

Holding on to Eternal Security

Romans 11:20-22

What happened to eternal security?

What about "once saved, always saved"?

Did something happen somewhere between Romans 8 and Romans 11?

Question: How do 1) eternal security, co-operate in the Bible?
2) commands to persevere,
and
3) warnings against falling away

Possible answers: 1) they don't go together, because the Bible is schizophrenic.
2) you are supposed to pick the verses that line up with what you want to believe, and ignore the rest.
3) that's why i don't read the Bible.

The real answer: they do co-operate. and we should believe and heed them all.

- Romans 8 and Romans 11 are in the same letter.
- 1 Peter 1:5
- Philippians 2:12-13
- Philippians 3:12
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15
- 2 Timothy 1:12-14
- 2 Timothy 2:11-13

The longer answer:

- [A] all three are in the Bible.
- [B] security belongs to genuine believers.
- [C] genuine belief inevitably results in obedience.
- [D] false profession will eventually be manifested.
- [E] warnings serve God's purposes and our well-being.
- [F] eternal security and assurance of salvation are not the same.
- [G] faith is the key to perseverance.

A thought for the concerned heart:

A. Eternal security, encouragements to persevere, and warnings against falling away are all in the Bible.

Eternal Security

- the word "saints" (Ephesians 5:3; Philippians 1:1).
- perfect tense verbs in salvation passages:
 - Jn5:24
 - Ro5:1,2,9,10,11
 - Ro6:22
 - Ro7:4
 - Ro8:2
 - 1Cor1:2
 - 1Cor6:20
 - Gal2:20
 - Gal3:27
 - Gal5:24
 - Eph1:3
 - Eph2:5,8
 - Col1:12,22
 - Col2:13-14
 - Col3:3
 - 1Pet1:3
 - 1Jn3:14
 - 1Jn 5:11-12
 - Rev5:9-10
- statements affirming eternal security of believers:
 - Mt24:22,24
 - Mt25:34
 - Mk13:20,22
 - Jn3:16,36
 - Jn5:21
 - Jn6:37,39,40
 - Jn10:27-30
 - Jn15:16
 - Jn17:2,6-10,12,24
 - Ro3:28
 - Ro4:16
 - Ro5:6-11
 - Ro8:28-39
 - Ro11:4-5
 - Ro11:29
 - 1Cor1:30
 - 1Cor3:23
 - Gal1:4
 - Eph1:3-8,11-14
 - Eph2:5-6

- Eph4:30
- Phil1:6
- Phil4:3
- Col1:12-14
- Col3:12
- 1Thes5:23-24
- 2Thes2:13
- 2Thes3:3
- 2Tim1:9,12
- 2Tim2:11-13
- 2Tim2:19
- Ti1:1-2
- Ti3:4-7
- 1Pet1:3-5
- 1Pet3:18
- 1Jn2:25
- Jude24-25
- Rev5:9-10
- Rev13:8,10
- Rev21:27

Encouragements to Persevere

- 1Cor16:13; Phil2:12-13; 2Thess2:15; 1Tim4:16; 2Tim2:14
- Benefits/results of perseverance
 - salvation (Mt24:13/ Mk13:13)
 - life and confidence in death (Lk21:16-19)
 - fruitful harvest for your labor (Gal6:9)
 - laying hold of eternal life (Phil3:12)
 - reconciliation with God (Col1:23)
 - faith and good conscience, avoiding shipwreck (1Tim1:18-19)
 - reigning with Christ (2Tim2:11-13)
 - tree of life, no 2nd death, authority over nations, and the Morningstar (Rev2:7,11,26-28)
 - crown kept, safe with God, sit with Christ (Rev 3:11-12,21)
 - relationship with God, eternal inheritance (Rev21:7)
- Identity of those who persevere
 - true disciples that continue in His Word (Jn8:31)
 - anticipating and growing christians (2Pet3:13-18)
 - those who remain "with us" (1Jn2:19)
- Enemies of perseverance
 - disobedience (Heb4:11)
 - false teachers / false doctrine (2Pet3:1-17)
 - idolatry, immorality, testing the Lord, grumbling (1Cor10:1-12)
 - carelessness (1Tim6:20-21)
 - weariness, losing heart (Gal6:9)
 - laziness (2Pet1:10-11)

- Keys to perseverance
 - Abide in Him (1Jn2:28)
 - Keep yourself in His love (Jude20-21)
 - Fight (1Cor9:23-27)
 - Work (2Pet1:10-11)

