

S's that can shape your life: Security.

This morning we are going to talk about our 4th S: Security. It like 6 of our subjects come from Psalm 34, especially the first 5 verses:

- a. *"Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles (struggles). The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear (trust) him, and he delivers (provides security for) them. Taste and see that the Lord is good (satisfaction); blessed is the man who takes refuge (sanctuary) in him. Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing."*
 - b. Also in verse 7 : *The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear(trust) Him, And rescues them.*
2. Security is a subject we hear a lot about nowadays.
- a. We have a government agency called "Dept. of Homeland Security."
 - b. In the previous elections we heard about a voting block called "soccer moms" who drove SUV's and spent their time taking their children to soccer, softball and skating. This election a new voting block has been coined called "security moms."
 - c. Some say security lies in having good fences, a good handgun or a big dog.
 - d. Others say it lies in having a great army, a strong deterrent in nuclear weapons or the latest, greatest technology.
 - i. (Psalm 20:7 *"Some trust in their war chariots and others in their horses, but we trust in the power of the LORD our God."*)
3. Susie gave me a great quote this week: "Security is not the absence of danger but the presence of God no matter what the danger is."
- a. Danger:
 - i. Danger makes us feel insecure.
 - ii. Danger leaves us feeling vulnerable.
 - iii. I grew up living on Rt. 84 in Painesville when the speed limit was 60 mph on the road. We lost a dog to that road. It was a dangerous place for children. But we also had 20 acres of fields and woods which felt safe. So we played in the fields and woods and only approached the "dangerous" road when we had to...like to get on the school bus or to cross it to get to a neighbor's house.
 - iv. But danger isn't always obvious. I climbed up a 30 foot tree in the middle of the woods and fell face flat to the ground below. Fortunately I wasn't seriously hurt.
 - v. Danger is everywhere we look. And as we have learned from the terrorists on 9-11, it is even in places we least expect it.
 - vi. Most of us feel less safe now than we did three years ago. Why is that? I doubt it is because of who is in office. It is because our ILLUSION of safety has been shattered by the reality of the dangers that exist in our world.
 - vii. We would rather have a sense that no danger exists. We would rather be oblivious to danger and live like there is none, and go on with our happy, carefree lives. But that isn't possible.
 - viii. Danger is everywhere (crime, the economy, terrorism, war, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes)...how can we cope?
4. Romans 8:31-39 *31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who 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 will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE*

CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

5. Analysis of Romans 8:31-39

a. *"If God is for us, who is against us?"*

- i. Think about that statement for a minute and let it sink in.
- ii. If God is for us...the One who made the heavens and the earth, the One who is all powerful, ever present, all knowing and truly God is for us...who can mount an effective attack against us?
 1. It is as if you have the most powerful ally in the universe on your side.
 2. You don't just have a strong ally. You don't just have a bunch of ally's. You have an ally whose power so dwarfs the opposition that there is no power at all to the opposition.
- iii. If God is for us:
 1. the car breaking down is not a punishment from God
 2. the marriage troubles aren't the wrath of God
 3. the lost job isn't a penalty for sin
 4. the wayward child is not retribution from God
- iv. The devil and sinful men can make you sick, steal your car, sow seeds of strife in your marriage, take away your job, and rob you of your child.
 1. But Romans 8:28 says, 'God works all those things together for your good if you love him.'
 2. And if they finally work for your good, the designs of the adversary are thwarted and his work that is against you is turned into a Christ-exalting, faith-deepening gain.
 3. If God is for you, he does not spare you these difficult things...but he designs good where your opposition designs evil.
 4. The things that are against you he designs to be for you. No one can be successful against you."

b. *"He who did not spare His own Son but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"*

- i. **We find security in God's love which has been demonstrated in the most extreme way possible.**
- ii. His own Son:
 1. Jesus Christ was not a man whom God found and adopted to be his son on earth.
 2. Jesus Christ is the pre-existent, indeed ever-existent, co-eternal, non-created, divine image of the Father in whom all the fullness of deity dwells (Colossians 2:9).
 3. Remember from Romans 8:3 that God "sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh."
 4. In other words, the Son existed before he took on human flesh. This is no mere prophet. This is God the Son.
 5. And when verse 32 calls him "his own" Son, the point is that there are no others and that he is infinitely precious to the Father.
 6. At least twice while Jesus was on earth God said, "This is my beloved Son" (Matthew 3:7; 17:5)
- i. In the words, "he did not spare him," we hear the immensity of the difficulty and the obstacle.
 1. God did not delight in the pain or the dishonor of his Son.
 2. This was an infinitely horrible thing for the Son of God to be treated this way.

