

ETERNAL LIFE CANNOT BE LOST

We have often heard men and women speak of losing eternal life, and it is strange to us to hear them speak thus in view of the plain teachings of God's word. Christ said, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28). He also said that He would lose none of those that the Father had given unto Him but would raise them up again at the last day (See John 6:39). Romans 8:32-39 is also an excellent proof text here. There is a great deal of comfort to the enlightened children of God in knowing that the saints are secure in Christ. But how extremely distressing it would be to know that after all God has done for His people they might still be finally lost. How sad it would be if after God had chosen them in Christ, and Christ had wrought out a perfect righteousness for them and died for their sins, and the Holy Spirit had given them eternal life and a number of other divine gifts, they should still be forever consigned to the miseries of eternal fire! God forbid that we should think for one moment that such a monstrous thing could be true!

Knowing my own fickle nature, if I really believed that such an awful failure was possible, I could never draw a peaceful breath; I could never have a peaceful moment on this earth.

If God's people were not saved solely on the basis of His eternal covenant and its unalterable stipulations, then none of them would be saved at all. All would be doomed. But by virtue of the fact that He puts His Spirit within them and writes His laws in their hearts and prints them in their minds, their relationship with Him is of infinite duration. The life He gives His people is eternal, and by its very nature cannot be lost. The saints may, and often do, temporarily lose the joy of that life by their failure to walk as close to God as they should, but they cannot lose the life itself.

Dear Lord, help us to be everlastingly thankful to Thee for "the sure mercies of David" (Isaiah 55:3 and Acts 13:34). "Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation" (Isaiah 47:17).

---Elder Ralph Harris