



Salvation – January 31, 2019

**Verses Covered**

*Hebrews 6:4 – 6, 9*

*Matthew 13:18 – 19*

*Hebrews 3:15*

*1 John 2:18 – 19*

*1 Peter 1:3 – 7*

*Ephesians 1:13 - 14*

*Romans 8:26 - 28*

*Hebrews 7:25*

*Philippians 1:6*

*Ephesians 4:30*

*1 Thessalonians 5:19*

*Hebrews 12:4 – 11*

*1 Corinthians 11:27 – 30*

*1 John 5:16 - 17*

So when I first came to Central 32 years ago, we had a guy join from a free-will Baptist church. I'd been here maybe four or five months and one of the things I tell young pastors, as a matter of fact, my wife and I met with a number of them this past weekend. First thing I tell young pastors is, "Look, if you go to a church, don't change anything your first three or four years." You make sure they get to know you, to trust you, before you do anything. As a matter of fact, one of the young pastors that I know was going through misery in his church. A bunch left precisely because he's in his first year and he made some major changes.

So I get this phone call. We've got this guy join from a free-will Baptist church. I've been here just a couple of months. And this guy joins and so Tuesday morning I get a phone call from one of our deacons. He said, "Listen, I told 'Bob' why he was going to have to be re-baptized." And I said, "You're going to have to tell me. Why is he going to have to be re-baptized? He's free-will Baptist. They believe what we believe in Jesus." He said, "Well, he doesn't believe that you can stay saved. He believes you can lose your salvation. So we're going to have to re-baptize him." So that's when I got the deacons together and said, "Boys, if we have a baptism policy that rules out Jesus and Paul, we probably need to shift the policy."

We are going to look today at losing your salvation. Now there's a great debate on that. As a matter of fact, I want you to turn to the book of Hebrews, chapter 6. There is a debate on whether or not you can lose your salvation and there are a lot of good Christians who believe you can. There are two theories on it. One is that you sin in such a way that God looks down and says, "I'm done." You molest your daughter, for example. I had a guy in my office one day, he and his wife, and they're both weeping over an affair he had. He's looking at his wife saying, "Man I am so sorry. I'm so grieved." We find out later that he's leaving town in an hour, flying out, and in his pocket are the airplane tickets to go see this other woman. So the first theory is that you just sin to a point where God says, "I'm done."

The other theory is that you can walk away. My brother-in-law who is a devout Christian, great guy. We had a massive debate one day in the house over this position. He believes that you can, of your own volition, step away from Jesus and say, "I'm done." We've been shocked by this a couple of times in staff. We had a young man a few years ago that was leading the worship in our college ministry and he came in and sat down with our college minister and he said, "I'm leaving." Our college minister said, "Well are you going to another church? What are you doing?" He said, "No, I don't believe in Jesus anymore. I don't believe in God anymore. I'm gone." Which was shocking to us because he'd been leading the college ministry. So the argument there is that you can lose your salvation because you walk away from it. So I want to look at some scriptures this morning on what I think the Bible says to it.

Now Hebrews has basically four sections in it. The argument is that Hebrews is actually one sermon. And part of it is because basically, he argues that Jesus is better than angels, Moses, priesthood, and the old covenant. The problem with Hebrews is at the end of all those sections, there is what is called a warning passage. And the warning passage is really, really frightening. Look at Hebrews 6, verse 4.

<sup>4</sup>It is impossible in the case of those who have once been enlightened, (and this is the verse I get more than any other) who have tasted the heavenly gift, have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>have tasted the goodness of the word of God, and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup>and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they had crucified once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding Him up to contempt.

And so you have this position. Now obviously if you take this to mean this college kid that we had leading worship; steps in, and says, "I'm leaving Jesus." Based on this he can't come back. Can't be restored to repentance. So you leave Jesus, you can't come back. That's the position here. And it is a little scary because that sounds like a believer. But I want you to look in verse 9 because this explains something. He says,

<sup>9</sup>Though we speak in this way yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things, things that belong to salvation.

Now based on verse 9, I don't think he's talking about somebody saved up above. He clearly differentiates that what happened there is not someone saved. So the argument I think inside there, we're going to look at this, is the idea of being convicted by the Holy Spirit, you say, "No" to Him, you fall away from that finally, and you don't get another shot. Now we all know John 16. It talks

about the fact that the Holy Spirit will come and convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment. We've looked at that before, so we won't go there. But I want you to look at what you can do with what the Holy Spirit does to you.

