legal righteousness before God.

For this reason the Bible believer can proclaim the promise of Romans 8:33-34 with complete assurance: “**Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth** (declares us legal righteous and accepted in His presence forever). “**Who is he that condemneth?**

(nobody can place a condemning charge or sentence of hell upon our lives!). **It is Christ that died**, (bearing the judgment in our place) yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, **who also maketh intercession for us**” (providing us with complete forgiveness and acceptance in God’s presence forever as He declares the value of His sacrifice before the Father). It’s clear that Jesus is still very active on our behalf in Heaven. He declares us “**Not Guilty!**” before God’s throne and presence. This is God’s promise to every believer.

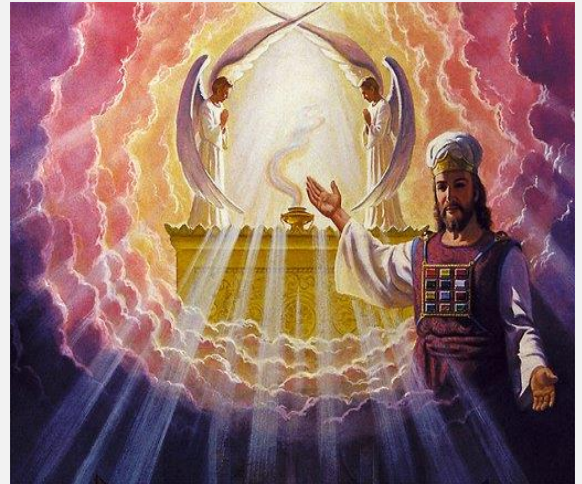


II. PROOF OF OUR SECURITY



First, Christ's resurrection **PROVES** the Father accepted His Son's sacrifice as the sufficient payment for sin's penalty and our salvation (1 Cor. 15:3; Heb. 1:3). Christ's resurrection is also God's verification for our justified position in Heaven ("**raised again for our justification**" - Rom. 4:25). This means Jesus rose from the dead and entered Heaven to **CONFIRM** that the Father has *accepted* Christ's death for our justification and *secured* our judicial, legal, and righteous standing before God in Heaven. It's in this sense that we are "**saved by his life**" (Rom. 5:9).

Second, Christ's priestly work in Heaven is what grants us **SECURITY** and maintains our position of forgiveness and acceptance in God's holy presence. Christ's ongoing and unending intercessory work on our behalf ("**Thou art a priest for ever**" – Heb. 5:6) means that Jesus declares before the Father in Heaven that He has paid the penalty of judgment for all of our sins (Rom. 6:23; 1 Pet. 3:18) and that His finished sacrifice on the cross (John 19:30) saves us forever.



In simple terms, when Christ **REPRESENTS** us in Heaven, as our Great High Priest and legal advisor (1 John 2:1), the Father then **REMEMBERS** Christ's sacrifice on our behalf and **REAFFIRMS** our acceptance before the heavenly throne. This means we have been forgiven and acquitted of all our sins forever through His Son's sacrificial death and possess a permanent legal position of acceptance before God. **This is eternal security!**

III. PEACE OF SECURITY



If you place your faith or confidence in Christ and His finished work on the cross to save you (Gal. 3:26; John 6:47), if you understand about Christ's unending priestly ministry on your behalf in Heaven, then you will possess assurance, rest, and peace,

knowing that you are secure and free from God's judgment and wrath forever. "**There remaineth therefore a rest to**



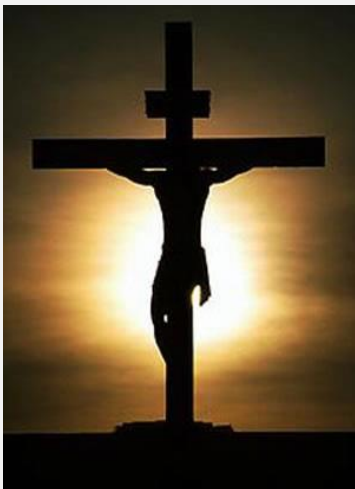
the people of God” (Heb. 4:9). Instead of looking at your sins and failures, look to the cross (John 3:14) and Christ’s priestly ministry (Rom. 8:33-34), which provides you with positional forgiveness and eternal pardon before God.

