

100 BIBLE LESSONS

Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 20 – SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

INTRODUCTION

Notes adapted from pastor H.A. Ironside, Chicago, Illinois, April 24, 1934.

I. SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER: IT'S MEANING

When we speak of the security of the believer, what do we mean? We mean that once a poor sinner has been regenerated by the Word and the Spirit of God, once he has received a new life and a new nature and has been made partaker of the divine nature, once he has been justified from every charge before the throne of God, it is absolutely impossible that that man should ever again be a lost soul.

II. SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER: WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN

Let me say what we do not mean when we speak of the security of the believer. We do not mean that it necessarily follows that if one professes to be saved, if he comes out to the front in a meeting, shakes the preacher's hand, and says he accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, that that person is eternally safe. It does not mean that if one joins a church or makes a profession of faith, is baptized, becomes a communicant, and takes an interest in Christian work, that that person is forever secure. It does not mean that because one manifests certain gifts and exercises these gifts in Christian testimony, that that person is necessarily eternally secure.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said to the people of His day, as recorded in Matthew 7:21-23: *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. [22] Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? [23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."* Such people then may have been very active in what is called Christian work – they have preached, they have cast out demons, that is, their influence has been such that men and women have found deliverance from satanic power through their ministrations in the name of Jesus, they have professed with their lips, they have accomplished many wonderful works, but they are found in that day among the lost, and when they plead their great activity and their earnestness in Christian testimony, the Lord says to them, *"I never knew you."* Notice, He does not say to them, "I used to know you, but you have forfeited My favor and I do not know you any longer." He says, *"I never knew you."*

III. CHRIST'S ONE OFFERING

When we say that the believer in the Lord Jesus is eternally secure, we base it upon a number of lines of scriptural testimony. In the first place, we rest it upon the perfection of Christ's one offering upon the cross.

"For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." (Heb. 10:14)

Perfected for how long? "Oh," says somebody, "as long as they do not sin." No, that is not what it says, *"He hath perfected for ever."* Why? Because the sacrifice is all-
efficacious.

IV. GOD'S LOVE FOR THE BELIEVER

"[33] Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. [34] Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [36] As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. [37] Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. [38] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:33-39.

Let's examine Romans 8:38-39. *"For I am persuaded, 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 creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* This is the inspired answer to the question of verse 35. *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"* That is, once we have been justified by faith, who is there, what power is there, that can separate from the love of Christ? And the answer, how full, how clear, not a shadow, not a doubt, not a question left, when the apostle says that neither death nor life shall separate! Can you think of anything which is neither included in death nor in life? Neither death nor life shall separate!

No unseen powers can separate the believer from Christ, *"neither angels, nor principalities, not powers."* These terms are used again and again in the New Testament, particularly in the Epistles, for angelic hosts, good and evil. When our Savior rose from the dead he spoiled principalities and powers, that is, He defeated all the hosts of evil led by Satan; and so we may take it that the angels referred to here are good angels, and the principalities and powers are possible evil angels. But there is nothing that good angels would do and nothing that evil angels can do which will result in the separation of the believer from Christ.

And then further he says, *"neither things present nor things to come."* Again let me put the question, Can you think of any experience through which a believer might ever go which is neither a thing present nor a thing to come? And the Holy Ghost says that

neither things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from the love of Christ.

As though that were not enough, He speaks in a more general way when He says that neither "*Height nor depth* (nothing in heaven, nothing in hell), *nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" It looks to me as though we are safe if we are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When we speak of the security of the believer, what do we mean?
2. When we speak of the security of the believer, what do we not mean?
3. Why did the people in Matthew 7:21-23 not enter the Kingdom? (v.v. 21, 23)
4. Christ's one offering perfects who? For how long? (Heb. 10:14)
5. Once we have been justified by faith, who is there, what power is there, that can separate us from the love of Christ?
6. Can you think of anything which is neither included in death nor in life that can separate us from the love of Christ? (Rom. 8:38)
7. There is nothing that good angels would do and nothing that evil angels can do which will result in the separation of the believer from Christ. (Rom. 8:38) True or False.
8. Can you think of any experience through which a believer might ever go which is neither a thing present nor a thing to come? (Rom. 8:38)
9. The Holy Ghost says that neither things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from the love of Christ. (Rom. 8:38) True or False
10. Nothing in heaven, nothing in hell, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 8:39) True or False