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And They Shall Never Perish

#1128-A

Series: Making the Spiritual Switch



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And They Shall Never Perish

Our gracious God, quiet our hearts now and allow our spirits to be sensitive to Your Spirit, as You take Your Word and teach us. We ask especially, this morning, Father, that You would encourage our hearts with the incredible grace that You have bestowed upon us—grace that has saved us; grace that will keep us through all eternity.

May we leave this place, this morning, Father, with a deeper, richer understanding by Your Spirit, of what it means to be secure in Christ. So, we humble ourselves, this morning, and we ask You to teach us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

In your mind's eye, look with me across the dusty hills of Israel, and I think, without a doubt, you will see him emerge. I said this in the first class, he looks weather-beaten, tired, and worn, and everybody kept looking at me. There may be a reason for that. He has withstood the winds, and the rain, and the heat, and the cold. His face is showing the strain of those long nights; wild animals trying to get at him and kill him, or to get at the flock he's responsible for.

But as you look at him, you see something different about him. There is a look in his eyes. There is a look of satisfaction, for he has weathered the season; he's come home without losing even one of the flock. He has aged, and he has paid a price, but the price was worth it. His goal was to protect the sheep and provide for the sheep, and to bring them home safely. He is the shepherd of Israel.

You see him today if you go to the Mid-East, but in Bible days, he was oh, so prevalent. There were hundreds of him, all of them different, but each one had a similar look about him and each one had a similar objective. It was to take this group of not-so-intelligent animals, and see that their needs were met, and that they were kept totally safe from the enemies that lurked in the shadows. You see, it was his responsibility and not the sheep's, to see that they arrived home safely at their destination. Sheep couldn't get there by themselves. All they could do was follow the

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shepherd. Some of them were so rebellious, so cantankerous, they really didn't deserve to make it back. But that wasn't the issue. The shepherd had taken responsibility for their lives; it was no longer theirs. They may have suffered some unnecessary bruises from disobedience, but the shepherd would see that they safely arrived home. That was his job. The issue was not whether they deserved to die; the issue was whether or not the shepherd was able to keep them as he promised. Keeping was his job. Being sheep was their job.

Now, I know what you are thinking. It isn't all that interesting to you to learn anymore about the care and keeping of sheep. In about an hour you can learn just about everything you need to know about these curly-headed little friends of ours. You can learn that their intellect is a little below normal, apparently. You can learn that they require a great deal of maintenance, upkeep and oversight. And we really, for the most part, can tell what a job it is to take care of them, and that's enough for us. So, we're not really all that interested in sheep, but we are interested in knowing God. And God in eternity past, knowing how difficult it would be for some of us to understand spiritual truth, wrote a handbook. In that handbook, He used as a backdrop, if you will, as a scene shining on the screen behind him; a picture of sheep and a shepherd. He actually designed sheep in eternity past for that purpose. He created them so they would need a shepherd. Then He made the "spiritual switch." He called Israel His people, the sheep of His pasture. And He called a shepherd named Moses from tending His father-in-law's flock to shepherd His people. And He called a shepherd boy named David to be His king. And finally, He sent His own Son to planet earth and once He had formed a team of disciples to carry out the work of the Kingdom, He sat them down, and He opened up this sketchbook. And he looked at the subject of sheep and shepherds. He told them some of the deepest truths of the Kingdom, using that illustration.

They didn't really understand. They usually didn't. So, Jesus explained in such a detailed way, what He was saying. He took this eternal photograph of sheep and shepherds and He poured into it the rich hues of personal application. He taught them how to make the "spiritual switch." And that's what we are going to do this morning, as we conclude our look at making the "spiritual switch," and our conclusion as well, of this mini-series on sheep and shepherd.

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We're going to go back to John 10, and I want to give you an overview.