3. Sin reached its worst in those hours. It was exposed for what it really is – an attack on God.
 4. All sin – our sin – is an attack on God. A rejection of God. An assault on his rights and his truth and his beauty.
 5. But God did not spare his Son this treatment.
 6. Instead "he delivered him over." Don't miss this.
 7. Almost everything in the universe that is important and precious gathers here in this unparalleled moment in time.
 8. Divine love for man and divine hatred for sin gather here.
 9. Absolute divine sovereignty and the everlasting weight of human accountability and moral action gather here. Infinite divine wisdom and power gather here – when God delivered over his own Son to death.
- iii. This is God's love for you and I. Unlimited love.
 1. If there is any proof of God's love for you and I it is here. We cannot doubt His love.
 2. Can we really question God's desire and love for us when He gave us His own Son, delivering Him over for us, loving us that much...can we really question God's concern and care for us when He has given us the greatest gift He possesses? No.
 3. We might not understand God's love...but we cannot really doubt His love in light of the Cross.
 - iv. Remarkably, the passage does not say that God gave us His only Son and now He isn't going to give us anything else.
 1. It says instead that the act of Giving His only Son demonstrates His love in such a way that He will also freely give us all things (that we need).
 2. Sometimes we think as if God has limited resources, and act as if we cannot ask Him for anything else because He already gave us something really important to us...like a miracle or a job or something else.
 3. God's resources are limitless and His love and giving nature is limitless and unconditional.
 4. The only reason He might withhold something from us is *because* He loves us and knows what is good or not good for us.
- c. *Who will bring a charge against God's elect. God is the one who justifies, who 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.*
- i. If God acquits us of our crimes, who can charge us? Sure, the devil will, but he has no basis. He can only say, "look what Bob did last year, he doesn't deserve God's love." To which I say, AMEN! I didn't deserve it then and I don't deserve it now! I am forgiven because of what Jesus did for me, not because of anything I have done! None can condemn because we are justified through Christ. God sees His son when He sees you and I when we place our trust in Christ. He will not condemn His Son or any who stand by faith in Him alone.
 - ii. John Stott sees the universal impact of this and says, "We can therefore confidently challenge the universe, with all its inhabitants human and demonic: Who is he that condemns? There will never be any answer" (Stott, Romans, p. 257).
 - iii. **Our security is found in Christ's work alone.**
- d. *35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*
- i. Paul underscores his point again...Who or what will separate us from the love of Christ? He lists some of the most serious issues that can face us in life and asks the rhetorical question.
 - ii. And then he pursues the line of questioning:

e. *36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

iii. He brings up the fact that Christians are being put to death for their faith in Christ.

iv. Martyrdom is normal Christianity.

1. It is happening all over the world. Pakistan, Nepal, Sudan, Indonesia, Vietnam . . . an estimated 164,000 Christians will die this year because of their faith

v. And he steadies their faith with the assurance, "IN ALL THESE THINGS we OVERWHELMINGLY conquer (hoop-er-nik-ah'-o) through Him who loved us.

1. Not just through them but in them.

2. And not just "squeak by" like an Ohio State Football score but overwhelmingly conquer, like 100-0.

i. And he lists everything that exists and says that he is convinced that none of these things will be able to separate us from the love of God found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ii. Distress and peril are broad, general words for dangers of all kinds. Christians are vulnerable to all of them. If your hope is to escape them, your hope is unfounded.

1. I don't want to give you unfounded hope this morning. But hope.

2. The Christian hope is not that we escape these things, but that they cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ

f. What do you fear in life? What do you fear most? Can it separate you from the love of God? No.

i. You may be separated from a job.

ii. You may be separated from your belongings.

iii. You may even be separated from the people you love.

iv. You might even be separated from your body through death.

v. But it will not separate us from God. It will in fact only unite us more completely.

g. **Your security depends upon God not upon you, your circumstances,**

i. Lisa Beamer's husband Todd said those memorable words aboard the plane that later crashed into a field in Pennsylvania, thwarting the terrorists, "Lets roll."

ii. She later wrote "My faith wasn't rooted in governments, religion, tall buildings, or frail people. Instead, my faith and my security were in God"

iii. When Lisa was 15 her father suffered an aneurysm at work and died the next morning in the hospital. Lisa: "When my father died, faith wasn't so easy anymore. . . . I spent five years asking why, expressing my anger saying it's not fair, before God helped me realize that he is who he is all the time – in good circumstances and bad. He is all-powerful and all-loving, but that doesn't mean that as a citizen of this fallen world he protects us from every 'bad' event." (Modern Reformation, 25)

iv. Imagine though, what God was preparing in Lisa through the death of her dad for. He was building her faith as a testimony to millions when she would lose her husband.

v.