Christ **DIED** for you and is now **LIVING** to “save you to the uttermost” (completely and entirely) as Hebrews 7:25 declares. This is **eternal security** and should give you absolute assurance regarding your salvation, acceptance before God, and eternal destiny. Only when you trust “Christ alone” for your salvation can you possess the true rest and peace that comes from knowing that you are eternally forgiven, saved, safe, and secure.



Jesus said, “**Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest**” (Matt. 11:28). Are you resting in Christ alone for your salvation?

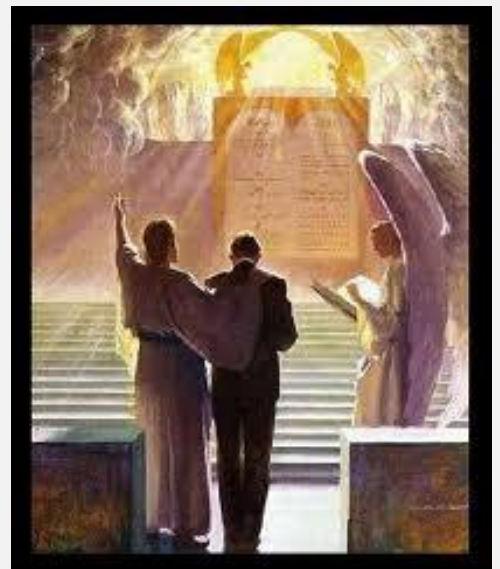
III. PERFECT WORK OF CHRIST AND SECURITY



Remember what Christ has DONE for you on the cross. Jesus paid sin’s penalty on your behalf. Jesus said, “**It is finished**” (John 19:30). This statement means that the redemptive price of judgment was “paid in full” by Christ when He took your place on the cross. Christ was cursed and judged in your place (Gal. 3:13) so you will never have to be judged for any of your sins that you commit in your Christian life. This is because Jesus already paid the price of judgment for every sin that you would commit throughout your lifetime. His work preserves and protects us.

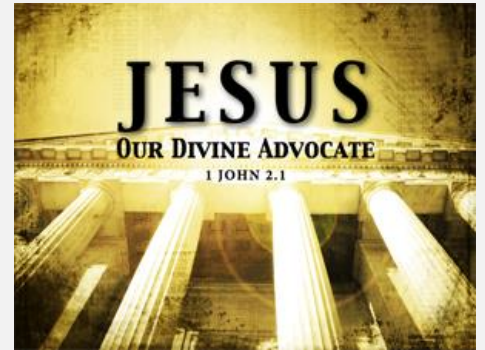


Remember what Christ is DOING for you today in Heaven. Jesus is interceding for you in Heaven right now in order to keep you **SAVED, SECURE and SAFE** in the presence of God. “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. **And if any man sin, we have an advocate (lawyer) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous**” (1 John 2:1). At this very moment, Jesus is in Heaven ready to acquit you of every sinful charge that is brought against you in God’s presence by Satan. Christ clears your sinful charges by declaring you legally forgiven and judicially righteous based upon His finished sacrifice on the cross.





Like an acting lawyer or defense attorney, our Great High Priest (Jesus Christ) declares before the Father that His sacrifice has paid the penalty for every one of our sins and has granted us with complete forgiveness, pardon, and everlasting life in God's presence.



Christ acting as our Advocate (our Divine defensive attorney) is a very important ministry since Satan is called the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10) who accuses us "day and night" within the presence of God for the many sins we have committed in our Christian life. Satan apparently stands before God in some manner in order to condemn us and demand our judgment in hell for sinning against God (Zech. 3:1-2; Job 1:6; 2:1).



Christ's advocacy work is necessary since sin is still part of our Christian life and experience (1 John 1:7; 2:1). Therefore, we need Jesus to be our legal attorney in Heaven and acquit us of every sinful charge brought against us when we sin in our Christian life.

As our High Priest, Jesus Christ shows the wounds in His hands (Zech. 13:6; John 20:25-27) before the Father's throne and declares that He has endured God's fine or penalty (God's judgment and wrath) for every one of our sins. It's on this basis that we stand forgiven and justified (declared innocent and righteous) in the presence of God (Rom. 8:33-34).



