

Eternal Security In Christ

Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand” (John 10:28-29).

The very nature of sheep confirms that they can stray or be led away to their own demise. Certainly that fact did not escape Jesus the agent of all Creation (John 1:3).

Will Jesus go looking for a lost sheep? Yes! He said He would in the parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4-7). But notice also in that parable that the lost sheep “repents” before the Shepherd brought it back to the fold (15:7). Repentance is a change of heart causing a change of direction. In other words, Jesus will not hold a sheep or seek to return a sheep to the fold against its will. He does not take away our ability to choose our eternal fate when we come under His tender care.

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times *some will depart from the faith*, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Tim 4:1). One cannot depart from something he never had. For that reason, “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in *departing from the living God*” (Heb 3:12).

The doctrine of eternal security is rarely presented with any conditions attached. But the eternal security of which Jesus spoke is the result of a conscious decision on our part to listen to His word and to look for His hand.

Green Meadow church of Christ
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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.