6. Implications of Eternal Security:

b. It affects the way that you relate to God. You don't try to earn God's approval. You recognize that you already have it, and that your actions are a response to His love for you rather than an attempt to earn or gain it.

c. The security is not temporal but eternal. Eternity Security for you begins the moment you trust Jesus Christ as your savior. And it does not end.

- d. Eternal Security is about trusting Jesus Christ alone, by faith.
 - i. Any other faith or trust in any other thing will lead you away from that security.
 - ii. **Living by Faith means trusting nothing in this world.**
 - 1. **Money:**
 - a. 1 Timothy 6:17 reads: *Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.*
 - b. A \$50,000 bonus. With the right investment I can make myself financially secure for years to come!” So you get some advice from a friend, who tells you, “Look, \$50,000 invested in Microsoft in 1981 would be worth millions today! You’ve just got to pick the right stock, and you’ll be set for life. And do I have the stock for you! DrKoop.com goes public next week – this internet company can’t fail!” So you buy \$50,000 worth of DrKoop.com. Six weeks later that \$50,000 is worth \$150,000 and you think, “Boy, I sure did the right thing. Soon, I’ll have no worries in the world!” Then the bottom falls out. And by May 6, 2001, do you know how much your \$50,000 is worth? \$243. What is the lesson here? Last time we saw that God is the source of all true satisfaction in this life. Today, we see that God is the source of all true security in this life.
 - c. If we find our joy and pleasure in the things that money buys, we are finding our satisfaction in money.
 - d. On the other hand, we find our security in money when the size of our bank account or broker’s statement makes us feel that we are protected from danger, protected from events that could derail our life. Just ask any of the folks from LTV who thought they were going to have a great retirement.
 - e. The point is not: “Don’t plan! Don’t make good investments!”
 - i. Rather, the point is, What do we say to God? Do we say, “Oh, Lord, I’ve worked hard to gain some security – please, please, please don’t ask me to give it up!”
 - 2. **Health:**
 - a. In Luke 12 Jesus tells of a rich fool who has an abundant harvest. He says to himself, *19 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry." 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'*
 - b. We frequently think of this parable as a story about not putting our trust in money. That is certainly one of the points, but Jesus also is emphasizing that we have no control over our health.
 - c. As most of us here this morning know from personal experience, our health can change suddenly and seriously.
 - d. Yet, although we all would acknowledge this intellectually, we most often act as if our health were guaranteed indefinitely.
 - e. Or we lift weights and work out. Lance Armstrong was one of the most physically fit people in the world and was stricken with Testicular Cancer. No one is exempt.
 - f. Health is fleeting and not a promise...it is a gift.
 - 3. **Government:**
 - a. Despite how important this election is to our country, and how vital it is that you and I vote...I want to remind you of one thing. Your security will not be found in who wins office on any level, whether the presidency, the

supreme court or on the local level. No elected official will be our messiah.

- b. Vote. Yes. But don't peg your hopes on the official who is elected. Peg your hope upon Christ and Christ alone

e. Living by faith means finding security in God alone.