**"And now for me He stands
Before the Father's throne,
He shows His wounded hands
And names me as His own.
For me He died; For me He lives,
And everlasting life and light He freely gives."**

My Advocate

I sinned, and straightway, post-haste, Satan flew
Before the presence of the Most-High God,
And made a railing accusation there.

He said, "This soul, this thing of clay and sod,
Has sinned. 'Tis true that he has named thy Name,
But I demand his death, for Thou has said,
"The soul that sinneth, it shall die. "Shall not
Thy sentence be fulfilled? Is justice dead?
Send now this wretched sinner to his doom.
What other thing can righteous ruler do?"
And thus he did accuse me day and night.
And every word he spoke, Oh God, was true!

Then quickly One rose up from God's right hand,
Before whose glory angels veiled their eyes.
He spoke. "Each jot and tittle of the law
Must be fulfilled" The guilty sinner dies!
But wait. Suppose his guilt was all transferred
To Me and that I paid his penalty!
Behold my hands, my side, my feet! One day
I was made sin for him, and died that he,
Might be presented faultless, at Thy throne!"
And Satan fled away, full well he knew
That he could not prevail against such love.
For every word my dear Lord spoke was true!

--Martha Snell Nicholson

This is what Jesus is doing for you in Heaven today! He is your Advocate.

IV. PRECIOUS FREEDOM OF SECURITY

Christ's priestly ministry and advocacy work means that our salvation is SECURE and we are set free from God's wrath and judgment forever! Jesus made the promise in John



5:24 that we “**shall not come into condemnation.**” As God's children, we will never experience His wrath when we sin or fail Him in this life (“**should not perish**” - John 3:16). Elsewhere Jesus said, “**I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish**” (John 10:28). God's

amazing grace saves us (Eph. 2:8-9) and keeps us secure forever (Titus 3:7), through Christ's sacrifice, which is constantly being represented in Heaven as the ground of our forgiveness and acceptance before God. All Heaven sings, “**Worthy is the Lamb that was slain**” (Rev. 5:12).



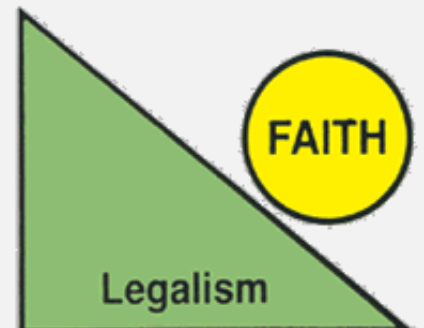
“**Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage**” (Gal. 5:1). To know that we are eternally set free from God's judgment and wrath allows us to experience our true liberty or freedom in Christ, instead of being entangled with what the Bible calls the yoke or bondage of legalism. Legalism is when a person tries to gain or merit his salvation and justification before God through his good deeds and acts of obedience (Acts 15:1). In the end, this person

must **do** something, **become** something and **maintain** something in order to be saved, justified, and right before God.



Legalism brings you under bondage to a works system that cannot save or help you get to Heaven (Rom. 3:20). In the end legalism condemns you to hell for not measuring up to the perfect standard (“the letter killeth” - 2 Cor. 3:6). Legalism raises

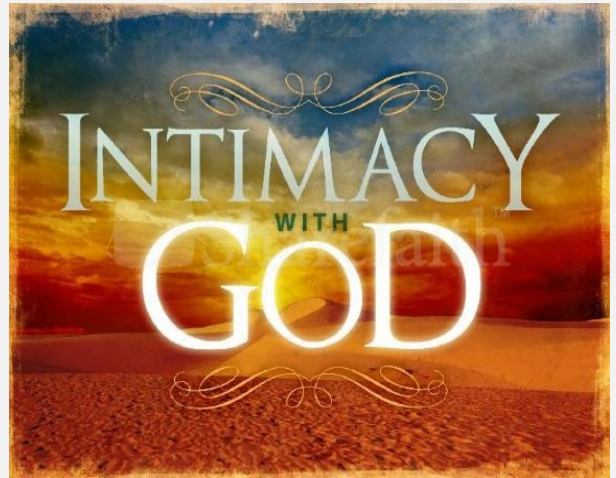
doubts and fears in our heart regarding salvation (Matt. 19:16), since we can never know if we are good enough, or have done enough to enter Heaven. God wants us to be free from the bondage and fear that legalism creates. God wants us to possess complete assurance of salvation by trusting only in Christ's finished sacrifice to save and keep us.



