

## ETERNAL SECURITY (26)

believed on Jesus Christ, it is impossible for him to suffer eternal death. There is **never** (ou may) the possibility of one who has believed on Christ to eternally perish. Christ's question to Martha is one that needs to be asked of everyone, "Do you believe this (**11:26b**)? In this case, the physical proof of this eternal reality is the resurrection of Lazarus (**11:43-44**). When Christ gives eternal life to a person, he shall **never** die!

### (Passage #5) - Romans 4:8

Here is a remarkable text concerning salvation. It speaks of a man who is in a blessed state because God will **never** (ou may) take sin into account. The Greek text may literally be translated this way: "Blessed is a man who **NEVER** the Lord will calculate sin." (My own translation of the Greek text - μακάριος ανήρ οὔ [οὐ μή] λογίσῃται κύριος αμαρτίαν.)

The verb "take into account" (NASV) is one that means to judicially calculate, count, or reckon. It speaks of a judicial decree in which one, in this context, **never** has his sin calculated against him in a condemnatory way (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 270).

Naturally, one who stands in a relationship with God in such a way that God will **never** calculate his sin against him, is a blessed man. The critical question then is this - "How does one get into this state of blessedness in which a man never must worry about God calculating sin against him in a condemnatory way?"

In the context of **Romans 4** (NASV), this word "take into account" or "calculate" is used in **verse 3** - "reckoned," **verse 5** - "reckoned," **verse 6** - "reckoned," and **verse 8** - "take into account." It is clear from this context that the specific point is that this judicial calculation **does not** come by works, but by faith in Jesus Christ (**4:2, 3, 5, 6**). When one believes on Jesus Christ by faith, apart from any works, his lawless deeds are forgiven, his sins are gone and he **never** needs to worry about the condemnatory wrath of God (**Romans 4:7-8, 24**).

In very plain legal, inspired language, God states that it is possible for one to be in a relationship with Him in which it is impossible for God to calculate sin against him. This privileged relationship cannot be entered into by works, even the works of a man like Abraham, but may only be entered into by faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, once a person believes on Jesus Christ, he is judicially declared righteous by God forever (justification) and the Lord will **never** calculate his sin against him and condemn him. One who has placed his faith in Christ is in a blessed state and he is eternally secure.

### (Passage #6) - Hebrews 10:17

Here is a verse that states that it is possible for one to be in a relationship with God in such a way that God will **never** remember sins and lawless deeds. The words "no more" are "ou may," meaning "**never**" or "**no not ever**."

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What immediately is evident from the verse is that there are sins that could be remembered. Something obviously happened that has canceled the sin debt or condemnation from the persons being discussed. **Verse 17** implies there have been sins (plural) and there have been lawless deeds (plural). We are certainly far removed in this verse from a concept of sinless perfectionism.

The context of **Hebrews 10** is the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ. He came to do something that the blood of animals could never do - take away sin (**10:3-4, 11**). Christ came and offered Himself once for sin (**10:12**). The point of **verse 17** is this - once one has entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by faith, his sins have been forgiven (**10:18**) and God will **never** (ou may) remember the sins or lawless deeds. They are completely washed away in the blood of the Lamb (**10:19**) and "He who promised is faithful" (**10:23**).

Eternal security is a precious, Biblical doctrine not contingent upon the sinful works of men, but upon the finished work of Jesus Christ.

### (Passage #7) - Hebrews 13:5

The promise to the believer is that God will **never** (ou may) desert the believer and **never** (ou may) forsake the believer. If a believer can lose his salvation, then God is a liar in this statement, for He would leave the believer and forsake the believer if the believer backslid or crossed some imaginary line of sin. If God says that He will **never** desert or forsake a believer, then that believer cannot ever be lost. This is concrete proof that the believer is completely secure.

### (Passage #8) - I Peter 2:6

Here is another "ou may" construction and the statement is "he who believes in Him shall **never** (ou may) be disappointed." The Greek word "disappointed" is one that refers to being in a state of dishonor, disgrace or shame (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, pp. 233-234). There logically could not be any worse state of dishonor, disgrace or shame than to have been one who, as those who teach you can lose your salvation suggest, was once in some state of salvation and then lost it. Such a one would be eternally disappointed.

The specific promise of this verse is that one who believes in Christ shall **never** be eternally disappointed. Believing in Jesus Christ will **never** leave one in an eternal state of dishonor, disgrace or shame. This immediately negates any possibility of a loss of salvation.

One who believes on Christ may be ashamed of his lack of dedication to Christ (**I John 2:28**) and he may lose rewards (**I Corinthians 3:15**), but he will **never** be ashamed of the fact that he believed on Jesus Christ, for that one act of faith guarantees him eternal life.

## ETERNAL SECURITY (28)

### (Passage #9) - Revelation 2:11

According to John, the one who “overcomes” will **never** (ou may) be hurt by the second death which is the condemnation to hell which is the judgment given to all unbelievers at the Great White Throne Judgment (**Revelation 20:14**). The Great White Throne Judgment is specifically a works judgment (**Revelation 20:13**). In John’s mind, one immediately became classified as one who overcomes the moment he believed on Jesus Christ (**I John 5:5**).

The promise of Jesus Christ is that one who believes on Him will **never** be hurt by eternal fire. It is impossible for one once saved to lose his salvation.

### (Passage #10) - Revelation 3:5

The promise again to one who believes on Christ is that he will **never** (ou may) have his name erased from the book of life. There is no question that this is a promise of eternal security. Once one has believed on Jesus Christ there is no possibility of his name being erased from the book of life, which means there is no possibility of him losing his salvation.

Concerning the combination of “ou may,” William Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich write: “Ou may has the effect of strengthening the negation. Ou may is the most decisive way of negating something in the future” (*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, p. 519).

To state the grammatical point specifically, “ou may” guarantees that once one believes on Jesus Christ he can **never** (ou may) lose his salvation. There is a “no-not-ever” possibility for one who has come to faith in Jesus Christ to ever be lost. It is impossible for one saved to ever lose salvation and that is precisely the point of the “ou may” combination.

“Ou” - it is a fact that one who believes on Jesus Christ will never be lost.

“May” - it is an impossibility that one who believes can ever be lost.

Combined - one who believes is guaranteed eternal life.

The words God chose to use clearly support the doctrine of eternal security. Eternal means without end. Never means without possibility. Together, as in **John 10:28**: “and I give eternal (without end) life to them and they shall never (no possibility ever) perish.

This doctrine of eternal security has been put into written form by God in the strongest possible language. To deny it is to deny the written Word.