

CHRIST-CENTERED



BIBLICAL TRAINING

Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6;
2 Chronicles 16:9

ETERNAL SECURITY IN CHRIST

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BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

Organization

This first section presents an overview for background. More of the details are provided in the next section.

The concept of salvation to eternal life with God is in three sequential steps that are or allows us to: (1) go to heaven after death and resurrection to be with God (Justification); (2) be set apart to God and grow in Christ-likeness in our present lifetime (Sanctification); and (3) go to be with Christ in eternity after death and resurrection (Glorification). In God's mind, these all happened before the foundation of the world. In our experience they occur sequentially in our lifetimes and according to our faith, obedience, and decisions.

Regarding Salvation and Eternal Security

Eternal security means that, once saved in Justification, God, according to His Plan and holiness and righteousness, guarantees us Sanctification and Glorification. He maintains our Justification. This means that once we legitimately have Justification and are saved, that God maintains this salvation so we can never lose it. Thus, we have eternal security in Christ, and God will take us to heaven after our death and resurrection. There are important aspects that go with each part.

Eternal security in Christ means that, (1) after having **genuinely** received Christ as Savior, thus having been changed by being born again spiritually speaking, having God's satisfied Justice by Christ on the Cross for our sins applied to us personally, (2) God guarantees us that He will take us to be with Him in eternity. He can do this because we are now no longer under His condemnation for our sin. The justice for our sin has been satisfied by Christ's substitutionary death on the Cross. We will not perish away from God in everlasting punishment in the Lake of Fire. Our penalty that requires us to go to jail has been satisfied by Christ so we do not have to go to jail - the eternal Lake of Fire.

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

This means that after our death, God will take us in resurrection to the new Jerusalem no matter how we live or what we do, provided that we have **actually** received the Justification. But how we live does effect our Sanctification - our growth in Christ-likeness. How we live shows (signals) as to whether or not we have been justified. Thus, if we do not continue to follow Christ and become involved in His work, we may not be saved. If we continue in an intellectual understanding of the Bible, but do not have love for others shown in sacrificial service and live by faith, if we are not involved in God's work, we may not be saved. We are saved to do the work of God. Being saved results in some manner with a changed life toward God in accordance with Bible teaching. We remain saved by God for Christ's blood keeps on cleansing from all sin as we walk and continue with Him.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Titus 2:14 - and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

1 John 1:6-7 - If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Justification Details

Justification means that God's satisfied Justice for our sin (our breaking of God's laws) by Christ dying on the Cross has been applied personally to us. The Justice for our sin has been satisfied, the penalty or fine for our law breaking, has been satisfied for us by Christ on the Cross. He died a substitutionary death for us on the Cross to satisfy God's Justice for our sin.

For us to receive or obtain this justification, we must, **as God works in us**: (1) admit we are law breakers (we sin); (2) believe that Christ died on the Cross for our sin, satisfying God's Justice according to the Scriptures (not according to the Church or any person or book); (3) and pray to God in Christ's name from faith in God to save according to the Scriptures in obedience to receive this Justice, believing that Christ did die for us (for our sin) according to the Scriptures. When this legitimately occurs we have eternal life and will be with God in eternity. In this process, God must be working in us for the Justification to actually be given to us. We should sense God drawing us to Him. We are saved by God, but God uses the process.

This several step process will is described next.

God's Provision for Us From His Love that We Can Have Eternal Life and Live With God Forever

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

(Eternal life means we will live forever with God. Not perishing means we will not have to suffer the penalty of sin in the Lake of Fire away from God.)

We Are All Sinners

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death [separation from God], but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Comment: mine)

Romans 3:9-11 - both Jews and Greeks [all people] are all under sin; as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; (Comment: mine.)

Saved (Justified for Sin) Through the Cross of Christ and *By No Other Way*

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - For I delivered to you [the Gospel is defined as] that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (Comment: mine.)

Romans 3:24-26 - being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

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*whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God **He passed over the sins previously committed**; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Bolding: Mine)*

Romans 5:8-10 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God [the Lake of Fire] through Him. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Comment: mine)

***Acts 4:12 - "And there is salvation in no one else [other than through Christ]; for there is no other name [other than that of Christ] under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."** (Comments and bolding: Mine.)*

We Must Act From Our Faith in God, Christ, His Cross, and All According to the Scriptures

Acts 16:30-31 - and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household."

Romans 10:9-10 - that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Romans 10:13 - for "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

Assurance of Salvation

Having believed in Christ's Cross, we can know that we have salvation.