Romans 4:5 says, “but to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness” (see also Gal. 2:16; 3:24, 28).

V. PERSONAL FELLOWSHIP AND SECURITY

1 John 1:7 says, “But if we walk in the light (of God’s holiness), as he is in the light, **we have fellowship one with another** (the believer can possess intimacy with God or enjoy a close relationship and friendship with God), **and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us** (continually cleanses us) **from all sin**”



Two things are true of those who are walking in fellowship with God. First, they are walking in the light of God’s holiness. Second, when they sin confession immediately follows to restore their fellowship with God. This is where the



blood of Jesus Christ becomes effective. The blood of Christ continually cleanses us from every sin that we commit (1 John 1:7) in our Christian life because Christ is continually declaring, through His resurrection life and priestly ministry in Heaven, the value, effectiveness, or efficacy of His sacrifice before the Father. **The blood will never lose its power to maintain our justification in Heaven and restore our communion with God.** Therefore, upon confession (1 John 1:9), we can have our fellowship restored with God.

Our forgiveness in the Christian life is based upon our secured position of acceptance in Heaven, through Christ’s priestly ministry (Heb. 7:25), which allows our fellowship to be restored to God. In other words, the forgiveness and acquittal we **ALREADY POSSESS**

before God in Heaven (Rom. 5:9) is **APPLIED** to our Christian life and we are forgiven every time that we sin against God. We could never receive forgiveness and restored fellowship with God (1 John 1:9) if we did not first possess positional forgiveness and justification before God (Rom. 4:3; 8:30). **We do not confess our sins to regain our SALVATION before God but to regain our FELLOWSHIP with God.** Confession is necessary for restored fellowship. 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. When we



honestly confess our sins (openly acknowledge them before God), He is always faithful and ready to forgive us for failing Him. In other words, on the basis of the eternal forgiveness and acquittal we ALREADY POSSESS in Heaven, through Christ's shed blood or sacrifice, God extends His forgiveness to us in the Christian life and restores our fellowship with Himself.

VI. PRACTICE IN HEAVEN AND SECURITY

Christ's death and finished redemption has a very important application and role in our Christian life. Let's review what we have learned. 1 John 1:7 & 9 teach that the blood of Jesus Christ can always provide us with the necessary cleansing for our Christian life and restore our communion and fellowship with God (1 John 1:7). This is because the blood sacrifice of God's Son has already given us acquittal and justification in God's presence (Rom. 5:9), which is reassured and confirmed through Christ's continuing priestly ministry on our behalf (1 John 2:1; Rom. 8:33-34; Heb. 7:25).



Here is how it works. Jesus finished His redemptive work on Calvary's cross (John 19:30). This means the SAVING work of Jesus Christ on the cross is finished. However, the SECURING priestly work of Jesus Christ, as it relates to our salvation, continues to go on in Heaven (1 John 1:7). In other words, *Christ represents His finished work in Heaven.* Christ's sacrificial death is constantly being represented (**not re-sacrificed or reproduced – Heb. 10:12; 26**) in Heaven through the ongoing ministry of our “**merciful and faithful high priest**” (Heb. 2:17). Jesus

Christ faithfully intercedes for you in Heaven, declaring your total forgiveness and innocence before God based upon His blood sacrifice.

When Christians confess their sins (1 John 1:9), Jesus is in Heaven “**now to appear in the presence of God for us**” (Heb. 9:24). What is He doing there? When Satan accuses us (Rev. 12:9) Jesus declares our total forgiveness and pardon through His finished and saving sacrifice. As a result of this priestly ministry, God remembers the cross and His Son's sacrifice on our behalf and essentially says, “Every sin which my children commit from the beginning to the end of their lives has already been paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus already died for every one of



these sins and for this reason my children are pardoned (forgiven) of all their sins forever and accepted in My presence. Therefore, on the basis of the Son's sacrifice, I will forgive my children for sinning against Me and restore fellowship with them."

