

The Church:

God's Plan for Our Sanctification & Security

Hebrews 3:12-14

In His sovereignty, God has ordained that:

- Believers will be sanctified (growing in righteousness)
- Believers will persevere (are kept eternally secure)
- There are appointed means by which He accomplishes these things, namely the Church

Believers will be sanctified (growing in righteousness)

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.

Believers will be sanctified (growing in righteousness)

- Romans 8:28-29
 - You were predestined to grow in Christ-likeness

Hebrews 10:11-14

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Believers will be sanctified (growing in righteousness)

- Romans 8:28-29
 - You were predestined to grow in Christ-likeness
- Hebrews 10:11-14
 - The one who made you perfect (justified you) is making you holy (sanctifying you)

1 Peter 1:1-2

...To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

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- 1 Peter 1:1-2
 - You were chosen (through the sanctifying work of the Spirit) for obedience to Jesus

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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 - The one who made you perfect (justified you) is making you holy (sanctifying you)
- 1 Peter 1:1-2
 - You were chosen (through the sanctifying work of the Spirit) for obedience to Jesus
- Ephesians 2:8-10
 - The Lord created us for good works, and He graciously prepared good works in advance for us to walk in

Believers will persevere (are kept eternally secure)

Jeremiah 32:38-40

³⁸ And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰ I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.

Believers will persevere (are kept eternally secure)

- Jeremiah 32:38-40
 - God made a covenant promise that He would turn you to Him & that He would never let you go

Romans 8:29-30

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Believers will persevere (are kept eternally secure)

- Jeremiah 32:38-40
 - God made a covenant promise that He would turn you to Him & that He would never let you go
- Romans 8:29-30
 - No drop-outs between Justification & Glorification.

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Believers will persevere (are kept eternally secure)

- Jeremiah 32:38-40
 - God made a covenant promise that He would turn you to Him & that He would never let you go
- Romans 8:29-30
 - No drop-outs between Justification & Glorification.
- 1 Peter 1:3-5
 - You are being kept *by the power of God* for a salvation not yet revealed

John 10:27-30

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My 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.”

Believers will persevere (are kept eternally secure)

- Jeremiah 32:38-40
 - God made a covenant promise that He would turn you to Him & that He would never let you go
- Romans 8:29-30
 - No drop-outs between Justification & Glorification.
- 1 Peter 1:3-5
 - You are being kept *by the power of God* for a salvation not yet revealed
- John 10:27-30
 - Survival rate is 100% for those rescued by Jesus

In His sovereignty, God has ordained that:

- Believers will be sanctified (growing in righteousness)
- Believers will persevere (are kept eternally secure)
- **There are appointed means by which He accomplishes these things, namely the Church**

Hebrews 3:12-14

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
- A Deceptive Danger
- A Family Obligation

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
 - See to it (take care) *brothers*... (Heb 3:12)
 - Therefore, holy *brothers, who share in the heavenly calling*... (Heb 3:1)

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
 - We are called into communion (family) with God (Hebrews 2:10-14)
 - We are called into communion (family) with each other (Hebrews 3:1; 12)

The reality of our adoption as children of God can't be separated from the reality that we are now brothers and sisters. We belong to God and therefore we belong to one another.

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
 - We are God's house (Hebrews 3:1-6)

Hebrews 3:6

...***we are his house***, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

¹⁴ I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in ***the household of God, which is the church*** of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ ***you yourselves*** like living stones ***are being built up as a spiritual house***, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ... ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
 - We are God's house (Hebrews 3:1-6)
 - God's house is the **church** (1 Tim 3:14-15)
 - The pillar and foundation of truth
 - The people and how they conduct themselves
 - Not just an individual experience, but a corporate reality (1 Peter 2:4-10)

To confess faith in Christ is to declare that you are one of the living stones, gathered by God and built into a spiritual house – the Church

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling

Every individual must be saved through personal faith in Jesus Christ, but nobody is saved merely as an individual...

God's people are saved as a people.

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
- A Deceptive Danger

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
- **A Deceptive Danger**

The danger is that you, brothers and sisters (the Church, the house of God) can in fact be hardened by sin's deceitfulness and develop a sinful (or evil), unbelieving heart that turns away from the Lord.

Our sin wages a constant battle against us, intending to deceive us and harden our hearts in unbelief (Heb 3:12-14)

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
- **A Deceptive Danger**
- Why is this so dangerous?
 - Because no-one is exempt from this (Heb 3:7-19)

Hebrews 3:7-8, 12-16

⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness...

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
- **A Deceptive Danger**
- Why is this so dangerous?
 - Because no-one is exempt from this (Hebrews 3:7-19)
 - Because you're blind to it (Jeremiah 17:5-10, Hebrews 3:13)

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
- **A Deceptive Danger**
 - What does this look like?
 - A sinful, unbelieving heart (vs 12)
 - A hard heart (vs 13)
 - Turning away (vs 12)

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
- A Deceptive Danger
- Signs of trouble
 - You rarely, if ever, interact with other believers in a context where you're exhorting one-another.
 - When you gather, you stick to superficial conversations (the weather, the Huskers, work) but scarcely get beneath the surface
 - You think this warning doesn't apply to you
 - You aren't seeing to or exhorting anyone
 - You aren't being seen to or exhorted by anyone.

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
- A Deceptive Danger
- **A Family Obligation**
 - See to it (take care/make sure) vs 12
 - That no one is embracing sin
 - That no one is walking away in unbelief
 - An active responsibility (not passive or merely reactive)

As Christ's Church, we share in:

- A Corporate Calling
- A Deceptive Danger
- **A Family Obligation**
 - Encourage (exhort) one another (vs 13)
 - With words! (God's Word)
 - Daily! (vs 13)
 - Why?
 - To protect against hardening hearts (13)
 - To help each other persevere and hold onto the hope we had at first (vs 14)

- How do we do this?
 - Not less than Sundays
 - Not just Sundays
 - Small Groups
 - The orientation of our lifestyle
 - Life on Life Discipleship

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