1 John 5:11-13 - And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

The Bible teaches that we are saved forever by the teaching that those who God justified (saved from sin), He also glorified. This means He did not lose anyone to a loss of Justification salvation.

Romans 8:29-30 - For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Sanctification

After we have received Justification, what we do or not do in life effects our fellowship with God and the degree that we develop maturity in Christ-likeness with high skill in spiritual ability such as the degree and

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maturity we walk by faith, love, and hope in relationship living. After receiving the Justification, being set apart to God, learning and growing in Christ-likeness to become mature in Christ, as just described, is called Sanctification. We are set apart to God to live for Him in holiness. But what we do or not do in response to God does not effect our Justification (which we cannot lose regardless of how we live our lives). God maintains our Justification by His power and Grace. We cannot lose our salvation because legally, having died to the Law being in Christ, we are no longer under law. There is no law we can break that would cause us to lose this salvation of Justification. But we can lose unity fellowship with God.

Romans 7:4 - Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God.

Romans 7:6 - But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Being in the Kingdom of God under Grace, there is no law that we can break that can cause us to lose salvation. However, how we live our lives can and does indeed effect our Sanctification and the spiritual ability in Christ-likeness we have in life and most importantly at death. It effects how well we get to know God and glorify Him both now and especially in eternity. It effects the degree of our fellowship with God.

When we became a Christian, being born again, we were killed with Christ on the Cross by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (described later). Us being the sin nature was killed on the Cross. We were resurrected into newness of life with a type of divine nature (not God's), a new us, that cannot sin. We still can sin using our sin natures. But the real us is now the new divine nature. **Thus, because this new nature cannot sin, there is no law that we would break that would cause us to lose our Justification.**

*Romans 6:4-6 - Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in **newness of life**. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection,*

1 John 3:6 - No one who abides in Him sins;

1 John 3:9 - No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1 John 5:18 - We know that no one who is born of God sins;

The concept is that Christ did indeed die for all our sin. But this sin was that which we committed before becoming a Christian (or all our sin if we do not become Christians). There must be justification for all sin that occurred before our justification. As Christians, the real us in our new natures, cannot sin after we are Justified. There is no need to die for sin we did not commit. Thus, even though the sin nature continues to sin, this is not the real us that is involved in Sanctification or requires justification. We ask forgiveness for this sin to remain in fellowship with God (1 John 1:9). The more time we log as we live using the sin nature, impedes from developing Sanctification in our new divine natures, the real us. Thus, choosing to continue in sin, hurts us growing in Christ.

*Romans 3:25 - whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God **He passed over the sins previously committed** (before salvation); (Comment and bolding: mine)*

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Romans 7:17 - So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me.

God's main objective for us is that we come to know Him intimately. He is the only perfect person and if we are to have the best that exists anywhere, we must come to know Him and walk the way He desires. This in the fullest requires us to have a high-skill mature spiritual ability in Christ likeness. Bringing people to this high-skill in high level spiritual ability is the main job of the Church (we train with doctrines and God develops the maturity in us using the trials, testings, and persecutions of life). This skill is developed in our new divine natures.

In this lifetime, we may all may develop different capabilities of spiritual abilities in Christ-likeness. In order to attain to these high-skill spiritual abilities, we need to train people in depth with God's Whole Counsel to exalt and glorify God, live godly lives, and be involved in Christ's chosen work for us, including local and world area-wide evangelism. Then God, using these teachings, develops the spiritual ability in us using the trials, testings, and persecutions of life.

The personal impact of not believing in eternal security is that we can never know whether or not we are still saved, and it impedes us from going on to maturity in Christ. We will live a life of insufficient faith. Not believing in eternal security causes us to trust in ourselves (using our sin natures) to remain saved, instead of trusting in God (using our divine natures) to keep us saved. We have no ability or righteousness to save ourselves, and we have no ability or righteousness to keep us saved. We are declared righteous by means of the Cross. But this is God's, not our righteousness. Christ alone has both the ability and righteousness. Not obeying God after receiving Justification impedes us from knowing God and relating to Him at the higher skill levels and being involved in His work. We will always have some anxiety (we will not have the peace of the Holy Spirit) as to whether or not we are still saved. ***And more than that, if we lose our salvation, how we can gain it back in some way. The Bible has no teaching on this subject.***

The Bible teaches that Christ died once for all, for sin (Romans 6:9) and that the work of Christ on the Cross is a complete work (efficacious). This means that Christ's work gets us saved and maintains us saved. Indeed we have to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Romans 7:19-20; Philippians 2:12), but this deals with Sanctification and something we will do if we have Justification. No unbeliever seeks after God.

