

We will answer that question after laying some scriptural groundwork. ***The Bible clearly affirms that: (1) those who have savingly believed the gospel are sealed with the Holy Spirit; and (2) this sealing guarantees that they will inherit the kingdom.*** Scripture presents the Holy Spirit as the earnest or deposit that guarantees eternal redemption. Christians cannot lose their salvation because **God** sees to it that they remain in Christ. Salvation is not something they are able to lose; it is an **eternal** relationship with God that they enter into **because of** His mighty power and calling. If you are a child of God, the Holy Spirit has transformed your being by new birth. This new birth implants the life of God in you and seals you for the day of redemption.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22: ²¹Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, ²²who also **sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.**

Here Paul described the **sealing** of the Spirit as a **pledge**. In other words, it is **an earnest, a down payment** on the full payment of redemption. The Greek word used here for **pledge** is “**arrabon**,” which means: *a pledge, part of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest: earnest.* Paul clearly affirmed that our redemption is guaranteed by God’s down payment. He makes similar statements in Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:13-14: ¹³In 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,** ¹⁴**who is given as a pledge of our inheritance,** with a view to the redemption of Gods own possession, to the praise of His glory.

When Christians receive the indwelling Holy Spirit at salvation, they are guaranteed redemption because the Holy Spirit Himself is the guaranteeing downpayment on their inheritance. The sealing of the Spirit is *unto* redemption.

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

Here Paul affirms that we are sealed for the purpose of redemption. The **Bible plainly declares** that Christians are **sealed** by God for the divine purpose of being redeemed. The final perseverance and salvation of true believers in Christ is guaranteed by the very character and nature of God: He **will accomplish** all His purposes.

John 5:24: Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and **believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.**

Isaiah 46:9-11: ⁹Remember the former things long past, **For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me,** ¹⁰**Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, “My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure”;** ¹¹Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. **Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.**

Question #196: Reread 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:14:14, Ephesians 4:30. Then discuss the sealing of the Holy Spirit being described in Scripture as a **pledge** of God to believers.

Eternal Security Results From Election

The *primary* reason we are saved is because God chose us for salvation from the beginning (2 Thessalonians 2:13). Those who are in Christ are the **elect** or **chosen** of God. They **will** persevere in faith and repentance. **God will work in those He has chosen to enable them, by the**

power of the Holy Spirit to persevere in faith to the end. Scripture clearly states that those God has predestined He will also glorify. Predestination guarantees receipt in heaven of an inheritance already obtained by faith for the purpose of sharing in the glory of God.

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

Romans 9:23-24: ²³And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, **which He prepared beforehand for glory,** ²⁴**even us, whom He also called,** not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

Ephesians 1:11-12: In Him ¹¹**also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose** who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹²to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Those God chose for salvation from before the foundation of the world, He effectually called by His Spirit and gave new birth (Regeneration). Sinners are converted when the divine gifts of grace and faith empower them to repent of sin and believe the Gospel. God's Holy Spirit comes to live in them, producing persevering sanctification that ultimately results in glorification, i.e., the redemption of their bodies which become immortal and incorruptible. Consider the wise words of **R. L. Dabney**: "The perseverance of believers follows from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father, which was the ground of their being chosen unto salvation. The Scriptures make it plain that the reason why God ever determined to save any man was not His seeing in him anything good, attractive or extenuating, but something without, known to His wisdom, which was to God a good and wise reason to bestow His eternal love on that particular sinner (Rom. 9:11, 16). This sovereign and unmerited love is the cause of the believer's effectual calling (Jer. 31:3; Rom. 8:30). Now, as the cause is unchangeable, the effect will be unchangeable. That effect is, the constant communication of grace to the believer in whom God has begun a good work. God was not induced to bestow His renewing grace in the first instance, by anything which He saw, meritorious or attractive, in the repenting sinner; and therefore the subsequent absence of everything in him would be no new motive to God for withdrawing His grace. When He first bestowed that grace, He knew that the sinner on whom He bestowed it was totally depraved, and wholly and only hateful in himself to the divine holiness; and therefore no new instance of ingratitude or unfaithfulness, of which the sinner may become guilty after his conversion, can be any provocation to God, to change His mind, and wholly withdraw His sustaining grace. God knew all this ingratitude before.... If He had not intended from the first to bear with it, and to forgive it in Christ, He would not have called the sinner by His grace at first. In a word, the causes for which God determined to bestow His electing love on the sinner are wholly in God, and not at all in the believer; and hence, nothing in the believer's heart or conduct can finally change that purpose of love."³⁸

In Romans 8, Paul reasons from the election of God and the priesthood of Christ to conclude that we shall never be separated from His divine love.

Romans 8:33-35, 37-39: ³³**Who will bring a charge against God's elect?** God is the one who justifies; ³⁴who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, **who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.** ³⁵**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . ³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who

³⁸ *RL Dabney Systematic Theology Banner of Truth 2002 page 690*

loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.**

Is it not abundantly clear from these verses that the believer is secure? Is it not also clear that our security rests wholly on God's almighty power working through the ministry of Christ's intercession? Scripture teaches that believers will *never* be separated from the love of God in Christ. The love bestowed by God upon His chosen people is an *eternal* love; it is everlasting.

Jeremiah 31:3: The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, "**I have loved you with an everlasting love;** Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness."