This forgiveness within the Christian life is for **RELATIONAL** purposes only (restored fellowship with God) - not for **RESALVATION**. This is because our salvation and justification is already secure in Heaven (Heb. 4:14; 7:25). The forgiveness we **ALREADY POSSESS** in Heaven is **APPLIED** to our Christian life and we are cleansed of our sins and can have our fellowship restored with God.

VII. PERFECT FAITHFULNESS AND SECURITY

**God is
ALWAYS
faithful.**

When we confess our sins "**God is faithful.**" (1 John 1:9). This means that whenever we confess our sins, God remembers His Son's sacrifice for us. The

Father faithfully looks to the one-time, blood sacrifice of His Son (Heb. 10:12) and restores our fellowship with Himself based upon the eternal forgiveness, acquittal, and acceptance in God's presence that **WE ALREADY POSSESS** in Heaven (Rom. 5:1; 1 Cor. 1:30).



God is faithful to the sacrifice of His Son, always accepting its redemptive price (Rom. 3:24) as the necessary payment and penalty for our sins (1 John 2:2), which provides us with complete acquittal or pardon in His presence forever. Therefore, cleansing or forgiveness of sin in relation to the Christian life is made possible and we can *regain fellowship* with God when confessing our sins (1 John 1:9).

The Father faithfulness always approves of His Son's sacrifice which has taken away our sins and judgment forever, providing us with eternal security and acceptance before His presence (Eph. 2:13; Heb. 7:19). At the same time, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ has opened a pathway to **fellowship** with God in the Christian life and we can be reassured that God

Out in the Fields with God

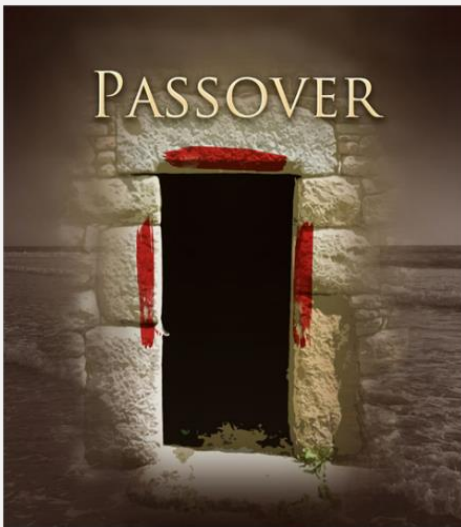


wants our communion and fellowship today (“**draw nigh to God, and he will draw near to you**” - James 4:8).

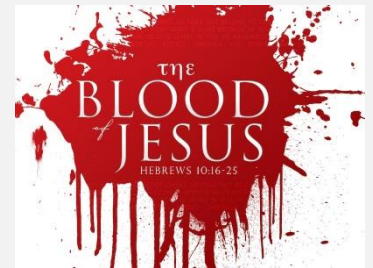
The certainty of Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf opened an eternal pathway of acceptance and fellowship with God. The Bible says the veil leading into the holy of holies was tore in half (“from the top to the bottom” - Mark 15:38) when Christ died on the cross. This portrayed a clear and unmistakable message that a pathway of eternal forgiveness and acceptance before God was now made available through Christ (John 14:6). As a result, believers can always have confidence that God will accept them in His presence, through Christ’s sacrifice. They can now possess “**boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus**” (Heb. 10:19) in order to have fellowship with God.



VII. PASSOVER AND SECURITY



GOOD NEWS: Here is the good news! When we sin in our Christian life, we no longer must fear God’s wrath and judgment. This is because God looks at Christ’s blood sacrifice as taking our place of judgment and providing forgiveness of sins. Long ago, God said, “**When I see the blood, I will pass over you**” (Exodus 12:13). This means God will never judge a Christian for any sin that he commits in his Christian life. God’s judgment will pass over you! God promises that the blood of Jesus Christ washes away all of our sins forever (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14), granting you positional, legal,



and judicial forgiveness before God’s throne, and brings the believer into a peaceful and reconciled standing before God (“**having made peace through the blood of his cross**” - Col. 1:20).

