

# INCLUDED

A JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS



1. When we talk about “eternal security”, what are we talking about? In your past, did you ever live in fear that you were going to hell? What caused the fear?
2. Read Romans 3:9-20. In this passage, how is mankind described? It does not seem, according to this passage, that we are incapable of doing anything good; how can this be true when we see people doing good? In verses 19 and 20, what was the purpose of God giving his law to mankind? Compare this to Galatians 3:20-12, 23. How do religions use God’s law?
3. Read Romans 3:21-31. What does it mean when it uses the term “righteousness”? Where does our righteousness come from? How do we get it? How do we not get it? If we are righteous, what does that mean? Read Philippians 3:9. What does this say about how we get righteousness?
4. Read Romans 4:1-5. According to this passage, the word “credited” means to have something “put to your account”. What did Abraham do to have righteousness put to his account? What did he not do to be righteous? If a person tries to be righteous by doing good works (keeping God’s law) what will happen to him?
5. Pastor Rick said that there are three things we must do to have “eternal security”. What are they and which verses in Romans 4 speak about each one?
6. Pastor Rick said that there are basically three ways that people try in order to get to heaven, what are they? What is the only one that works? Which method are you relying on?
7. When we tell people that they need to believe or trust in Christ alone, what do we mean?
8. Can a person lose their salvation once they have trusted in Christ as savior? Why or why not? What did Jesus say about this in John 10:27-30?
9. How should the truth of eternal security affect the way we live our lives?

## ANSWERS

1. *The term eternal security is not in the Bible but it is the term used to describe the teaching that once you have trusted in Christ as savior, you will never be condemned to hell, even when you sin because all of your sins have been paid for and you never will have to worry where you will spend eternity.*
2. *Mankind is described as being totally sinful and there is nothing within man that pleases God. This passage is how God sees mankind, his point of view of mankind. God not only looks at the outward actions but also the inward cause and motivation for what we do. The only people who can do anything that pleases God are those who have the Holy Spirit indwelling them and are controlled and motivated by the Spirit of God. Have your members read Isaiah 64:6 that tells us that even our best actions are like filthy rags in God's sight. This passage tells us that the purpose of God giving the Ten Commandments, his law, was to show mankind how sinful they are compared to God; how far short of God's perfection we are. It was never given as the method for man to gain God's acceptance and obtain eternal life, which is how religions use the law of God; it is what they say we must do to have eternal life.*
3. *The term "righteous" is how God's perfection is described, it means to be as perfect and holy as God. The passage says that righteousness is given to us by God and comes when we believe, when we trust Christ as Savior. It says that we do not receive righteousness because we keep God's law. This righteousness is why we are eternally secure, God does not see our sin anymore but as Philippians 3:9 says, we are in Christ and God sees us as righteous as Christ is. Even though we are positionally righteous in God's sight, we still sin practically because we still have our sinful nature, but God sees us perfect spiritually from his point of view.*
4. *The passage says that Abraham believed God (had faith in him) and God put righteousness to his account because of his faith. He did not do a lot of good works in order for God to consider him righteous, in fact it says if a person tries to be righteous in God's sight by doing good things, his reward is that he is always in debt; that person will be responsible for his own sins and will spend eternity in hell. Righteousness only comes by faith in Christ.*
5. *The three things we must do to have security in our salvation are: a. Believe only God can give you salvation through Jesus. 4:3-5; b. Stop trying to earn God's favor and just accept it. 4:16-18; and c. Receive the free gift of God's grace by faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. 4:24,25*
6. *The three methods people use as their way to get to heaven are: a. Earn it by working hard; b. Belong to the right group of people; and c. Trust in Christ alone.*
7. *What the Bible means when it says we need to believe, to have faith in Christ, is to rely completely on what he did for us on the cross and not rely on anything we are doing in order to get to heaven. When a person hears the gospel message, they must repent (change their mind) about what they thought they could do to get to heaven and rely solely on Jesus and the payment he made for their sins when he died on the cross.*

8. *No, you cannot lose your salvation. To believe you can is to believe that there is some sin that you could commit that would cause God to send you to hell, which means Jesus could not and did not pay for that sin when he died on the cross. That is a lie from Satan, he paid for all sin.*
9. *The knowledge that we are secure in our salvation and that God is not up in heaven just waiting for us to step across some line so that he would send us to hell should do a couple of things in our lives. First, it should make us realize just how great God's love for us is. Secondly, it should cause us to be extremely grateful to God for his love and for all Jesus did for us when he died on the cross. Thirdly, it should cause us, because of our gratitude, to give our entire lives back to God to use however he wants to use us and fourthly, it should make us realize that we do not serve God because we fear him, but because we love him. Most religions threaten people to do what is right because if they don't, God will send them to hell so people live in fear of God. We should never have that fear of God because he does not threaten us with hell. He is our father now and deals with us exactly as a father deals with his children. Read Hebrews 12:4-11 to see how this works.*