- I- The Reality (John 10:16, 24-27)
- II- The Remedy (John 10:28a)
- III- The Results (John 10:28b)
- IV- The Reasons (John 10:29-30)
- V- The Reassurance (Romans 8)

We have already looked at the cast of characters pretty thoroughly. We have looked at the sheep, the robber, the stranger, the shepherd, the hireling, and the door so far. We have seen the plan of God unfold. And there have been some basic truths. We looked at 1) there is only one way to get into the sheepfold, and that's by way of the door. 2) We learned that there is a high price to shepherding. 3) We learned that not only is there is a high price to shepherding, there's an even a higher price to listening to the voice of the stranger. A stranger's voice, we will not hear; we must not listen to. 4) We learned that we belong to a shepherd that loves us so much that He knows us by name, He calls us by name, and He gives us His name.

This morning, we conclude with a look at the accountability factor. We are going to look at the assurance of our salvation. I think it's an important subject for us to look at, at least every year or two, to remind us of some basic principles that go far beyond that subject itself.

I- THE REALITY

Jesus, you remember, was teaching in John 10, about spiritual shepherding and Kingdom principles. This concept of the exclusiveness of the Scriptures and the exclusiveness of God's love for the Jewish people alone was about to be shattered by something Jesus was going to say. He was going to reveal an "open door" policy to the sheepfold. Listen as Jesus speaks.

"I am [the I AM, and I AM] the good shepherd; [the shepherd, the good one, is literally what He said] and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. [In other words, He is saying, I AM the AM, and I know my sheep and my sheep know me.]

As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; [this is the kind of relationship He has with the sheep] and I lay down My life for the sheep.

And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one

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flock and one shepherd.”

(John 10:14-16)

I trust that you get the impact of those two principles that emerge immediately. The first is, He is about to enlarge the fold to include any sheep who wants to enter. His chosen sheep will balk at the entrance requirements and run, some of them, most of them. And He will open the gate to all who want to enter, provided they enter by way of the door. Once they are in, there's not going to be Jews and Gentiles, there's going to be one flock, just sheep, His sheep. The second truth is a reminder of the door principle. It's that there are only two kinds of sheep, those who are His and those who are not. He knows His own; His own know Him, they hear His voice and they follow Him. Those that aren't His, enjoy none of the benefits of being His sheep. None. When He speaks, they don't hear. When He leads, they don't follow. When He calls, they don't come. It's really important that we understand that.

You either belong to Jesus or you don't. No one “sort of” does. No one “almost” is a Christian. You either enter by the door, or you don't enter at all. You are either “born again” into the Kingdom of God, or it doesn't matter what an attractive, intelligent sheep you are; when the Good Shepherd returns, you will not be one of His. Anyone can enter the sheepfold, but no one can enter unless they come by way of the door. And no one can understand what the Shepherd is saying, unless they are His sheep. That's what Jesus said. It's clear cut. Then, Jesus goes on in verse 24, and the passage says this:

Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, “How long do You keep us in doubt? [Why don't you tell us?] If You are the Christ, tell us plainly. [Let us know.]

Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

(John 10:24)

Now, please pay attention. Jesus was saying that only my sheep understand what I'm saying, and unless you can come to me on my terms, you are not one of my sheep. Now I want us to use a little analogy, this morning, to see if we can bring it down to something a little bit more familiar. Many of you have, in recent years, tried to send a child to college, and maybe you can relate to this. We're going to apply for entrance, this morning, into the “Baa-Baa Black

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Sheep University of Eternity;” the college of knowledge for lost sheep. Now let’s imagine that we come up to the registrar’s office and apply for acceptance. We’ve been told that the benefits are incredible, the education is unparalleled, and the Chief Instructor is “divine,” if you’ll pardon the expression. You are well aware of your own credentials. You are not at all a bad student; you have made good grades in the High school of Worldly Acceptance and you seem to have a bright future. I mean, what school wouldn’t want you? Your behavior is nearly exemplary. But as you approach the registrar’s office, you are shocked at what you see, because you look up on the wall and lo and behold, this is what the sign says:

Baa-Baa Black Sheep University of Eternity

Entrance Requirements for Admission

Spiritual	Minimum Grade
Abilities.....	Accepted
Test.....	100%

Minimum Grade Acceptable: 100%. Uh oh. “One hundred!” you exclaim. “Nobody has a grade of 100 where spiritual things are concerned.” You’re right. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). And God can’t lower the entrance requirements and still be God. He is holy. He cannot coexist with sin. So, for Him to allow you to enter eternity having come short of His glory, would defile His name and destroy His holiness. You say, “Sir, what did you use to determine my score?” The registrar points to another sign. You could sort of see it coming, couldn’t you?