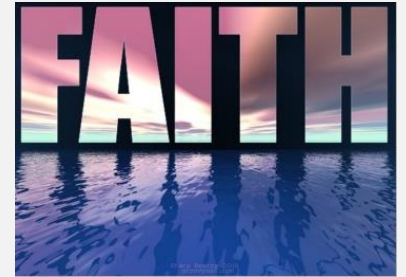


We can be reassured that 1 John 1:9 is NOT teaching that Christians must confess their sins in order to regain their salvation or justification before God. This could never be! Why? It’s because Christ has already provided the necessary sacrifice for our acceptance in God’s presence (1 John 4:10) and maintains (secures) our salvation and acceptance before God forever

through His priestly work (Heb. 7:25). 1 John 1:9 is a confession that is necessary so the believer can have his fellowship restored with God (1 John 1:7) – not his salvation.



We need to always remember that belief or faith in Christ (not confession) is the basis for our salvation and justification before God (Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9). Ephesians 2:8 says we are saved by grace through FAITH (not through confession of our sins). A lost person must BELIEVE on Christ to be saved (Acts 16:31). Confession is



for Christians which results in restored fellowship; believing is for the unsaved person, which results in eternal justification and redemption before God (Rom. 5:21; Heb. 9:12).

VIII. PERSPECTIVE ON FORGIVENESS AND SECURITY



There is a heavenly and earthly perspective on forgiveness. First, there is an ETERNAL cleansing and NON-REPEATABLE **positional forgiveness** that every believer shares before God's throne in Heaven which is based upon the blood sacrifice of God's Son (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14) and is secured by the continuing priestly ministry of Christ on our behalf (Heb. 7:25). This is also called **forensic** or legal and judicial forgiveness (forgiveness for the saved sinner in the courtroom of Heaven) and pertains to the matter of salvation and justification before God (Rom. 4:6-7).

Second, there is also a REPEATABLE **parental forgiveness** that is necessary to restore a relationship between the Father and His children during their earthly existence (1 John 1:7). This is sometimes termed **family** forgiveness (forgiveness that occurs within Christian family) and pertains only to the matter of restored communion with God. This cleansing is needed when a Christian allows sin to break his fellowship with God. The cleansing or forgiveness that pertains to our everyday earthly experience as a Christian is made possible because of our heavenly acquittal before the throne. Upon confession of sin (1 John 1:9), the saving benefits we ALREADY POSSESS through Christ are applied to our life. We are cleansed of our sin and our fellowship with God on earth is restored, so we can once again enjoy God's intimacy and fellowship.



VIII. PERMANENCE AND SECURITY



Once again, it's very important to understand that it is only our fellowship with God on earth that is broken when we sin in our Christian life but not our justification or position of acceptance before God in Heaven. This is because **“nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Rom. 8:39).

Our salvation is **ETERNAL** and locked in place because our justified standing in Heaven remains unbroken (Rom. 8:30), as a result of Christ's finished, redemptive payment on our behalf and through Christ's ongoing priestly ministry, **“who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens”** (Heb. 8:1) and the One that **“ever liveth to make intercession for us”** (Heb. 7:25).



Our **STANDING** (position) of forgiveness and justification in Heaven (before God's throne) never changes. We are **SAFE** and **SECURE** because of our position in Christ. This means God sees and accepts us through the saving merits of Jesus Christ (**“accepted in the beloved”** - Eph. 1:6) and His High Priestly ministry on our behalf (declaring His finished work before the Father) confirms our security and acceptance before the throne of God.

We do know that our **STATE** (practice) in our Christian life does change when we sin (1 John 2:1). Our fellowship with God is broken (1 John 1:7). Therefore, we need to confess our sins and have our *fellowship* and *communion* restored with God but not our *salvation* and *justification* before God, since Christ declares us forever acquitted in God's sight and saves us eternally (Heb. 7:25). If it were not for Christ's unending priestly ministry, we would be lost forever!



