TITLE: **ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**
PART III
(The Security of the Believer)

III. HOW CAN YOU KNOW ONCE YOU ARE SAVED, THAT YOU WILL <u>ALWAYS BE SAVED</u>? Will the salvation of a genuine believer ever be lost?

A. THE _____ OF SALVATION SHOWS YOU ARE ETERNALLY SECURE.

If keeping our salvation <u>depended on our works</u>, we might lose it.

The Bible, however, declares that "salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9). It is a work <u>originated</u> by God the Father, <u>wrought</u> through Christ the Son, and <u>applied</u> by the Holy Spirit. The very definition of the word "salvation" argues for eternal security because it communicates a saving, rescuing, deliverance, and preservation <u>from</u> the bondage of Satan, sin, and sin's consequences (hell), and a permanent restoration and renewal <u>unto</u> God, making the believer a partaker of the infinite riches of God's grace.

The Apostle Paul gives a definite, clear description of how a sinner is saved by saying that salvation is "by grace through faith" (Eph. 2:8). Salvation is <u>not</u> "by faith through grace," which would place the emphasis upon man's faith; rather, it is _____, placing the emphasis upon <u>God</u> and not man.

B. THE _____ OF SALVATION SHOW THAT YOU ARE ETERNALLY SECURE

If full salvation was not a <u>present possession</u> we might lose it.

The Bible declares that a believer _____been saved (past tense); and Heaven's possession (with its blessings) are _____ ours.

1. We have already been _____ with ___ spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3)
2. We have already been _____ in the beloved (Eph. 1:6)
3. We presently possess _____ and _____ (Eph. 1:7)
4. We have already obtained an _____ (Eph. 1:11)
5. We have already been _____ with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13)
6. We have already been _____ (made alive) with Christ (Eph. 2:5)
7. We have already been _____ and _____ together with Christ (Eph. 2:6)

(NOTE: V. 8 - "are ye saved" = Greek "you have been saved and still are" (perfect, passive participle)

The Bible declares that a believer has already been saved from the curse of the Law (Gal. 3:13), from wrath (I Th. 5:9), from death (see II Cor. 1:10), and from destruction (II Th. 1:9). A sinner who trusts in Christ becomes: a child of God (Jn. 1:12-13), regenerated (Tit. 3:5), a new creature (II Cor. 5:17), a heavenly citizen (Phil. 3:20), an heir to God's grace and inheritance (Rom. 5:2; Eph. 1:18), and complete in Christ (Col. 2:9-10).

It is by an act of the immutable God that a believing sinner is "declared righteous" (Rom. 3:21-26), sanctified (I Cor. 6:11), perfected forever (Heb. 10:14), delivered from the powers of darkness (Acts 26:18), and placed on the solid Rock (I Cor. 3:9-15).

Therefore, believers can know that they are: of God (I Jn. 5:19), have passed from death (I Jn. 3:14), are "in Him" (I Jn. 2:5), possess eternal life (I Jn. 5:11).

In the future, believers shall be: raised (I Th. 4:16), changed (I Cor. 15:52), caught up (I Th. 4:17), be like Him (I Jn. 3:2), be with Him (I Th. 4:17), and be satisfied (Ps. 17:15).

C. THE ____ OF SALVATION SHOWS YOU ARE ETERNALLY SECURE.

If our salvation was not resting in the unchanging character of God, we might lose it.

1. The Bible describes God as a God of _____.
   "He abideth faithful" (II Tim. 2:13); "He cannot lie" (Tit. 1:2); and "His Word is truth" (Jn. 17:17). Paul had confidence in the trustworthiness of God when he said to Timothy "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day" (II Tim. 1:12).

2. Secondly, the Bible describes God as a God of _____.

   a. God's love is _____ (Rom. 5:8). Paul states that if Christ was willing to die for men though they were sinners, how much more will He keep them once He has saved them -- "much more then being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him!" (Rom. 5:8-9)

   b. God's love is _____. (I Jn.4:10)
   A man having been saved for many years is no more worthy of God's saving grace (a manifestation of His love) than he was before salvation or at the time of salvation. Men are saved by unmerited grace and kept saved by unmerited grace! (Rom.4; Gal.3:2,3).

X bb `f0b\G's love is _____. Paullevancy.

The verse was originally stated some 1,400 years ago, yet still was useful.

3) This shows the Bible`s varied applicability.

Was originally given to Israel, and now is used against Satan.

4) This shows the Bible's suitability - to handle needs of all occasions.

5) This shows the Bible's inspiration - "God-breathed" (II Tim. 3:16); "every word" (v. 4)

NOTE: Though Christ's words while on earth had equal authority with the written Word--He appealed to the written Word!
How much more should we?

The verse Christ used was Deut. 8:3.
(Read and explain Dt. 8:1-3)
God's supernatural feeding of Israel with "manna," teaches the principle that life is not sustained merely by physical means, but by spiritual, supernatural provision.

God is teaching that the source and sustenance of life depends on Him!

God promises over and over to meet our needs (Phil. 4:19; Mt. 6:8, 33).

Life is more than food; there are deeper dimensions to life.

There are times when we must refrain from grabbing immediate satisfaction - if it contradicts God's will, or God's means of getting it (See Jn. 4:31-35).

B. THE SECOND TEMPTATION (v.5-7)

1. Satan's method of temptation (v.5,6)
(Surrender yourself - foolishly)

v.5) Christ's bodily transport to Jerusalem (cp.Acts 8:39 - Phillips transport)

Whereas in the first temptation a need (lack of food) already existed, in the second, Satan suggested that a need be created.

Satan now appeals to the "pride of life"

To be more persuasive, Satan now uses Scripture to justify his suggestion. By countering Christ's Scripture with Scripture, Satan in a sense is implicitly saying: "so you want to battle with Scripture oh!, Well take that!"

Satan's use of Scripture shows:

1) His respect for it (at least when he is dealing with others who respect it)

2) His extensive knowledge of it (cp. His messengers II Cor.11:15).

3) His misuse of it. Satan misquotes Ps.91:11. The liar (Jn.8:44) leaves out the phrase "in all your ways" Note: In the context of Ps. 91:11 God's promise to protect is limited to "all your (righteous) ways" or "all a man's ways that please God", not to protect man no matter what he does.

v.6) In this temptation Satan is implying:

"So you claim to be God's Son and you claim to trust His Word...If so, why don't you demonstrate your sonship and prove the truth of God's Word by putting Him to a test - a spiritual test? If you won't use your own divine power to help yourself let your father use His divine power to help you. If you won't act independently of the Father, let the Father act. Give your Father a chance to fulfill the Scripture I just quoted to you."(MacArthur, p.93).

2. Christ's means of victory (v.7; Deut.6:16)
(Deny the opportunity to test God - Confidently)

v.7) Christ reverses Satan's tempting appeal by comparing Scripture with Scripture, while Satan opposed Scripture to Scripture. Satan's use contradicted other passages that warned against testing God. (cp. Num.14:22-23; Ps.19:13; Dan.5:22-23)

Jesus Quotes Deut. 6:16 from the Septuagint (Greek translation of the O.T.) exactly, which shows His approval of translations)

Read & explain Deut.6:14-16.

"o is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view (future) to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory" (Eph. 1:13-14)