Grade Points For Entrance Consideration...

(Romans 3:9-25)

Worthiness	0
Works	0
(all the stuff you’ve done)	
Religion	0

Uh oh. There you are. You want the benefits of being in the University, but you can’t pass the entrance exam. All the things you thought qualified you add up to nothing. And you look like a successful sheep. You attend all the sheep meetings; you get sheared regularly, and you know most of the spiritual buzz words that sheep use. Why can’t the Shepherd just mix you in with all the rest and let you pull yourself up by your fluffy wool and be the best sheep you can? That way, the Shepherd can see how good you

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are, and just kind of work you in. It seems so natural, traditional, fair.

II- THE REMEDY

Jesus answers:

“And I give them eternal life,”

(John 10:28a)

Wait a minute. That means, you don't need to be a good sheep to be the Shepherd's sheep. You need to accept a gift. The word give indicates something is about to be received from somebody, which they did not earn, cannot buy, and for which they cannot pay. If you earn it, it's salary. If you buy it, it's a purchase. If you pay it back, it's a loan. But if it's a gift, it's free, undeserved, yours. The word them means the sheep who agree to be accepted into one fold. The word eternal is best defined in John 3:14-16, where Jesus says He gives to us eternal life; it's that which can't be ended, excludes perishing and represents and describes who God is. Virtually every quality of God is listed in Scripture with the word eternal by it. Have you ever thought about that?

His eternal power(I Timothy 6:16)

His eternal Spirit Hebrews 9:14)

His eternal glory (I Peter 5:10)

His eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12)

What God is saying in this passage is that though no one can earn entrance or pay his way into the sheepfold, God has a scholarship program so that anyone can get in who wants to. Now, look at His alternative.

The tuition is free; it's been paid for:

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.
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

It's available to anyone:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.
(Revelation 3:20)

It is not affected by past accomplishments:

...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...
(Titus 3:5)

There is no preferred order:

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to

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become children of God... (John 1:12)

There's no limit to the privileges..... (I Peter 1:5)

There's no time limit on the education.....(John 17:11)

You can't fail once you are in (Romans 8:38)

There is no other way in(John 14:6)

Are you beginning to get it? No one is good enough to be admitted; no one is bad enough to be excluded. Anyone can come, but only on a scholarship. You say, "That's good news." Beloved, that is The Good News. Let's let Jesus go on and finish.

III- THE RESULTS

"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

(John 10:28)

Now, if you are sitting here today, and you are a believer and you've never entered into the sheer freedom of that understanding, you are in needless bondage. God told His sheep that once they are in the sheepfold, having come by means of an unearned, non-repayable scholarship, they will never flunk out, because they are not there by virtue of having met the requirements in the first place. They are there as guests, and He knew when He let them in that they couldn't make the grade, or ever get the grade point average of one hundred set for them. God has given to you and given even to me, once we enter the Kingdom this way, (and there is no other way to enter) eternal life; and that life is unending, unchanging, and imperishable. And the results of that gift go on to say, we shall never perish. Would you say that one phrase with me? We shall never perish!

Shall: a completed, affirmed, unchangeable fact limited only by the ability of the one making the promise.

Never: a final negative that excludes alternatives.

Perish: be destroyed, released, or subject to decay or decline.

