

The Threefold Work of Preservation

Selective Scriptures

I. The Sovereign Work of the Father:

II. The High Priestly Work of Christ:

III. The Seal and Guarantee of the Spirit:

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Introduction:

- all too often I meet professing Christians who believe they can lose their salvation
- now, I think we've clearly established that the Bible consistently affirms that salvation is forever
- but, everlasting salvation won't mean anything to you if you're not a genuine believer
- only the true believer in Jesus Christ has everlasting eternal life
- and a great way to see the eternality of the true believer's salvation is to recognize the power of **"The Threefold Work of Preservation"** by the Holy Trinity
- this collective work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is irrevocable
- **Rom 11:29; "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable"**
- so, with those opening thoughts let's take a look at **"The Threefold Work of Preservation"** by the power of the Holy Trinity

I. The Sovereign Work of the Father:

- turn with me please to **John 5:24**; “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life”
- pastor/teacher John MacArthur said this regarding this verse; “That may be the most monumental statement ever made in the Bible relative to the security of salvation”
- loved ones, found in **John 5:24** is the little word “. has”
- “. has everlasting life (and) has passed from death into life”
- “. has” is in the present tense, meaning the believer ‘already has’ everlasting life and continues to have everlasting life
- now, that’s important, the believer ‘already has’ everlasting life and continues to have everlasting life
- furthermore, the believer ‘already has’ passed from death into life and continues to pass from death into life
- the indisputable conclusion of the text is that the true believer “. has” everlasting eternal life, now and forever more, Amen
- in addition to what Jesus said in **John 5:24**, we have His statement in John chapter 6
- turn with me please to **John 6:37, 39**; “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out This is the will of the Father who sent me, that of all He has given Me I should lose (not one), but should raise (them) up at the last day”
- the “. all” in **John 6:37-40** is a direct identification to God’s elect
- you see, the simple fact of the matter is “. all” whom God “. has” sovereignly chosen **will** come to Christ
- and these elect of God, in and through Christ, are eternally secure forever to everlasting life
- because Jesus promised that He would lose “. not one”

- “..... all” who are chosen for salvation
- “..... all” who come to Christ will be “..... raised up at the last day”
- now, in vs. 40, Jesus sums up God’s divine plan of salvation
- John 6:40; “And this is the will of (God the Father) who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day”
- beloved, whoever believes in Christ “..... will be raised up” to the fullness of eternal life
- because this is the “..... will of (God the Father)” and the promise of God’s Word
- let’s read once again in its entirety John 6:37-40 allowing God’s Word to saturate our hearts
- now, let’s look further into John Gospel at chapter 10
- turn with me please to John 10:27-29
- friends, picture the believer resting securely in Christ’s hands, which in turn are clasped tightly by the Father’s hands
- now, that’s a secure position
- yet, some suggest that while God holds tightly onto us, we can fall or jump out of that divine grip
- may I say, that that is nothing more than a bunch of whoooo
- loved ones, do really think Jesus is going to claim that “..... no one is able to snatch (the believer) out of the Father’s hand” if that was possible
- our blessed Lord and Savior is not a liar
- if this were possible, think of the implications you are making against the sovereign God of your salvation and His ability to keep you

II. The High Priestly Work of Christ:

- as our **“High Priest”** Jesus serves as the **“..... anchor”** of our souls
- who forever keeps us from drifting away from God
- **Heb 6:19-20; “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever”**
- friends, as a believer, your relationship with Christ **“..... anchors”** you securely to God
- you can be confident in this because Christ entered the **“..... veil”** once and for all and accomplished our salvation by the shedding of His blood
- you see, the most sacred place in the Jewish temple was the holy of holies, which was **“..... veiled”** from the rest of the temple
- and inside the holy of holies rested the ark of the covenant, which signified the glory and presence of God
- only once a year, on the Day of Atonement, could the high priest of Israel enter beyond the **“..... veil”** and make atonement for the sins of his people
- but, under the New Covenant, Christ made atonement by His sacrifice on the cross, once for all time and for all people who would embrace Him as Lord and Savior
- thus, the believer’s soul is, in God’s mind, already secure within the **“..... veil”**
- the **“..... veil”** God’s eternal sanctuary
- now, once Jesus entered the heavenly holy of holies, He did not leave as did the former Jewish high priests
- **Heb 1:3; “Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Majesty of High”**
- may I say, that Jesus remains there forever as the Guardian of our souls
- such absolute security is almost incomprehensible