We must always remember that those not saved, do not seek after God. They have nothing to work out. If we could and did lose our salvation, we would stop seeking after God. (And it is doubtful that God would seek after us in this state -having once had salvation and now having lost it - to return us to salvation if it could happen; Hebrews 6:4-8) Thus, having Justification, implies that we will continue in Christ because Christ never stops working in us (Philippians 1:6). If we continue to seek after God, be obedient to Him, and do His work, sensing God is working in us, this can be positive signs we are saved (still saved). ***If we are not attempting to continue in Him and are not involved somewhere in His work, we might not be saved.***

*Colossians 1:21-23 - And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— if indeed you **continue** in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.*

For one to believe that after truly being saved, one can lose their salvation, is to deny the Christian faith. It denies the efficaciousness of the Christ and His work on the Cross to satisfy God's Justice for sin that exonerates us from the penalty of sin. It depends upon the work of man to maintain salvation instead of only the work of God by faith. It would have to mean that the Cross not only satisfied the Justice for our sins before becoming a Christian, but the Cross must also satisfy the justice for our sins

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after becoming a Christian. Such a view denies the concept that the believer in Christ has a new divine nature that cannot sin. We still need more justification for future sins. But Christ died for all sin once for all.

*Romans 6:10 - For the death that He died, He died to sin, **once for all**; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.*

*Hebrews 10:10 - By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**.*

*1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also died for **sins once for all**, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;*

There are Scriptures such as Colossians 1:21-23 presented above that imply that we will continue in Him if we are actually in Him. Scripture does admonish us to ensure that we are in Him.

However, we must always check that we are indeed in Christ and are saved. If we do not continue to seek after Christ and His ways, including being involved in His work of evangelism and discipleship, we may not be saved. Being saved means that there will be some change in the life toward the ways of God. If we go through a ritual to be saved, and we do not become involved in God's work and attempt to live by His ways, we may not be saved. The ritual does not save us, only the work of God in us does.

2 Corinthians 13:5 - Test [examine] yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test? (Comment: Mine)

When we are saved, the Holy Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are saved.

Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

Glorification

Glorification refers to the process of when we are resurrected from the dead with new glorified bodies, our sin natures are removed from us, and we go into the presence of Christ, Himself. We enter eternity with whatever spiritual ability we have developed in our divine natures as of that time. It is the final process for our entering eternity. There we live forever with Christ. We are now in a bodily form so we can see Him as He is in eternity. We can know God and relate to Him commensurate with the degree of our maturity in high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness.

1 John 3:2 - Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

Romans 8:29-30 - For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

MORE OF THE DETAILS ETERNAL SECURITY IN CHRIST

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The Bible teaches that we are saved as we believe in Christ (Justification), we are being saved as we live our lives (sanctification), and then being with Christ after our resurrection the salvation will be complete as we enter heaven (Glorification). Once a person has truly received Christ as Savior and is a Christian, the Bible teaches that we have eternal security.

By eternal security as introduced earlier, the Bible means that one cannot ever lose their salvation (Justification) and is guaranteed to go to be with God in the new Jerusalem after death and resurrection forever by being glorified (see Romans 8:29-30).

However (repeated for emphasis), if one does not adequately obey God after salvation (Justification) in this life time, this can impede one's Christian growth in spiritual ability in Christ-likeness (Sanctification). Where our sin can cause us to lose fellowship with God (restored using 1 John 1:9 as the blood of Christ continues to cleanse us from sin), it cannot cause us to no longer be in God's Kingdom, returning to the Dominion of Satan.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

However if we hold sin in our hearts that we plan to continue in and if we will not forgive others, God may not hear our prayers for forgiveness and may not forgive us. Where this will not cause us to lose our Justification, it can cause us to lose active fellowship with God. It can cause God not to use us in ministry as effectively.

Psalm 66:18 - If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;

Matthew 6:15 - "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

The act of receiving salvation is a legal transaction with God. As will be discussed, legally the unbeliever is under the Dominion of Satan. When one believes in the satisfied Justice of God, obtained by the Cross, one is **legally** translated into the Kingdom of God under Grace. One is no longer under the requirements of the Law that requires one to perform in order to be saved or maintain salvation.

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to (the Kingdom of) God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.' (Comment mine.)

Colossians 1:13 - For He delivered us from the domain of darkness (Satan), and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (Comment mine.)

