



Who Am I?

"I Am Secure"

1 Peter 1:1-9, Rom. 8:30, Eph. 1:11-14

Sunday | January 3rd, 2016 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 1:1-9 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to

Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 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. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (ESV)

Romans 8:30 "And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."

Ephesians 1:11-14 "In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Daniel Montgomery, Timothy Paul Jones] "Wherever God's saving grace is present, not only preservation but also perseverance are present too. Let's be clear about what perseverance isn't, though, before we look at what perseverance is:

Perseverance is not you contributing your part to your salvation so that you and God are partnering together to keep you saved.

You salvation depends solely on what Jesus has already done, not on anything you have done or might do! The certainty of your justification forms the foundation for your perseverance, and your perseverance is no less a work of God's grace than your justification and preservation. In preservation, God places his Spirit within you and guarantees your salvation. In perseverance, God transforms you and works through you so that you grow in holiness and never let go. 'Preservation is God's work of keeping us, and perseverance is our work of keeping on.' But even our keeping on is ultimately a work of God's grace. One preacher put it this way: "You take the first step, God will take the second step, and by the time you take your third step, you will know that it was God who took the first step... Perseverance isn't about performance that earns God's favor; it's about putting in effort to bring to fulfillment what God has already accomplished and guaranteed... Perseverance is a proof of Grace."¹

DISCUSS

1. "Happy New Y...ou!" Has anyone made any New Year's resolutions? Share with the group.
2. Discuss the positives and negatives of New Year's resolutions. Where can these resolutions go wrong?
3. Pastor Patrick referenced the saying, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link." What does this saying mean? Have you ever felt like the weakest link (or a twist-tie)?²
4. How has the idea present in the above saying negatively impacted the church resulting in a fractured version of the Gospel?³

¹Daniel Montgomery and Timothy Paul Jones, *Proof* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014), p. 113, 115.

²Patrick used a twist-tie as a link in the chain to demonstrate the saying.

³We are an extremely performance driven culture and the work-reward mindset has infiltrated the church and our understanding of the gospel.

6. Patrick closed by saying that we (Christians) are not a link in the chain of salvation. What did he mean (see Rom. 8:30)?

7. *How truly secure are you in Christ?*

8. Reflect on the following quote from Montgomery/Jones: "From the moment you first rest in Christ as your only hope, you have no failures to hide and no triumphs to hide behind."⁴

9. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

Notes:

⁴Daniel Montgomery and Timothy Paul Jones, *Proof* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014), p. 22.