- not only are our souls “. anchored” within the impassable and impregnable heavenly sanctuary, but, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, stands guard over all of them as well
- how can the Christian’s security be described as anything but eternal ? ? ?
- assuredly, we can trust our souls with God and the Savior He provided
- turn with me please to **John 17: 11-24**
- while Jesus was still on this earth anticipating His “High Priestly Work” the night before the cross, He prayed this for His disciples; “Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost” John 17:11-12
- now, understand that Jesus extended that prayer of protection beyond His disciples, to all believers of all ages, who would come to believe in Christ
- **John 17:15-19; “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth”**
- now, speaking about all believers of all ages, Christ says, **vs. 20; “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word”**
- loved ones, since our blessed Savior always prays in perfect harmony with the will of the Father, we can be assured that “. keeping” our salvation secured is the will of God the Father and Christ’s perfect submission
- you see, we are secured by **“The Sovereign Work of God”** and by the continual and faithful **“High Priestly Work of Christ”**
- to further the true believer’s security Jesus continued in **vs. 24; “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”**
- can there be any doubt to the everlasting eternal life of the believer in Christ, especially when you see **“The High Priestly Work of Christ”**

III. The Seal and Guarantee of the Spirit:

- you would think, that God's simple and straight forward proclamation found in John's Gospel would be enough to convince us of our security in salvation
- but, God wanted to tell us more
- God wanted to tell us that we are ". sealed (and) guaranteed an inheritance"
- He did so through the great Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapter one
- turn with me please to Eph 1:11-14
- beloved, God is ". guaranteeing" His promises in vs. 4-9 by His ". seal" and His ". guarantee"
- and to extinguish any thought of insecurity, Paul makes a statement of God's ability to carry out what He's provided
- turn with me please to Eph 1:19-20
- can there truly be any question about the true believer's eternity ???
- not according to Scripture
- as one means of ". guaranteeing" His promises, God ". seals" us with the power of the third person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit
- the same Holy Spirit that remains in us to empower us to persevere to the end
- the same Holy Spirit that is our Helper and Advocate
- the same Holy Spirit that assures us of our ". inheritance" in Jesus Christ
- the same Holy Spirit that ". bears witness with our spirit" Rom 8:16-17
- turn with me please to Rom 8:16-17
- friends, the holy Spirit is our security, our special ". guarantee" from God

- the N.A.S.B. rendered Eph 1:14; “(the Holy Spirit) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance”
- the word “pledge” comes from the Greek word “arrabon” which literally means; ‘securing a purchase’
- this word referred to a down payment or earnest money ‘securing a purchase’
- you see, as believers we have the Holy Spirit as the divine “. pledge of our inheritance” securing our purchase
- God’s first installment of His “. guarantee” that the fullness of His promise will one day be completely fulfilled
- furthermore, we are assured with an absolute certainty only God can provide
- and here’s why, because the Holy Spirit is the church’s irrevocable “. pledge” securing our purchase
- in other words, the Holy Spirit’s “. pledge” is the church’s divine engagement ring signifying that as Christ’s bride, she will never be forgotten nor forsaken
- thus, the Father’s sovereign decree
- the Son’s intercessory ministry
- and the Spirit’s “. sealed (and) guarantee”
- all work together magnificently in providing a secure salvation
- all work together magnificently in providing the eternality of our salvation

In Closing:

- beloved, because of **“The Threefold Work of Preservation”** by the Triune God that brings **“..... peace**” to the true believer
- a **“..... peace that surpasses all understanding**” Phil 4:7
- a **“..... peace**” that is literally the tranquility of the heart
- to put it another way, a **“..... peace**” that is a state of no more war
- listen to how the Apostle Paul puts it; **“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”** Rom 5:1
- now, this is very important, the **“..... peace**” spoken of here is not subjective but objective
- in other words, **“..... peace**” is not a feeling but a fact
- apart from salvation through Jesus Christ, every human being is spiritually at war with God, and an enemy of God
- regardless of what his or her feeling about God may be
- in the same way, the person who is **“..... justified by faith**” is at **“..... peace with God**”
- thus, through trusting in Jesus Christ, a sinner’s war with God has ended for all eternity
- read John MacArthur **“Saved Without A Doubt”** pg. 41, middle paragraph highlighted
- you see, on the cross Christ took upon Himself all the fury of God’s wrath that sinful humanity deserves
- and those who trust in Christ are no longer God’s enemies under His wrath
- but, are at **“..... peace with God**”
- therefore, the most immediate consequence of **“..... justification**” is reconciliation

- a reconciliation with God that brings “. peace with God”
- and that “. peace with God” is permanent and irrevocable because of Jesus Christ
- I make this claim because our blessed Lord says of those who belong to Him; “. I will remember their sins no more” Heb 8:12
- thus, **“The Perseverance of the Saints”** is a collective work of the Triune God
- and Their work has eternal permanence
- everlasting eternal life
- that will never blemish nor fade away
- because of **“The Threefold Work of Preservation”** of the Triune God
- turn with me once again to **Jude 25-25**