Warnings against Falling Away

- Mt13:18-23
- Mt24:10
- Lk8:18
- Lk9:62
- Jn15:6
- 1Cor10:1-12
- 2Cor11:3
- Gal5:4
- 1Tim4:1-3
- 1Tim6:10,21
- 2Tim2:11-13,18-19
- 2Tim4:3-4,10
- Hebrews
- Heb2:1-3
- Heb3:12-15
- Heb6:4-8
- Heb10:26-31
- Heb12:15
- Ja5:19-20
- 2Pet2:20-21
- Rev3:5,16
- Rev22:18-19

B. Security belongs to genuine believers.

John 8:30-31

John 8:31-59

Luke 8:4-15

C. Genuine belief inevitably results in fruit / obedience.

Matthew 3:10

Matthew 7:21

Luke 6:43-45

Luke 8:15

Luke 13:6-9

John 10:4

John 12:46

John 15:2

John 15:5

John 15:8

Romans 6:4

Romans 6:17-18

Romans 6:22

Romans 7:4

Titus 2:14

Titus 3:8

Hebrews 5:9

James 2:14

James 2:17-26

1 Peter 1:1-2

1 Peter 2:24

1 John 1:6

1 John 1:8

1 John 2:3

1 John 2:5

1 John 3:6

1 John 3:8

1 John 3:9

1 John 3:10

Revelation 14:12

D. False profession will eventually be manifested.

Matthew 3:10
Matthew 7:21–23
Matthew 10:26
Matthew 13:24–30
Matthew 13:49–50
Matthew 15:13
Mark 4:22
Luke 3:17
Luke 8:18
Luke 12:2–3
Luke 16:15
John 8:31
John 17:12
Colossians 2:18–19
2 Timothy 3:9
Titus 1:16
2 Peter 2
1 John 2:19
Jude 4
Matthew 18:15–18

E. Warnings serve God’s purposes and our well-being.

- God knows there will be pretenders.
- Warnings are God’s means by which the elect persevere.
- Warnings serve an evangelistic purpose —> pretenders revealed in time.
- Warnings become a vehicle for greater judgment.

Believer, observe the “fall factors”:

Mt 13:18–23

1. lack of understanding (v19)
2. the evil one (v19)
3. no roots, despite immediate enthusiasm (v20–21)
4. affliction (v21)
5. persecution (v21)
6. worry of the world (v22)
7. deceitfulness of wealth (v22)
8. choked and unfruitful word (v22)
9. desires for other things (Mk 4:19)

- 10. temptation (Lk 8:13)
- 11. pleasures of this life (Lk 8:14)
- 1Timothy 4:1-2
- 12. paying attention to deceitful spirits (v1)
- 13. paying attention to doctrines of demons (v1)
- 14. the hypocrisy of liars (v2)
- 1Tim 6:10
- 15. love of money
- 2Tim 4:2-4
- 16. refuse to endure sound doctrine (v3)
- 17. desire "ear-ticklers" (v3)
- 18. accumulate teaching, teachers according to own desires (v3)
- 2Tim 4:10
- 19. love of this world
- Heb 2:1-3
- 20. not paying attention, drifting
- Heb 3:12-15
- 21. evil, unbelieving heart (v12)
- 22. lack of encouragement (v13)
- 23. deceitfulness of sin (v13)
- 24. hard heart (v15)
- Heb 10:25-26
- 25. forsaking assembly and encouragement
- Heb 12:15-16
- 26. root of bitterness (v15)
- 27. immorality (v16)
- 28. godlessness (v16)
- Rev 3:16
- 29. contented fruitlessness

F. Eternal security and assurance of salvation are not the same.

Biblical ground for assurance is never:

- someone told you that you were ok.
- past profession of faith.

You and I cannot grant real assurance of salvation to others. We can point to Biblical witness to true grounds for assurance.

1Jn 3:18-22

Heb 6:11

G. Faith is the key to perseverance.

Jn 3:36

Jn 6:40, 47

Rom 1:17

Rom 11:20

Gal 3:11

Ti 1:1

Heb 4:2 (and see the argument from Heb 3:6 through 4:7)

1 Pet 1:5

1Jn 3:3

1Jn 3:23-24

1Jn 5:4-5

Jude 5

Rev 13:10

Rev 14:12