Look at Matthew, chapter 13. Matthew 13 is the proof that the disciples were Southern Baptist. Because they don't understand anything that Jesus said. Now, look at Matthew 13, beginning in 18. Now listen to what He says.

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it,

Now grasp what He's saying. He's obviously not saying you don't intellectually understand it. I can go into a first-grade classroom, lay out the gospel, and every kid can understand; I'm bad, Jesus isn't, I need to ask for forgiveness. I mean there's nothing complex about the gospel. Well, what He is talking about is that you don't spiritually understand what's going on because you really can't hear the word of the kingdom unless John 16 has occurred. When the Bible talks about you hearing it, it doesn't mean you hear it intellectually. You hear it through the conviction of the Spirit. So John 16 occurs, if that occurs, and you don't grasp what's going on in you, basically then say “No” to it,

the evil one comes, (who would that be? Satan) snatches away what has been sown in his heart.

Now hold there with me and let me show you. Go to Hebrews, chapter 3, verse 15. Because I think there's a correlation here. I think they're saying, referencing the same issue. He says,

<sup>15</sup>as it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion.”

So you can hear Him and you can miss Him. Now he says that if I hear Him and I harden my heart, I decide not to respond, Satan comes and pulls out what God has done in my heart. Which is why Hebrews says you harden your heart, because now what the Spirit's done, Satan pulls it out, now it becomes harder for John 16 to occur in my life. And you don't get many of these shots. That's why he says, “Today if you hear His voice.” There are four ways to say “if” in the Greek language. And this is the if of you may or may not hear him today. So you don't get a shot every day. John 16 doesn't occur at your will. It doesn't occur when you want it to. And if you ignore this and you hear it, then the enemy comes to take out of your life what has happened in John 16 and your heart begins to harden which is why by the time you're 20, you're going to have a 4% shot at finding Jesus. Because your heart hardens. Because it is a natural response to what Satan's doing.

So I think when we see people walking away, for example, real quick go to 1 John 2:18 to 19.

<sup>18</sup>Children, it is the last hour; and as you've heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come; therefore, we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup>They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us, but they went out, that it might become plain that they are all not of us.

If I surrender to this, I become an “us”. If I do this, I’m not one of us. So these people that left, they left because they’re not Christians. That’s the key point. If they stayed, if they were Christians, they would have stayed. Even though there’s a temptation to leave, a believe doesn’t leave the faith. So if they leave, it’s because they’re not believers. This has occurred in their life; they’ve heard, they bought into it, but they leave because they never really are saved. So for me, as a matter of fact, if you read Revelation 2 and 3, it’ll say,

[He that endures to the end, shall be saved.](#)

It makes that statement in virtually every one of the churches. And I think you do persevere if you’re a believer. If you’re not a believer, you don’t last. If a guy quits, as this kid did in our college ministry, he was never a Christian. You become a Christian you can’t leave the faith. Now let me show you how that works.

Let’s go to 1 Peter chapter 1, 3 - 7. Now I am a firm believer, not because it’s a Baptist belief, but because I think it’s what the scripture teaches. So listen to 1 Peter 1, 3 - 7. We’ll probably not read the whole thing, but listen to the context.

[<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.](#)

**You don’t keep your inheritance. The inheritance you’re promised is kept **for** you.**

**You’re guarded not by your power, but by God’s power.**

And then he talks about trials. So he says, God’s power guards and therefore this destiny is kept for me. I don’t keep it myself. He keeps it for me. His power guards me. So if I surrender to the call of Christ, I don’t misunderstand, I accept it. Then He comes in and his power guards me to an inheritance He keeps for me. This is enough for me to believe that if I know Christ, I’m golden. I’m good.

Now, again, look at Ephesians 1:13 – 14. You’ve got to remember something about the scripture. When it says God makes a promise, He’s not like us. We tend to make promises we don’t keep. I remember a couple years ago Josh Daniels, the offensive coordinator for the cheating NFL team that’s in the Super Bowl, you can’t like the Patriots and love Jesus. So at any rate, Josh Daniels promised he’d go to Indianapolis. There were coaches that quit jobs to go with him to Indianapolis. And at the last second, “Nah, I’m staying.” That’s not what God does. So when He makes a promise to us, it’s always legit. Now listen to this promise.