After salvation (Justification), obeying God effects one's fellowship with God and spiritual growth in God. Obeying or not obeying God does not effect Justification (even though it does Sanctification) because of the legal arrangement that God has now given the Christian. The new believer has died to the husband of the Law and now there is no law under God that requires Him to obey this law in order to remain saved. He is maintained saved by God in His Grace and by His power. The believer has eternal security.

However (repeated for emphasis), we must also understand that not all people who go through the ritual for salvation may be saved. Going through the ritual of choosing or receiving Christ as Savior never saved anyone. God must be working in us to receive salvation as we go through the ritual or no salvation may have occurred. For example, it is estimated that only about 20% of the people who go forward in a Billy Graham Crusade are actually saved. Those in Christ will have some fruit in their lives and will continue in Christ. They may back slide (fall away from adequate obedience) as some say, but they will not fall away from Justification. If one does not have fruit in their lives of some amount, they may not have been saved.

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John 15:1-6 - "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

Thus, if our lives do not bear fruit in Christ, we may not be saved and thus, we may not be in Christ.

The Ways the Bible Teaches Eternal Security in Christ

The Bible teaches eternal security for those in Christ in the following several ways:

1. By declaration - As believers in Christ, we are no longer under God's condemnation. (John 10:27-29; Romans 8:1-2; 39; 1 John 5:11-12)

John 10:27-29 - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall 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 the Father's hand.

Romans 8:1-2 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

2. No Longer Under Law - When one becomes a Christian, believing in Christ as Savior (the Gospel), they are legally (court room authority) translated from the Dominion of Satan and the Jurisdiction of the Law into the Kingdom of God, under Grace and freedom from the Law. Being translated into the Kingdom of God, believers are the Church. The Greek word for Church means to be called out. In this case, believers are called out from the Dominion of Satan, from being under the jurisdiction of the Law into the Kingdom of God, under Grace, and freedom from being under Law. Those individuals, having been translated to be under Grace and no longer under Law, cannot do anything that would cause them to lose their salvation. He is no longer under any law that would cause him to lose his salvation from any disobedience. This is because Christ's work on the Cross is efficacious and Grace is now applied to the believer. Being efficacious, it is a complete work in itself.

To say that we could lose our salvation after receiving it, implies that the Cross is not efficacious that can maintain one saved. (We must maintain ourselves to be saved. But God does not accept anything that comes from us.) This denies the total work that Christ did on the Cross, and is presumptuous that we can lose what God, not ourselves, has accomplished. When one becomes a Christian, they go through a spiritual death, burial, and resurrection with Christ. Having died, the new believer has died to the jurisdiction of the law, as compared to when a wife dies to her husband. The pre-death arrangement is no longer binding. Therefore the Law no longer has jurisdiction, because the believer has died to the jurisdiction of the Law. Only being under the Law that requires absolute obedience could cause us to lose our salvation. But for the believer such is no longer the case - no longer under any such law. (Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:13; Romans 6:14-15; 7:1-17; 8:1-2;10:4; Galatians 2:19; 3:13)

Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

Romans 7:4 - Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God.

Romans 7:6 - But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound,

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so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Galatians 2:19 - "For through the Law I died to the Law, that I might live to God.

Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"

3. Sealed by the Holy Spirit - When we become a Christian, we are permanently "indwelt" and "sealed" by the Holy Spirit in a legal manner for eternal life. This sealing from the Greek is a **guarantee**, pledge, or **earnest** of God that He will give us complete salvation that comes in the resurrection. (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Timothy 1:14)

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge (earnest) of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. (Comment: Mine)

Ephesians 4:30 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

2 Timothy 1:14 - Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

4. Baptized by the Holy Spirit, given a new divine nature (new creation) - When we became a Christian, we were baptized by the Holy Spirit. The Greek word *baptizo* for being baptized has the meaning to be placed into union with something, that because of this union, we are changed into something new, and we cannot be changed back. When we became a Christian we were placed into union with Christ by the Holy Spirit. As such, we went through a spiritual death, burial, and resurrection with Christ. Thus, we have been baptized in this identify with Christ. In resurrection to newness of life, we are now a new creation or creature with a type of new divine nature (not God's of course) called newness of life. All things have become new. Being changed by union with Christ, we cannot be changed back. Thus, we have eternal security. **The new divine nature cannot and does not sin (1 John 6, 9; 5:18). It can do nothing wrong that would cause a loss of salvation.** This new divine nature is the new us. But the sinful nature, that we also still have, does sin. It is this new divine nature that goes into heaven with us. Our sinful natures, and their memories, are removed from us as we enter heaven, and we will no longer remember anything done or known under the sinful nature. It is in this new divine nature in which our spiritual ability in Christ is developed. (Isaiah 65:17; Romans 6:1-13; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 12:13; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 17; Galatians 3:27; 6:15; Ephesians 4:5; Colossians 2:12; 2 Peter 1:4)