Do you get what He is saying? He is saying here that the sheep who enter the sheepfold by way of the scholarship are unconditionally guaranteed by the hand of the same one who gave them the right to enter, that they cannot under any conditions, or circumstances, even by choice, be released from the fold, or lost from the fold, as they make their way through the fields of the Christian life. I think the most beautiful words in the Bible may

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well be, I give unto them eternal life. But I think the next most beautiful words may well be, they shall never perish.

Never. Not under any circumstance. Because they deserve to be kept? No. They never deserved to be saved. But they shall never perish because the Shepherd who saved them has assumed the complete responsibility for seeing that they make it back to the sheepfold. The enemy is going to attack. The sheep will be bruised and wounded and weary. But they shall never perish. He may carry some of them into the sheepfold in His arms, battered and bleeding, but He will carry them home. The Shepherd knows His sheep. He gives them unending, unchanging spiritual life, and because He gives it, nobody can take it away. Catch a glimpse of the awesomeness of the grace of God.

IV- THE REASON

The reason nobody can take it away is: (and Jesus said, “You had better understand why I said that.”)

“My Father, who has given them to Me [as a gift], is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.

I and My Father are one.”

(John 10:29-30)

Your salvation and your security are based, beloved, on one thing: the power of God. The reason you are secure in Christ is the same reason you are saved. A loving God, according to this passage, wrapped you up in a cloak of love and gave you as a love gift to His only Son. And He promised His Son that He would keep you forever. Now, the only question then is, can He? The answer is, yes, He can, because He is greater than all, and no one is able to pluck us out of His Father’s hand. And the Father and the Son are, in essence, One, so no one can take us “out of Christ.” Not ever.

V- THE REASSURANCE

Paul wanted to be sure we understood that. So, in Romans, chapter eight, he wrote these words:

And we know [experientially, without a doubt, understand and know] that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom

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He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, [implied, not you] and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

For I am persuaded [and I pray that you are, too] that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 8:28-39)

Now, think for just a minute. We don't have time to go through this in detail, but think about just the simple statements Paul just made.

1- Nothing that can ever happen will void the plan of God (vs. 28).

2- The reason is, God did it all (vss. 29-30). He called you. He justified you. He'll glorify you.

3- Who is strong enough to take our salvation from us (vs. 31)? If God determined to save us, who is strong enough to lose us?

4- If God saved us based only on the merits of His own holiness, who can bring any charge against us that would nullify His goodness (vss. 33-35)?

5- In fact, the One who saved us now intercedes for us every time anyone brings a charge against us (vs. 34).

6- So who or what could ever take our salvation from us (vs. 35)? Circumstances?

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7- No (vs. 36). We are nothing more than sheep who deserve to be in the slaughterhouse. If it wasn't for the shepherd, we wouldn't even be there.

8- Rather, the things Satan would use to take us from God are the things God uses to build us into more than conquerors (vs. 37).

9- So think about it (vs. 38). If this is true, nothing in this life, nothing associated with death, nothing in the heavens, nothing on earth, nothing that has happened, nothing that is happening, nothing that ever will happen; no thing and no person is strong enough to remove us from the sheepfold; and once we are in the sheepfold we are "in Christ", and "in Christ" we are secure.

Because we deserve it? No! We never deserved to be there in the first place. The only reason we are in Christ is that God so loved the world that He gave Himself away (John 3:16). The only reason we are eternally secure is that He will never stop loving us. Therefore, we are always and will always be the recipients of His grace. I believe, the only way you and I, once we are saved, could ever be lost again would be for one of these five things to happen:

1- God would have to change His mind.

2- God would have to nullify His Word.

3- God would have to disregard His Son.

4- God would have to take back the gift He gave.

5- Someone or something would have to be strong enough to wrestle us from the hand of a determined God, whose Word is immutable, by nature who is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and sovereign, and who by an act of His will has determined that no one or no thing will ever separate us or pluck us out of His hand.

