

Is Our Salvation Guaranteed?

We all think that if we can follow certain rules in life then everything will work out; eat the right food, treat people with respect, obey the law. But somewhere in our thought process in creeps the word "**guaranteed.**" It's one thing to follow the rules, but somewhere in life there should be a guarantee for "my efforts." After all I earned the right to be separated from careless and disrespectful people, I don't deserve the penalties of the undeserving, they should have no guarantees.

Do the "guaranteed" people follow "all" the rules anyway? I mean, seems to me, that outside of God's Word there is no such thing as guarantees. Now some say that even in God's Word there really isn't any guarantees, because if you don't stay on the "straight and narrow" you can lose stuff, like for instance, salvation. By the way, doesn't God "help those who help themselves" anyway? I mean did God actually make the Bible "cloudy" just to keep everyone on edge, with the thought for us to keep up doing "good works" just to be guaranteed everything God promised us? A tiring thought indeed.

Since we have brought God into this guaranteed discussion, why don't we check out the Bible to see if we are guaranteed anything, for instance heaven, that would be neat if we were actually guaranteed things like salvation and going to heaven someday.

There are some Bible verses that make it look like a person can lose their salvation and not go to heaven. I mean can we actually have heaven one day, and then mess up and lose it the next day? Like when I was reading in the Book of Romans, in Chapter 7. The Apostle Paul said he did things he should not have done, and he didn't do the things he knew he should have done; kinda like a civil war of the soul, and later in verse 24 Paul said "what a wretched man I am." Sounds like Paul was saved, then unsaved, then he probably was saved again. Looks like, every once in a while he just dropped the ball or fell off the wagon like the rest of us. I guess we just gotta "get back on that horse again." Is life a "roller coaster" like that?

After reading about Paul, it sounds like you can lose your salvation and then you can do something to earn it back again. Kinda like this salvation stuff is like a revolving door, life spins us around and then we lose something we thought we had!

I was reading in the Book of Hebrews Chapter 10 verses 26-27 and it said: "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God." Sounds like God is saying, once we know the truth we better "act" on it instead of ignoring what God said or else we are going to be an enemy of God.

In other verses like Romans 1:20-21 it says all people have knowledge of God, so we are without excuse. And then I read in Isaiah 64:6 that our attempts to obey God are like "filthy rags." Wow! - I guess that throws this guaranteed stuff out the window. And this idea of God helps those who help themselves doesn't seem to line up with what God says in the Bible, I mean it doesn't sound like this idea of heaven is about our works or the stuff we do to get into heaven.

I began to worry about my own life, I mean I never thought of being an enemy of God. I said a quick prayer for God to help me understand what was going on here. So I figured I'd do a little further reading in the Bible, to see if I could get a handle on a few things....

I came across a verse that sure helped me untangle this idea of the Bible being foggy. In 1 John 3:9 it said: "No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God." and then in John 10:28 God said: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." Then I stumbled on this verse: "I write these things that you may know you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

"There it was! the "guarantee" from God Himself. Salvation is guaranteed to me if I am born of God, and if I have salvation I have heaven, GUARANTEED! I sat back for a minute, could God be speaking to me at this very moment? I didn't want to debate salvation anymore, I just wanted it. God had written the Bible so we could know we have eternal life. AMAZING!

Heaven was on my mind, then I found it, what God wanted me to know:: In John 3:16 it says "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." At that moment I fell on my knees and received Jesus as my Savior. *I was "born again" and am now filled with the promised Holy Spirit of God.*

After my "**great awakening**" I began to ponder those many questions people have about heaven, hell, salvation and a host of other topics. My eyes were opened as to what faith is really all about. How could man possibly come to an understanding about these things without God's Word? The very earth I was standing on is beyond man's understanding as to how it got here. **Faith in God and trust in His Word became real to me.**

As I looked into God's majestic sky I found peace in knowing God is holding His creation all together, and He really has a plan for all of His creation, **including me.** That's all I was really searching for. My focus now is learning more about Him and trusting that His Holy Spirit will lead me according to His plan for my life. I have a personal relationship with God now and I am part of His family, and that's all that really matters. **If I come to know Jesus I will come to know myself.**

Colossians 3:1-2

Since, then you have been raised with Christ,
set your hearts on things above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
Set your minds on things above,
not on earthly things.