Every sin we commit in our Christian life (past, present, and future) has **ALREADY** been forgiven on the basis of Christ's death at Calvary (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; 1 John 2:12) and the reassurance and security of this total and complete forgiveness is found in Jesus' High Priestly ministry on our behalf (1 John 2:1-2). Therefore, we will **NEVER** come into condemnation and should not fear God's wrath for any sin that we commit in our Christian life (John 3:15-16, 36; Rom. 8:1).



This means we CANNOT lose the salvation Christ freely PROVIDED for us (Rom. 3:24 – “justified freely”) and PROTECTS for us in Heaven (Heb. 7:25 – “he ever liveth to make intercession for us”). Christ died only once to pay the penalty for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3; Rom. 6:23) and now He represents and presents us before the Father in Heaven as “**unblameable** (without blame or accusation) and **unreproveable** (unaccused) in his sight” (Col. 1:22).

IX. PRECIOUS JOY AND SECURITY



As we have seen in this study, when we sin in our Christian life, the Bible does teach we can lose our fellowship with God, which is what needs to be regained when we allow sin to come between us and God. In a very practical way, the forgiveness we ALREADY POSSESS in Heaven through Christ’s death is applied to our Christian life when we sin, allowing us to experience cleansing and restored fellowship with God. This renewed fellowship with God produces new JOY in our hearts, knowing we once again possess a right relationship with God.

David experienced this renewed joy in his life when he said, “**Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation**” (Ps. 51:12) – **not MY salvation!** There is a difference. It’s our joy that needs to be restored when we sin but not our salvation before God.



The only reason a Christian can have His fellowship restored with God and experience “**joy unspeakable and full of glory**” (1 Pet. 1:8) in his relationship with God is because the believer has ALREADY been justified before God (“justified by his blood” - Rom. 5:9) and because the blood of Jesus Christ SECURES our righteous standing of acquittal and forgiveness before God through Christ’s unending priestly work (Heb. 5:6; Rom. 8:33-34). It is this eternal justified standing before God through Christ that provides the basis for our forgiveness in relation to the Christian life and our restored joy and communion with God (1 John 1:7, 9).

“I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.

And He walks with me,
And He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.”



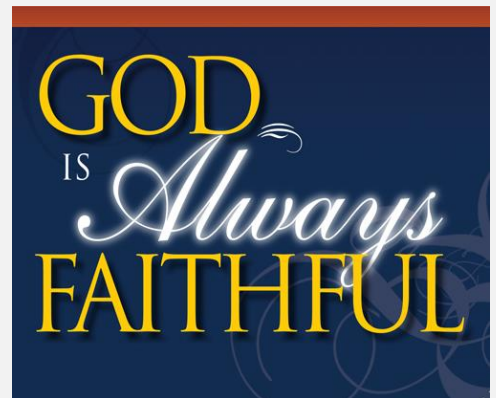
X. PRESENTING THE CONCLUDING REMARKS ON SECURITY



✚ The believer’s **forgiveness** and acceptance before God’s throne never changes because of Christ’s death and continued priestly ministry on our behalf (Rom. 5:9; Heb. 7:25).

✚ The believer’s **fellowship** with God does change (1 John 1:7) and therefore confession and forgiveness is needed (1 John 1:9) to regain our communion with God (Ps. 51:12) but not our salvation and justification (legal acceptance) before God’s throne (Jude 24).

✚ God **faithfully** looks upon the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:9; Ex. 12:13) and sees that Jesus paid the penalty of judgment (Isaiah 53:10) for every sin that we would commit throughout our Christian life. God therefore grants us pardon and forgiveness when we sin in our Christian life based upon the security of our pardon and justification that we already possess in Heaven.



- Christ’s sacrifice is finished forever (John 19:30),
- The believer is forgiven forever (1 John 2:12),
- Our High Priest has secured us forever (Heb. 7:25),
- God accepts and loves us forever (Rom. 8:33-39).



- The Christian can confess his sins repeatedly (1 John 1:9),
- The Father faithfully looks to Christ's blood repeatedly (Heb. 7:25),
- Cleansing is applied to the Christian repeatedly (1 John 1:7, 9),
- Fellowship can be restored repeatedly (1 John 1:7).

“My faith has found a resting place,
Not in device or creed;
I trust the ever-living One,
His wounds for me shall plead.

I need no other argument,
I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died,
And that He died for me.”