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Romans 6:3-11 - Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. If we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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5. Redemption- Redemption means that we are bought out of the slave market of sin by the purchase price of Christ's blood. As a result, we become His property and will no longer be placed back into the slave market. We are no longer our own, we have been bought with a price. We have no rights that would allow us to lose our salvation, being placed back into the slave market, because we belong to Him and not to ourselves. We have become bond slaves to Christ without rights with the only requirement to obey as any slave would. We are no longer slaves to sin, but now, in our new natures, slaves to righteousness. (1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:12, 15)

1 Corinthians 6:20 - For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Galatians 4:5 - in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Ephesians 1:7 - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,

Titus 2:14 - who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

6. Tense of the Greek Verb in Ephesians 2:8-9 - The verb "saved" in Ephesians 2:8 is in the Greek Perfect tense. This means we were saved at a time in the past and remain saved to the present. Thus, once saved, we remain saved forever.

*Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been **saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.*

7. Eternal Life Concept - Believing initially in the Cross of Christ gives us the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Having or possessing eternal life (or its completed or full promise for the future) in Christ, we cannot lose it. Otherwise the promise of such Scriptures as John 3:16 must be written in the conditional, which they are not. The concept of eternal life refers to life now but mainly also to the life to come after our resurrection. Having believed in Christ as Savior, we are promised eternal life in the life to come. (John 3:15-16; 6:54; 10:28; Romans 6:23)

John 3:15-16 - that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 10:28 - and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

8. Atonement or Reconciliation for Iniquity - Atonement that Christ brought on the Cross means that God put a cover over sin such that He can no longer see the sin. This sin is what we would do before and after salvation. Because, being in Christ, God does not see the sin anymore, we have eternal security. This is of course a word picture. (Daniel 9:24; Romans 5:11)

Daniel 9:24 - "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity [at the Cross], to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place. (Comment: Mine)

Romans 5:11 - And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Colossians 1:20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood

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of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Ephesians 2:16 - and might reconcile them both [Jew and Gentile] in one body [that is Christ] to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. (Comments: mine)

Romans 5:11 - And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18 - Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

9. Adoption - Being in Christ, we have been adopted by Christ out of the world to be His Church. Being adopted we are now in the family of God. The adoption is initiated now and is completed when we enter eternity. Thus, we now have eternal security in Christ. (Romans 8:15, 23; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:5)

Galatians 4:4-7 - But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Ephesians 1:5 - He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

10. In the Heavens - From God's point of view, after being saved, He seated us spiritually speaking in the heavens, no longer on the earth. He is not going to bring us back. We have eternal security in Christ.

Ephesians 2:5-7 - even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

11. God continues to work in us - God promises to work in us til the Day of Jesus Christ without ever giving up. The Day of Christ is the time of the Rapture of the Church. (Philippians 1:6)

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.

Conclusion

Christ died for all our sins committed before becoming a Christian. When becoming a Christian, we received a new nature (divine or newness of life in a new creation) that cannot sin. This new nature now legally represents us. This is the new us after Justification, being baptized by the Holy Spirit. The old us (our sin nature that is still with us, that has died to the Law) still does sin, but now after being killed on the Cross, no longer legally represents us. When we became a Christian, we (our sin natures) died with Christ and to the Law. Because we are now under Grace and not under Law, there is no sin that we can commit that cause us to lose our salvation. And additionally when we died with Christ, we became dead. But in resurrection with Christ with a new divine natures, they cannot sin. We are to use our divine natures to grow in Sanctification. Using our sin natures impedes this process. If we sin, taking us out of fellowship with God as we use our sin natures, we can confess our sin for restored fellowship. The fellowship is restored because the blood of Christ keeps on cleansing us from all our current sin and any after the received the Cross. Because our new divine natures cannot sin, we can never lose our salvation. We cannot lose it anyway because we are no longer under law. Thus,

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once legitimately being in Christ, we cannot lose this relationship regardless of what our sin natures might do. But as we sin using our sin natures, we impede our growth in Sanctification needed for eternity. ***Continuing in known sin is devastating because, not gaining as much spiritual ability in this lifetime, it limits our knowing God in His depth in eternity.***