You say, "Wait a minute. That isn't logical." No, it isn't meant to be logical. Your salvation isn't logical. How logical is it that a holy God would take sinful man and, seeing that not even one of them is deserving by merit of their goodness, pay the penalty personally to redeem them and give them Himself to them. Is that logical? No. Beloved, you are a "kept" person.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again [we have been born again] to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

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To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, [between now and then, you are going to get in a lot of hot water—loose translation—and it's going to get rough]

That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
(I Peter 1:3-7)

My friend your inheritance is incorruptible. It cannot lose its purity; not by what you do or Satan does. It is undefiled. It can't lose its power. It fades not away. It can't gradually lose its existence through apathy. It has been reserved. God made reservations for you in heaven and they are non-cancelable, if you are among those who are kept by the power of God. That word literally has to do with the "keep" of the castle. It's a room inside the castle that's impervious to destruction. The enemy can't get in. You are protected. You say, "But sometimes I feel lost." I understand, and I know that you may be saying to me, "Wait a minute. I know somebody who is a Christian, or said they were a Christian and they fell back into sin, and maybe even renounced their relationship with Christ. And based on that experience, I have assumed my theology says that salvation is only as secure as your ability to withstand temptation or hold on to your commitment. That's not true.

You are not in the sheepfold because of what you have done, and you won't stay there because of what you have or haven't done. You are there and you will stay there because of what Jesus has done. You are there, and you'll stay there, period, because of Him. He saved you. He branded you, the Scripture says. You are sealed and you are kept. (See II Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:1-14, Ephesians 4:30 and I Peter 1 again.) Remember the seal of the Spirit, Scripture describes as that which secures a container so it's contents can't be corrupted; the brand of the Spirit that marks you forever as His sheep; the down payment or earnest of your inheritance that guarantees deliverance on redemption day; the keep of the castle, and the incorruptible inheritance that cannot be taken from you.

My friend, that person you knew about; that person you heard

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about—maybe it was someone you love; maybe it's you—must be examined in the light of Scripture, not experience. And in the light of Scripture, either he or she tried to enter the sheepfold another way and was never His, or they have strayed from the flock, and through the wiles of the enemy have even come to deny whose sheep they are. But, beloved, assuming that sheep was once branded as His, I want to promise you something. When the Master Shepherd makes His final entrance into the sheepfold of eternity, and roll call takes place and He calls each sheep by name, that one who may be nosing around in the enemy camp, a disgrace to the Kingdom, will be found nestled in the arms of the Good Shepherd, safe and secure. Will they receive the same rewards as someone who's been faithful? Absolutely not. I Corinthians 3:12-15 describes a scenario where their works will go up in smoke, but they will be saved as one who has been snatched from a burning building with nothing to show for it.

So, why don't we just live a life of compromise then, knowing that no matter what we do we'll still be saved? Paul answered that in Romans 6. You remember? It's like he knew we were going to ask.

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? [And he shouted it so loud, I believe it ought to lift up off the pages of your Bible until the Bible shakes. He said,]

[God forbid.] Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (Romans 6:1,2 NKJV)

The assurance that we are eternally in Christ ought not to be a license to sin, but a motivation to obedience and praise. It ought not to be a temptation to apathy, but a drive to commitment. Yes, the enemy will attack us; the world will confound us; the sky will be filled with clouds and we will want to run and hide. But if God be for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31)? Our Father will always love us. Nothing can separate us from His love. We ought to be so filled with gratitude to have a Father like that, we ought to be spending every waking moment, praising Him, trying to live in harmony with His will, and longing simply to please His heart. Why? To assure our salvation? No. He did that. We serve Him out of love, not fear; out of gratitude, not penance.

Beloved, if you're here this morning, or you're listening on tape or anywhere else and you have never trusted Christ to save you, and you have been doing good works, coming to church, trying

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to live a life worthy of God's acceptance, I want to remind you of the entrance requirements to the University of Eternity. All you have done, and all you are doing, and all you can ever do to earn God's favor will give you an SAT score of zero. All of your righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). They add up to less than nothing. But praise God, you don't have to measure up to enter. God has a scholarship for you. It's free; it's available to all; no one is preferred before you; there are unlimited privileges; and once you're admitted, you're in.