- i.
 - ii. Hebrews 6:19 says, "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil"
 - iii. An anchor is something that holds when things are stormy. It holds fast. And we are told that our hope in Christ is the anchor of our soul.
 - iv. You can use the word "hope" in at least three ways:
 1. a subjective feeling or conviction in the soul ("I hope to go to heaven.").
 2. a future objective reality that you hope for ("Heaven is my hope.").
 3. a person or event that makes your confidence sure ("Jesus' death is my only hope of escaping judgment.").
 - v. Which way will you use hope?
 1. God's great desire for his people is that we feel secure in his love and in his power.
 2. Everything else in life may be unstable—our health, our family, our job, our education, our society, our world.
2. The bible speaks a number of times about ways in which we could slip away from God:
- a. *Romans 11:20-21*, "Unbelieving Israelites were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast only through faith
 - b. *Hebrews 12:14*, "Strive for peace and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."
 - c. It would be a terrible misunderstanding if we thought that these scriptures were written to threaten our security in God.
 - i. Exactly the opposite is the case. T
 - ii. They are written to threaten our security in everything but God.
 - iii. If you find your security in health, if you find your security in your family or job or money or education, the bible will drive you relentlessly and lovingly back to the one and only eternal and unshakable foundation for security—God.
 - iv. All the threats and warnings of the Bible declare with one voice: **sin is an effort to feel secure in anything other than God.**
 - d. When God demands on the one hand, "Turn from sinning or you will die," and on the other hand, "Feel eternally secure in my love, and you will live," he is not demanding two different things.
 - i. Sin is what you do when you replace security in God with the other things.
 - ii. So when God threatens our feelings of security in the world, it's because he wants us to feel secure in his love and power.
 - iii. The threats and promises of Scripture have one message: seek your security in God alone.
3. *Psalm 121:1 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? 2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade on your right hand. 6 The sun will not smite you by day, Nor the moon by night. 7 The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. 8 The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in...From this time forth and forever.*

Won't you make this time forth begin today? Make Him your security. Begin today. Let's pray.

- i. **Why you need to know you have eternal security:**

1. You and I need security in order to live healthy lives. God has provided it emotionally, physically and spiritually for us
 2. **Remember how we will live differently when we are insecure than when we are secure?**
 - a. You may try to earn God's love (impossible)
 - b. You might try to give up because of the impossible task of trying to find an elusive security
 - c. You will have tremendous swings in your ups and downs spiritually as you gauge your worthiness on how well you have done spiritually the past day or week.
 - d. You will never worship God as God because if even 1% depends upon you, you will act as if all of it does.
- ii. How you can know *eternal security*
1. **1Jo 5:13** - I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have **eternal life**.
 2. **1Pe 1:23** - For you have been born again. Your new **life** did not come from your earthly parents because the **life** they gave you will end in death. But this new **life** will last forever because it comes from the **eternal**, living word of God
- iii. What you need to do *to have eternal security?*
- iv. **- Believe on Him - SAY YES TO GOD**
1. **Jn 3:16** "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
 2. John 3:18-20 "There is no judgment awaiting those who trust him. But those who do not trust him have already been judged for not believing in the only Son of God. Their judgment is based on this fact: *(if you are holding back from God from saying yes)* The light from heaven came into the world, but they loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. They hate the light because they want to sin in the darkness. They stay away from the light for fear their sins will be exposed and they will be punished.
 - a. It is the very act of coming forward and exposing their sins and darkness that would have brought them security.
 3. *(how crazy, for God will forgive if they will but forsake their sins and come to HIM!)* wwii German POW distrusting – expecting death, found mercy. His act of surrender was not his demise as he had feared, but his life, his salvation!
 4. Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Vote Tuesday. One issue you must understand is Issue One. It is a moral issue. It is a biblical issue. For one to say, "I don't want to force my morals on anyone else" is a misunderstanding. Those who are for this issue are "forcing" their morals upon us, demanding that you and I embrace their morals as normal. For someone to say that they cannot institute their morality into law is a lie, because every one of our laws is based upon a moral principle. That argument is the equivalent of talking about the terrorists that would kill us..."they don't believe murder is wrong, who am I to impose my beliefs upon them?"

There are some who say it will be bad for the economy of Ohio. Since when should monetary concerns govern how I make my moral choices? I and you have probably made many moral choices that affected us monetarily. You can make a lot of money in prostitution, but why don't we do it? Because of our moral beliefs. They exceed our desire for money.

Issue One declares that marriage is between ONE MAN and ONE WOMAN and it defines it such to prevent two things: Homosexual marriage AND Plural Marriages (bigamy – there are lawsuits popping up all over the country right now of threesomes demanding equality in marriage.) If we do not define it and stop it here, this issue will be out of control.

Some object to the fact that this will affect benefits of unmarried partners. True, it mandates that no state government office may pay with taxpayer money, benefits to UNMARRIED partners (that is homosexual and heterosexual). This only preserves the institution as we understand it.

Please, however, do not attack homosexuals. This issue is a spiritual issue. They are not our enemy, even though they do not believe as we do. Don't argue with them. Simply stand your ground by voting.