[<sup>13</sup>In Him, you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him -- I respond to the word of truth, I don’t do Matthew 13, I accept this conviction -- you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.](#)

So, again, He seals me in. He seals me. I don't seal myself. He is the guarantee of our inheritance. Literally, the guarantee here is again the down payment. That's the Greek word. He is the down payment. So if I have the Holy Spirit in me, He is the down payment; from God putting a down payment to me that I am going to guard you and keep something for you. And I'm going to get you there. He gets me there just like He got me into the cross. I get to heaven the same way I got saved. It's His grace and His mercy. I don't keep myself. He does it. So He makes this promise to me through His Holy Spirit that I'm going there.

Now how does that work? Let me show you two amazing verses (to me). Go to Romans 8. We've looked at this, but I want to look at it one more time. Romans 8:26. I want to show you two things. And then we'll go to Hebrews 7:25. Now we're going to fly quick, but I want you to listen.

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps in our weakness; we don't know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; <sup>27</sup>He who searches hearts, that's the Father, knows what is the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that for those who love God all things work together for good to those who love God,

So the Holy Spirit prays for me. Now, look at Hebrews 7:25. Listen to what this says. It talks about, as a matter of fact, Hebrews is the only book that mentions Jesus as the High Priest. And now he's arguing that Jesus is better than the priesthood. But listen to Hebrews 7:25.

<sup>25</sup>Consequently, Jesus is able to save to the uttermost (not partially but to the uttermost) those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

So now I've got Jesus, so we have the Trinity again, right. We have the Father that God the Spirit is praying to, that God the Son is praying to, for me. How in the world can you lose what God has done in your life when you have God the Spirit and God the Son daily praying to the Father for you? You can't. So I have this tremendous benefit of both the Holy Spirit and the Son praying daily for me. So when I'm out here and I'm messing up, the Holy Spirit prays for me, Jesus prays for me, that's why I'm going to heaven. Responding to the conviction He did, I did not miss it, God's power then guards me. The Holy Spirit's a down payment. That down payment prays for me and the Son who died on the cross prays for me daily to the Father. He hears their prayers, therefore, their prayer is what gets me through life. Now let me walk you through, and this is why you have this. Go to Philippians 1 real quick. I love this verse. Verse 6. He says,

<sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Why is he sure of that? Because of this. I'm sure that the One who started the work in you, that would be the Holy Spirit and the acceptance of Christ, will bring into completion, I guarantee He will, why? Because there's a down payment. God's power guards me. Holy Spirit prays for me. God the Son prays for me. That's why Paul can make this statement to a church of people who are going to struggle. I know you're going to make it. So if you know Christ legitimately, you're going to make it.

Now it does present, though, one issue that you have to address in your life. Even though you're going to make it, let me be careful how I say this, you can fail in a way that requires something you don't want to experience. Let me show you. Go to Ephesians 4:30. Here he's talking, obviously to believers,

<sup>30</sup>Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

How do I grieve Him? What would make me grieve the Holy Spirit? What would it be? Disobedience. This is why you feel bad when you sin. Part of it may be your conscience, but the other part is your sensing the grief of the Holy Spirit within you. So I don't want to grieve Him. And then look at 1 Thessalonians 5:19. Now listen to what he says.

<sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit

Simple little verse. Three words in the Greek.

That is, don't stop Him from being in control of your life. So obviously I can experience grief when I'm stepping away from what I'm supposed to be. And I have the capacity to stop the Holy Spirit from doing what He wants to do in me. Now when these two occur, then God enacts another issue that you're going to have to deal with. Go to Hebrews, chapter 12 beginning in verse 4.

<sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding of blood; <sup>5</sup>have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him; <sup>6</sup>for the Lord disciplines the one He loves and chastises every son whom He receives." <sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure; for God is treating you as sons. What son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, now listen to this, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them; shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? <sup>10</sup>They disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it,

In time if I sense His grief and I ignore that, and thus I quench the Spirit so He's not filling me so His holiness is not in my life. He will then bring me to a place of discipline in my life. Now that discipline can mean a couple of things. Look at 1 Corinthians 11. Now they were getting drunk at the Lord's supper and not giving the poor people any food at the Lord's supper. They always did it with a meal in Corinth. Now, look at verse 27.

