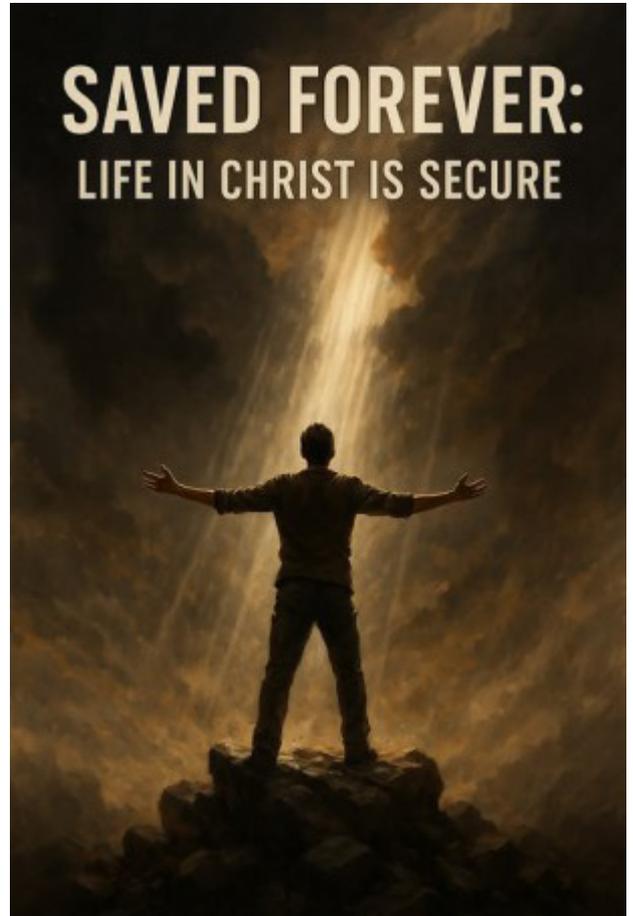


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IN Christ - Saved Forever: Life IN Christ is Secure



By Dan Maines

Saved Forever: Life IN Christ is Secure

IN CHRIST: The Only Place of Eternal Security

I believe the promises of God have been fulfilled as He said they would be. The kingdom has come, the judgment has occurred, and the new covenant has been established. In that covenant, the most secure place in all of reality is being **IN CHRIST**. If you are in Christ, you are saved forever. You cannot lose what God has secured. But if you are not in Christ, you

were never saved to begin with. There is no middle ground.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says it plainly: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Being in Christ changes your very nature. You go from dead to alive, from lost to found, from sinner to saint. You are not just improved, you are new. That reality is not something God gives and takes back. He does not make a new creation and then toss it away.

SALVATION IS NOT CONDITIONAL ON OUR PERFORMANCE

This is where we must understand the difference between **salvation**, **judgment**, and **rewards**. These are not the same things.

Salvation is the free gift of eternal life in Christ. It is not earned, it is received by faith.

Judgment was about covenantal transition. The first-century judgment brought the end of the old covenant system and established the unshakable kingdom (Hebrews 12:28).

Rewards are based on faithfulness, but they do not affect your salvation. A believer might suffer loss of reward (1 Corinthians 3:15), but he himself will be saved.

This distinction matters, because many today confuse failure with loss of salvation. But our failures were paid for on the cross. Our eternal security is not built on our works, but on the finished work of Christ.

Romans 8:38-39 declares: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present,

nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

That passage leaves no loopholes. Nothing in creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ. Not your sin, not your failure, not the devil, not death. If you are in Christ, you are locked into eternal love. God's covenant faithfulness is absolute.

ETERNAL LIFE MEANS ETERNAL

Let's take Jesus at His word:

John 10:28 "And I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

If eternal life could be lost, it would not be eternal. Jesus did not give temporary life. He gives eternal life, and says no one can snatch you from His hand. That includes yourself. Your salvation is not based on how tightly you hold on to Jesus, but how securely He holds you. And He said, you will never perish.

Now, what about **Hebrews 6:4-6**? This passage has often been misunderstood. Here's what it says:

"For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame."

This warning is not about truly saved people losing salvation. It is about those who were exposed to the covenant blessings, yet remained unbelieving. They tasted, but did not consume. They

were near, but not in Christ. If they fall away, there is no second chance through the old covenant system. They cannot go backward to temple worship or animal sacrifice. The judgment was coming on that system, and those who rejected Christ had no other hope.

This aligns with what John said:

1 John 2:19 "They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be evident that they all are not of us."

Those who fall away prove they were never truly in Christ. Because if they had been, they would have remained. This is not a warning to believers that they can lose their salvation, it is a confirmation that salvation is genuine and permanent.

WE REST IN COMPLETED SALVATION

We live today in the fulfilled reality of the new covenant. The old has passed, the new has come. The kingdom is present. And salvation in Christ is complete.

Hebrews 10:14 "For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified."

That offering perfected us. Not for a while, but for all time. That is the confidence we have in Christ. We don't live in fear, we live in assurance. We don't cling to salvation, we rest in it.

If you are in Christ, you are saved forever. If you are not in Christ, you never were.

So the call today is not to try to earn your place, but to examine whether you are in Him. Because if you are, then you can know that you are already seated in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6),

that you already have eternal life (1 John 5:13), and that nothing will ever separate you from the love of God.

Live with that confidence. Teach it. Stand firm in it. You are saved forever in Christ.

Amen!

FOR THOSE NOT IN CHRIST: HOW TO ENTER INTO CHRIST

If you are not in Christ, you are not secure. You are still in your sins, outside of the covenant, and without hope. But God has made a way to bring you into Christ, where eternal life and peace are found.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life."

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

Ephesians 1:13 "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise."

Galatians 3:26 "For you are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

Romans 10:9-10 "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses,

resulting in salvation."

You are brought into Christ by faith in Him, not by works, not by religious rituals. Salvation is not earned, it is received by trusting in what Jesus has already done.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

If you believe in Christ, trust Him as Lord, and receive the gospel, then you are no longer outside, you are in Him. And if you are in Him, you are saved forever.

Come to Him by faith today. Be found in Christ, and rest in His finished work. Accept Him or reject Him, it's your choice. You're either IN or OUT of Christ.

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