But, my friend, you must acknowledge that you can't get in any other way. And you must humble yourself at the door before the Registrar of Eternity and receive His gift. It's free, but you have to take it. Won't you do that right now? Give your life to Jesus Christ. He alone can save you. He alone can keep you. And He alone will.

And if you're a Christian who has been struggling with the assurance of your salvation, I just want to remind you in closing, that the Good Shepherd knows His sheep. He knows them so well that He calls each one of them by name. He loves them so much He gives each one of them His name. That Great Shepherd of the sheep wants to remind us this morning, that once we're His, we're His. He gave us eternal life. We did not earn it. But we shall never perish. You say, "Never?" He said, "Never." Why? Because His Father gave us to Him, and His Father is greater than all; so, no man can take us out of His Father's hand. Not death, not life, not angels, not principalities, not powers, not things present, nor things to come. Not height, nor depth, nor anything else (Romans 8:38-39).

Let's stop listening to the enemy's lies. Instead of being filled with fear and frustration, let's run to the Shepherd's arms, and let's stay so close to His nail-scarred side that we would never do anything to break His heart. You say, "To assure our salvation?" No, beloved. He has done that.

To show Him how much we love Him, beloved. We can do that. And we can do that gratefully; for because of Him, we shall never perish.

OH, WHAT VICTORY

Oh, what victory, oh, what joy,
Oh, what peace divine,
Just to know that I am God's
And to know that He is mine.

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Oh, what gentle, sweet assurance
Fills my heart with praise,
I've been to His heart adopted,
I'll be His through all my days.

It matters not what evil venom
Is hurled at by fiery dart,
Nothing ere by man or demon
Can remove us from God's heart.

Nothing ere by our own doing
Be it deed or evil plan,
Can be strong enough by merit
To release us from His hands.

Oh, what comfort, oh, what love
That though trapped by evil deed,
He who died now sits in heaven
Bound by love to intercede.

Is the cause that we deserve it?
Oh, beloved, learn it well,
All that we deserve or merit
Are the vicious fires of hell.

No, it's only that God loves us
And He's promised every one,
That if we but will receive Him
He will give to us His Son.

And the gift is everlasting
Bound in cords from God above,
Safe, secure and non-decaying
Kept forever by His love.

Let's pray.

Our Father and our God,

How in awe we are of Your grace. May it cause us this moment, to fall on our faces in repentance, adoration and praise. We shall never perish because of who You are; because of what You've done and because of what You ever shall do even through eternity. Keep us.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

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A Challenge to Further Study

1- Read Romans 8:28-39 again carefully. Now put it in your own words and personalize it. Read it as though it were written specifically to you. For example: “For I now know that all things work together for my good and for God’s glory, because I am called by God according to His purposes.” When you come to verses 35-39, use words you can understand to describe “tribulation, distress, etc.” Now pray that passage back to God and end with a time of praise and thanksgiving.

2- Reread the statements on pages 10 and 11 of the transcript and ask God to clarify the issues in your mind.

3- Meditate on I Peter 1:5 and 6. What does the word “kept” mean? What is “keeping” you? How strong is it? Are you commanded to rejoice because you are being “kept”? Do you? Does this mean no problems? No temptations? No persecution? How do you know?

A Challenge to Further Application

1- Do you understand the “scholarship” principle of admission into God’s kingdom? Do you understand that you do not even partially qualify for admission apart from that scholarship? Why does Satan fight that so? Review the differences between earning something, buying something, and being given a gift (page 6). Do you clearly grasp that? Can you explain it to someone else?

2- Can you bow before God and recite the words, “I shall never perish” and not be filled with gratitude and awe? How often do you thank Him for the permanence of your salvation?

3- Does an understanding of your security in Christ make you more prone to sin or less? How does the concept of rewards balance with eternal security?

A Challenge to Scripture Memory

Memorize John 10:27-30

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