

“ETERNAL SECURITY”

Hebrews 7:22-28

I've got to be honest with you. The last several days have been a blur. My sister called me on the next-to-last day of our vacation and said that our mom had taken a turn for the worse. We left and headed to my sister's home where my mom has been living for the last five years. She had been under hospice care for several months. When we finally arrived, she was not doing well at all.

Last Sunday morning I connected with our livestream and we gathered in my mom's room and worshiped the Lord. By that time, she was mostly unresponsive. However, people can still hear even in that state.

My mom loved worship music and she loved the Word of God. So, on her last Lord's Day on this earth, I've got to believe she worshiped in her spirit as Joshua led the congregation. She probably *AMENED* Sam a few times as he preached on the glory of God.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday we watched as this dear lady slowly died. Then, on July 5th at 4:45 in the afternoon, she took her last breath. Yesterday, July 8th, I preached my mom's funeral. As all this was going on, I couldn't help but recall a recurring statement she made in the last few months...

I'm ready to go home!

Of course, she was speaking of heaven.

Today I want to drop a question in your heart—*“Can I Be Sure I'm Going To Heaven?”* There are only two possible answers to this question. Either you can be sure or you can't be sure.

Open your Bible to Hebrews 7. In this chapter, the author of this book was hammering home the superiority of Jesus' priesthood as compared to the Levitical priesthood of Judaism.

This morning, I want to take God's Word and show you three key reasons why true believers can know for certain they will go to heaven when their life comes to an end.

1. THE SALVATION JESUS PROMISES

Hebrews 7:22–24...so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. 23 The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, 24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

God has always related to mankind on the basis of a covenant. Scan through the Old Testament and you will discover that God made covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. In all of these covenants, God made promises that He vowed to keep.

The word "covenant" is used 17 times in this book alone. Simply put, it is a binding agreement. In this case, the merciful and gracious God entered into an agreement with the human race based on the finished work and merit of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you remember what Jesus told His disciples when He instituted the Lord's Supper just before He went to the cross?

Luke 22:19–20... And when He had taken *some bread* and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”
20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

When Jesus referred to the covenant, He was focused on the *new covenant*. Two aspects of Jesus' promised salvation sticks out here.

A.) The Guarantee of His Grace

Look at verse 22. Two words stand out in this verse. “**Better**” is used over and over in Hebrews—*better name, better hope, better covenant, better promises, better sacrifice, better possession, better life, etc.* What Jesus provides is flat out better than anything else could ever offer!

The next word is “***guarantee.***” This word focused on someone who would guarantee that a legal obligation would be carried out.

The Lord Jesus guarantees to us that ***God will fulfill His promises to us.*** Promises like these...

John 6:47... “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.”

Philippians 1:6... *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Furthermore, Jesus guarantees to God that ***He will fulfill our part of the covenant.*** Jesus stands good for God the Father and for us too!

B.) The Permanence of His Priesthood

Look at verses 23-24. Jewish priests were limited by the span of their lives. Jesus, on the other hand, continually represents believers before the God the Father because of His glorious resurrection from the dead and His ascension to the throne at the right hand of the Father. His priesthood will never end!

The true believer can have confidence that he/she will go to heaven not because of anything they do but because of the salvation Jesus promises to them.

YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE HEAVEN BOUND!

2. THE SERVICE JESUS PERFORMS

What is Jesus doing now that He is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Hebrews 7:25... Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Two things jump out to me in this verse. The resurrected and reigning Lord Jesus Christ...

A.) Is Exercising His Power To Save

Because Jesus is our perfect and permanent High Priest, He is able to save forever ***those who draw near to God through Him***. Listen, His power is unlimited, and His life is unending. He is able to save believers eternally. We don't

have to do anything to supplement our salvation. Listen, the resurrected and reigning Lord Jesus Christ...

B.) Is Exercising His Privilege To Intercede

When we have an issue in our lives, our Lord presents it to the Father and transmits the powers and blessings of the heavenly realm to support us and sustain us (Psalm 55:22).

When we sin, Jesus is our Advocate before the Father. He defends us even when Satan accuses us.

1 John 2:1–2... My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world.*

If our salvation depended on our own ability to maintain our standing before God, we would fail miserably. The good news is that Jesus will not leave you for one split second to rise or fall

on your own. He is our great, eternal High Priest. This is why...

YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE HEAVEN BOUND!

You can know this because of the salvation Jesus promises and the service Jesus performs.

3. THE SACRIFICE JESUS PROVIDED

Hebrews 7:26–28... For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made perfect forever.

The sacrificial system of the Old Covenant could never deal with the guilt of the human race. For God to grant forgiveness for sins, a perfect sacrifice was required. Do you

remember what John the Baptist said when Jesus came to the Jordan River? He said...

John 1:29... “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

I want you to...

A.) Consider The Worthiness of Jesus

He is holy (26). He is the perfect fulfillment of all that God requires.

He is innocent (26). That means that He is totally blameless.

He is undefiled (26) . There is not one speck of sin or darkness in His life.

He is separated from sinners (26). He is unique in that while He lived among sinners, He never sinned.

He is exalted above the heavens (26). This speaks of His present position and of God’s final seal of perfect approval.

He is a Son made perfect forever (28). This speaks of the glory and continuity of our High Priest.

Revelation 5:11–13... Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

I want you to...

B.) Consider The Willingness of Jesus

Look at verse 27... “...**This He did once for all when He offered up Himself.**”

Listen carefully. Jesus didn't die for your sins because **He had to**. He died for your sins because **He wanted to**.

CONCLUSION

Can you and I be sure we're going to heaven?
The answer is a resounding yes because of ...

1. THE SALVATION JESUS PROMISES

2. THE SERVICE JESUS PERFORMS

3. THE SACRIFICE JESUS PROVIDED

YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE HEAVEN BOUND!

1 John 5:13... These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

So, with this great truth in mind, I must ask you a few questions.

Have you placed your faith in Christ alone for a salvation that will last forever?

Have you publicly professed Him as your Lord and Savior through believer's baptism?

Are you living for the Lord and seeking to honor Him in every aspect of your life?

July 9, 2023

CFBC...Sunday Morning Service

Make sure that when you come to the valley of the shadow of death that you are not leaning on a flimsy “*hope-so*” salvation. Make sure that yours is a “*know-so*” salvation!