

LESSON THREE: HOW TO BE SURE YOU ARE ETERNALLY SECURE

SESSION THREE

TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small-group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** to help steer you through the basics of facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

This is the third of four sessions that explain what the Bible has to say about the security of our salvation. In this session, Pastor Rogers will introduce the next two of eight very specific reasons why he believes in the eternal security of the believer. All Christians should understand the biblical authority behind the assurance of their salvation in order to live fruitful and productive spiritual lives.

PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Session Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader's Guide**.

CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to being presented as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

LESSON THREE | SESSION THREE

INTRODUCTION

It has been said that a little fly aboard Noah's Ark was just as safe and secure as the mighty elephant. It was not the elephant's strength or size that made him safe, it was the Ark which delivered them both. In the same way, it is not our works or righteousness that save us, it is the completed and sufficient work of Calvary and our position in Christ that save us. In this session, Pastor Rogers will provide two more biblical reasons why we have security in our salvation.

OUR KEY PASSAGES

Hebrews 10:14 "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do you think God works to perfect those who are being sanctified (set apart) for Him?

- What does it mean to have old things pass away, and all things become new? How does that play out in our daily lives?

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF: “How to Be Sure You Are Eternally Secure”

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“When you get saved, God doesn’t just give you a fresh start, He gives you eternal perfection.” —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: The world would have us believe that we need only to put on decent clothes and have a good outward appearance to be accepted and respectable. In Matthew 23 and again in Luke 11, Jesus warned the religious people of His day about such thinking and behavior, referring to them as “whitewashed tombs,” painted clean and white on the outside, but on the inside full of decay and rotten bones. He further described them like “cups and dishes” that were clean on the outside, but the insides were left filthy. In 1 Samuel 16:7, the Lord said to Samuel, “... the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” God does not just look upon our outward appearance; He looks into the heart to identify those who are truly His.

Christ’s all-sufficient sacrifice provides an inner cleansing for believers that no amount of personal work or acts of righteousness can accomplish. In addition, the Bible says that those who believe have been sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee for the day of redemption (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30). The word “guarantee” is an accounting term that provides assurance of a payment that is due.

By Calvary’s perfect provision, our sin debt has been paid in full, and we are sealed by the Holy Spirit as confirmation of that guarantee. Christ’s sacrifice is sufficient to cleanse any person’s sin no matter how foul, and the proof (guarantee) of that cleansing is the presence of the Holy Spirit in that redeemed person’s life. That does not mean we are made instantly perfect in this world, but it does mean that God no longer sees our sins and failures when He looks upon us. He now sees us through His Son’s cleansing sacrifice, and the Holy Spirit indwells us to guide us toward sanctification, the process of spiritual growth and separation unto God. The mark of a true believer is not that he or she never sins, but that there is a change in the heart to want to avoid sin. And when the believer does sin, the Holy Spirit brings conviction and a desire to repent.

For Discussion: How do you think we can know that we are being perfected (made complete, mature)? Are there specific things that we can do to help accomplish the end goal of becoming like Jesus?

Amplification: As believers, we become new creations from the inside out. It is not a matter of changing our clothes or our outward behavior for appearances sake; it is a matter of a changed heart.

D.L. Moody told the story of a man dressed in ragged clothes who had been down on his luck and came to one of his worship services. After receiving Christ as his Lord, the man testified that he was a new man dressed in old clothes. That is how it should be when we come to Christ. A simple verbal profession does not transform anyone. A thief and liar may put on good clothes, but he is still a thief and liar! However, when a thief comes face-to-face with the living Christ, a transformation takes place within the inner man. Consider Zacchaeus the chief tax collector, a thief by trade. When he was confronted by Jesus, he said, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold,” (Luke 19:8). Or consider Matthew, another despised tax collector, who became one of Jesus’ twelve disciples, and then later wrote the book of Matthew in the Bible.

For Discussion: How does becoming a “new creation” impact our lives and the lives of others around us? Share with the group any personal examples from your life that might encourage others.

Amplification: In a previous session, we discussed Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” The next verse in that passage, verse 10, says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Our good works do not save us, but we are saved *for* good works already prepared for us to accomplish for Him.

For Discussion: How can we deal with the “old things” of our past that the enemy may try to use to discourage our Christian walk?

For Discussion: What do you think God’s reaction must be to the idea that He is incapable of keeping secure those He has saved?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal time of devotion, make a list of all of the things that have changed in your life, especially those things of the heart, since becoming a “new creation” in Christ. Meditate on those changes and how God has been working in your life to sanctify you (set you apart) for Himself. Be sure to thank and praise Him for what He has done.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – “Lord, we ask you to sanctify us by Your truth. Lead us by Your Word, which is truth, to become all that You want us to be.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

Many Old Testament stories are analogies and foreshadows of spiritual truths; such is the case with Noah’s Ark which pictures the divine salvation and protection that God provides by His own hand. Notice God said, “Come into the ark,” (where He was), as opposed to “Go into the ark,” (where He was not).

Genesis 7:1, 16 “Then the LORD said to Noah, ‘Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.’ ... So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.”

As you meditate on this verse, make a conscious list of “*old things*” that have passed away from your life since coming to Christ. What remaining things need to be removed?

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Ancient seals were used to mark one’s authority over a property or possession. They served as legal notice and guarantee of ownership. Does the Holy Spirit reside in your heart? Are you fully His?

2 Corinthians 1:22 “who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

Ephesians 1:13 “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,”

Ephesians 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- D.L. Moody, Ed., “Thoughts for the Quiet Hour,” (Fleming H. Revell, 1900)
- Lewis Sperry Chafer, “He That Is Spiritual; A Classic Study of the Biblical Doctrine of Spirituality,” (Zondervan, 1983)
- William Law, “A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life,” (Griffith Farran, 1111)

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VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

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