<sup>27</sup>Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, will be guilty concerning the body and the blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>Let a person examine himself then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

If I'm filled with the Spirit, can I do it wrong? No. But if I grieve and quench Him, then I'm probably going to look at the body incorrectly. I'm going to wreck everything. Now listen to this.

<sup>29</sup>Anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup>This is why many of you are weak and ill and some have died.

So he says here, I've seen God's discipline. Some of you are sick. Some of you have died. Now let me show you. Go to 1 John, chapter 5. Let me show you what he's talking about. It is possible for this to happen to you, but I still don't think this is a reference point to not being saved. Now listen to 1 John 5:16.

<sup>16</sup>If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will give him life to those who commit sins that don't lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. <sup>17</sup>All wrongdoing is sin, but there is a sin that does not lead to death.

He's referring to a brother in Christ.

So I'm set for heaven. The promise. God's power guards me. Holy Spirit's praying for me. Jesus interceding. But if I grieve Him long enough, and I quench Him long enough, then God exerts discipline. Then this comes. Hebrews 12. If I ignore the discipline, then 1 John 5 comes and 1 Corinthians 11. He may make me sick to bring me to repentance. Or if I simply come to a place where I'm just saying, "No", he takes me home early.

I remember when I was in High School, I'd just been called to preach and this lady called me to her house. Her husband had died, he was 35/36, so he died pretty young. And I remember his name was Mr. Powell. So his wife called me to the house right after I'd been called to preach. I'd made it public. And I'm sitting in there with a couple guys and she said, "Do you know what happened to my husband?" I said, "He died of a heart attack." She said, "Well, that is the medical thing. But the reason he died is because God had called him to preach years ago, he said, "No." He told me right before he died that God was going to take his life. And she said God took him because he refused to surrender to the call." Now I'm just saying what she said. I don't know. But that was her take and it was her husband's take. I think you have a guarantee of heaven. You don't have a guarantee of doing it right; that's up to you.

This weekend, I didn't know this story. My wife and I have been hosting these pastors that have come out of Central Baptist and their wives for 16 years now. So 15 years ago the guy that led the conference with me with other preachers; this weekend, Nathan Lino, he preached here a few weeks back, Nathan and Nicole led it with us. Nathan and Nicole came to CAPS, the thing we do for Aggie pastors, 15 years ago. And I remember when they came, 1<sup>st</sup> weekend, they were just destroyed their first week with us. As a matter of fact, in the middle of the weekend, I looked at Peggy and said, "They're not going to last. I've never seen a preacher this beat up." He was devastated. Today the church has great vitality. They're planting churches around Houston. He's planting on in Colorado. They were a totally different couple. I didn't know the story until this weekend.



When they got there and they started their church, there was a church that bought the church they were planted out of, and they wanted the land that Nathan's church was on. So 9 couples began to viciously attack Nathan and Nicole. And they wrote an 87-page document slamming Nathan and Nicole. They had that document delivered by hand by a delivery company to every single member of the church at home. So Nathan, and I didn't know this, said 15 years ago, 2/3 of my church left. He took the document and sent it to Paige at Southwestern and Danny at Southeastern. And said, "Please work through this if you have time and let my church know am I a heretic or not." He sent it to three guys, but those two worked through it. They sent a letter to his church and said, "He is not this way." So he shared that letter with his congregation. 1/3 stayed and ultimately, they came forward to where they are today. Last week, one of his staff members that has been with him since the beginning, he told him last week, he said, "I want you to know I've kept track of all 9 couples. All 9 couples, every one of them, the wife has cancer. Every single one of them."

Number one, you don't attack the anointed of God without basis. You don't attack anyone without basis. I think this is exactly what is happening. If he takes the lives of all 9 wives, are they going to heaven? Absolutely. But you can grieve Him and quench Him to a way, because if you're attacking God's anointed because you want the monetary benefit of the land, God's not going to deal with that well. Do not assume that because you're going to heaven, that you're OK here. Your destiny is settled. But now it's up to you not to grieve the Holy Spirit, not to quench Him, and not to put yourself in a position where you're in grave danger.

So I do think you're OK. I think there's an assurance of your salvation. There's not an assurance of not being disciplined. And I think when you come to a point where you grieve Him, you quench Him, He disciplines. You don't respond. Then you're here.