

Briefing Document-1 John Lesson 64: The Foundation of Christian Assurance

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Executive Summary

This document provides a summary of theological teachings concerning the assurance of salvation. The central theme is that Christian assurance is rooted in the eternal and permanent nature of salvation. If salvation could be lost, a believer could never truly have confidence before God. The teaching argues that God's promises, as found in the New Covenant, contain no "fine print" or escape clauses. Biblical evidence from the Gospel of John, Romans, and the Epistles suggests that salvation is a process directed by God from eternity past to eternity future. Consequently, believers are encouraged to move past doubt—which saps spiritual energy—and live in the "full assurance" that God is faithful to keep those He has called.

The Nature of Eternal Salvation

The foundation of Christian confidence is the belief that salvation is permanent. The teaching emphasizes that "eternal life" must, by definition, last forever.

- **The Absence of Conditions:** There is no "fine print" in the New Covenant. God does not include clauses that render the contract null and void if a believer makes a mistake.
- **A Learned Confidence:** Assurance is not always automatic; it is something believers must learn and work on to understand its full meaning.
- **The Problem with Doubt:** Religions that teach salvation can be lost often use doubt as a means of control. A Christian who doubts their salvation is often less effective, as their spiritual energy is drained by fear and despair.

Scriptural Evidence for Permanence

Several passages from the NKJV Bible support the idea that salvation, once granted, is everlasting:

- *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. (John 5:24)*
 - *And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)*
 - *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. (John 6:37)*
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The Security of the Believer

The teaching outlines that salvation is a work of God, not of man. Because God is the one who draws, receives, and keeps the believer, the believer is secure.

The "Golden Chain" of Salvation

In Romans 8, the process of salvation is described as a continuous chain of events managed by God:

1. **Foreknowledge and Predestination:** God knew His people before the foundation of the world.
2. **Calling and Justification:** God calls individuals and declares them righteous.
3. **Glorification:** The final step, which is so certain it is spoken of as if it has already happened.
4. *Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.* (Romans 8:30)

God as the Ultimate Judge

Since God is the highest authority and has already justified the believer, no one can bring a successful charge against them. There is no higher "court of appeals" in the universe that can overturn God's verdict.

- *Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.* (Romans 8:33)
- *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 8:38-39)

Addressing False Profession and Growth

A common question in the teaching involves why some people appear to leave the faith if salvation is permanent.

- **Posers vs. Possessors:** The teaching distinguishes between those who truly possess salvation and those who are "posers." Like the "wheat and the tares" (or weeds), some people may enjoy the environment of the church and the company of Christians without ever truly accepting Jesus Christ.
- **Hebrews 6 and Apostasy:** The warning in Hebrews 6:4-6 is interpreted as applying to those who have tasted the benefits of the Holy Spirit and the church environment but ultimately reject Christ. The teaching suggests these individuals were never truly saved, as the only unpardonable sin is the final rejection of Jesus Christ.
- **The Necessity of Maturity:** Many believers remain "weak" or "on milk" because they do not study the Word or grow in their relationship with God. While they may be saved, they lack the joy and stability that comes from deep spiritual roots.

The Psychological Impact of Assurance

The document highlights the emotional toll of lacking assurance through a letter sent to Pastor John MacArthur. The writer of the letter described himself as a "pile of manure" and a "mongrel dog" because he could not stop sinning and doubted his salvation.

- **The Purpose of Assurance:** God does not want His children to live in mortal fear. The Bible uses terms like "full assurance" (*Hebrews 6:11*) and "much assurance" (*1 Thessalonians 1:5*) to describe the state God desires for believers.
- **The Result of Righteousness:** According to *Isaiah 32:17*, the effect of righteousness is quietness and assurance forever.
- **A Living Hope:** Salvation is a "living hope" provided through the resurrection. It is an inheritance that is incorruptible and reserved in heaven.

Administrative and Community Notes

The following items were noted regarding the local church community:

- **Ministries:** The church maintains an "Agape box" [¹] for giving, a card ministry for birthdays and encouragement, and a Hug-a-bear ministry.
- **Missions:** Support is currently focused on Brian and Emelda Rush.
- **Memory Verse:** The June memory verse is *Psalms 22:28: For the kingdom is the LORD's, and He rules over the nations.* [²]
- **Upcoming Events:** Promotion Sunday for children, Men's Breakfast (the 13th), and New Life Women's Fellowship (the 27th).

Greek Terminology Reference Table

Greek Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition
Agape	uh-GAH-pay	The highest form of love; charity; the selfless love of God for man.
Ethne	ETH-nay	Nations, people groups, or Gentiles; used in the context of God ruling over all peoples.

[¹]: Referred to in the source context as the "agopy box," a phonetic reference to the Greek word *Agape*. [²]: The source context notes this verse refers to God ruling over the "ethnic" or the nations (*Ethne*).