

Are We Safe in Christ?

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

John 17:1-5

We are studying a prayer of Jesus that he offered to His Father in the hours before His crucifixion. It was audible to His disciples who were near Him. We can assume it was meant to be overheard by the disciples. Further, His object in praying so that He could be heard was for the disciples to know for certain the security of their position.

Jesus was leaving this world and going back to God the Father to share in His eternal glory. Our Lord's concern was leaving His disciples, who would be responsible for preaching the gospel in all ages everywhere, knowing they were safe and secure eternally in Christ.

This theme is constant in the New Testament epistles and is nowhere more prominent than in the letter of 1 John. Throughout those epistles, Christians are not commanded to do certain things to gain entrance to God's kingdom and Heaven. Instead, they are told to live a certain (holy) life because they are destined for Heaven!

- **1 John 3:2-3**, *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*
- **Colossians 2:1-3**, *For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
- **Hebrews 6:11-12**, *And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

I. The Christian is Secure Because of God the Father's Eternal Plan

- A. Those who believe have been gifted to the God the Son. **John 17:2**, *Since you [God the Father] have given him [God the Son] authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you [God the Father] have given him [God the Son].*
1. **John 17:6**, *"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.*
 2. **John 17:9**, *I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.*
 3. **John 17:11**, *And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.*
 4. **John 17:12**, *While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*
 5. **John 17:24**, *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*
- B. Those whom God has given to the Son are written in the Book of Life before the foundation of the world.
1. **Revelation 17:8**, *And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world...*
 2. **Revelation 20:12**, *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.*
 3. Our responsibility to God is to believe, not understand, how God does certain things. **1 Corinthians 1:21**, *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.*
 4. Note: **2 Timothy 2:16-21, esp. vs. 19**, *"The Lord knows those who are his..."* Also, **Numbers 16:5; Nahum 1:7; John 10:14, 27; Luke 13:27; 1 Cor 8:3**

II. The Christian is Secure Because Christ Removed Every Roadblock (John 17:4)

- A. Christ has removed my guilt for sin (**Romans 8:33–34**, *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*)
- B. He has satisfied the Law on my behalf (**Galatians 3:13**, *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"*)
- C. He has reconciled us to the Father (**Colossians 1:19–20**, *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*)
- D. He has given us a new nature (**2 Corinthians 5:17**, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*)
- E. He has given us the Holy Spirit (**John 14:16**, *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever*)
- F. He has placed us "in Christ" (**Colossians 3:3**, *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. See also Ephesians 2:6–7; Romans 6:3–4; Galatians 2:20*)

III. We are Secure Because of the New Birth

- A. The new birth (**John 3:3**), births a new nature, new life in the believer. **2 Peter 1:3–4**, *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*
 - 1. This nature, divine nature, is steady, unchanging, eternal
 - 2. How can one lose the "new nature" and then gain it back again? Can you die again and then be born repeatedly? The Bible is clear, and the answer is, no.
- B. The new of this birth is imperishable. It cannot be taken away (**John 10:28**, *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand*)
- C. Consider **Romans 8:38–39**, *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- D. We are not free then, because of this new life, to live any way we choose (**1 John 3:3**, *And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*)

IV. We are Secure Because of Christ's Finished Work

- A. **Romans 5:10**, *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*
- B. **Romans 8:32**, *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*
- C. **Hebrews 7:25**, *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

V. We are Secure Because of the Authority Given by God the Father to the Son

- A. Authority over all creation (**Matthew 28:18**, *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*
- B. Authority over all spiritual powers (Satan) (**Romans 16:20**, *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*
- C. Authority over all time (**Revelation 1:8**, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*