It might be helpful at this point to review the section on Election and Foreknowledge where we learned that the word *foreknowledge* when used in regard to predestination refers to God "loving beforehand" those He chooses for salvation. The nature of God's electing love makes it eternal and unchangeable.

Question 197: Reread Romans 8:29-30, 33-35, 37-39, Ephesians 1:11-12, and Jeremiah 31:3, marking specific words, phrases, and sentences that assure you (personally) that your salvation is secure. Then, using God's own words of assurance to you, write a prayer thanking Him for your salvation.

The Covenant of Redemption Guarantees the Security of the Believer

The Covenant of Redemption is an *agreement* between the members of the Godhead from eternity past to save sinners chosen by God through the work of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Father *planned* redemption (2 Timothy 1:9) by *electing* from all eternity the ones (Ephesians 1:4) He will give to the Son as a gift (Titus 1:2). The Son *agreed* to take on human nature (Colossians 2:9) as a means of purchasing redemption at Calvary (Hebrews 10:7-9) by mediating between God and those He has chosen (Romans 8:34). The Holy Spirit *agreed* to: (1) apply redemption to the elect through effectual calling and regeneration; (2) equip them to persevere in sanctification; and (3) ultimately glorify them. This Covenant of Redemption is the *first cause* of salvation and holds within it the fulfillment of salvation for every believer foreknown and elected by God. The **Bible plainly declares** that saints persevere until the end *because* God purposed from the beginning to save *forever*.

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

John 6:39-40: ³⁹And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that **of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.** ⁴⁰For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and **I Myself will raise him up on the last day.**

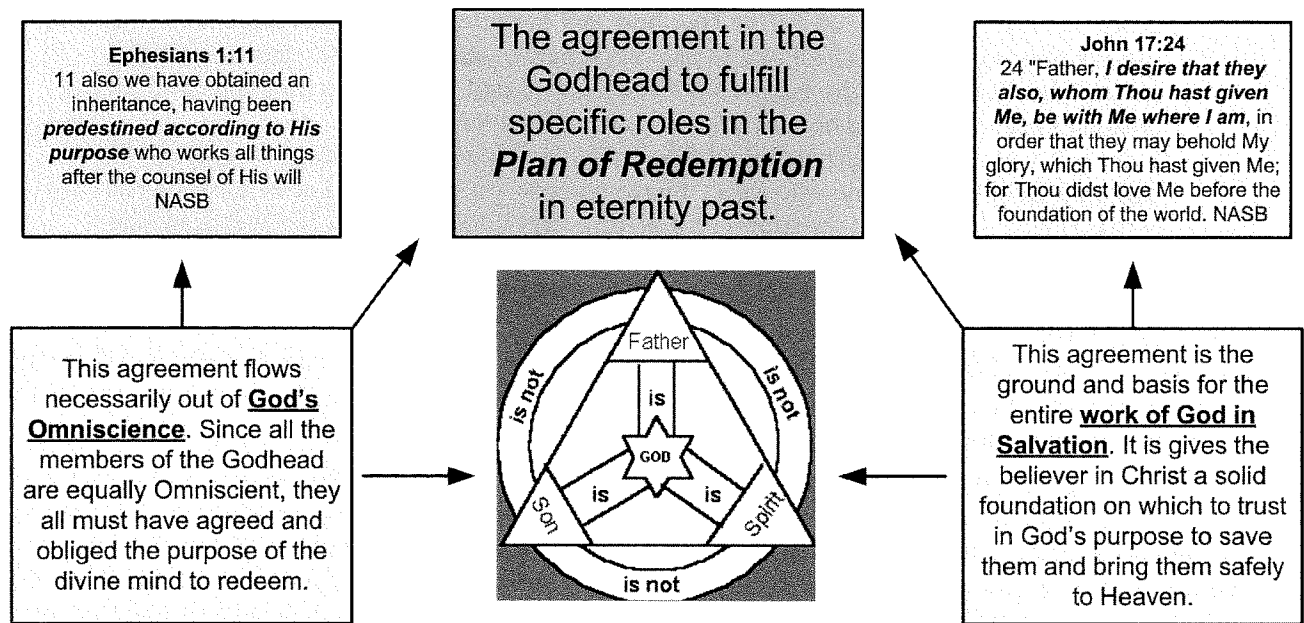
The very nature of God's knowledge (omniscient or all-knowing) requires that He know *the end from the beginning*. He knows the whole of human history before any of it happens because what He planned to happen He made to happen by His providential will. In time and space, the Son of God and the Spirit of God accomplished the Father's plan of redemption, so that *the specific individuals* chosen by the Father to give to the Son are surely saved and secured.

John 6:37-39: ³⁷**All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.** ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹**And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.**

John 10:27-30: ²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and **no one is able to snatch them out of My hand.** ²⁹My 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.** ³⁰**I and the Father are one.**

John 17:24: Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world.

The Covenant of Redemption



1 Peter 1:18-20

18 knowing that you were not *redeemed* with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with *precious blood*, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. 20 For *He was FOREKNOWN before the foundation of the world*, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you NASB

Question 198: What three Persons entered into the Covenant of Redemption? _____

Question 199: What did each of these Persons promise to do? _____

Question 200: Can any of these persons fail to keep His promise? _____

Question 201: On what basis then, is our salvation secure? _____