

REMINDER

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Dr. H. A. Ironside

Eternal Security of the Believer

by Dr. Harry Ironside

Note: This brief work consists of a message delivered in the D. L. Moody Memorial Church on a Lord's Day morning and the substance of two Friday meetings when questions were submitted and then answered from the platform. Careful editing might have eliminated everything that looks like repetition. But inasmuch as it is by constant re-affirmation that truth is lodged in the mind and heart, I have not pruned the answers as much as I otherwise might have. Let me say that my object was not controversy nor the besting of an opponent, but rather the edification and enlightenment of the people of God, so that the knowledge of the truth might deliver from legality and give true liberty. - H. A. Ironside, April 24, 1934

Can A Believer Ever Be Lost?

It has been announced that I will speak to you on a subject which has occasioned a good deal of controversy among the people of God. I want to take as a starting point - not exactly as a text, because we shall be looking at a good many Scriptures:

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor power, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This is the inspired answer to the question of verse 35: ***"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"*** That is, once we have been justified by faith, who is there, what power is there, that can separate from the love of Christ? And the answer, how full, how clear, not a shadow, not a doubt, not a question left, when the apostle says that neither death nor life shall separate! Can you think of anything which is neither included in death nor in life? Neither death nor life shall separate!

No unseen powers can separate the believer from Christ, ***"neither angels, nor principalities, nor powers."*** These terms are used again and again in the New Testament, particularly in the Epistles, for angelic hosts, good and evil. When our Saviour rose from the dead He spoiled principalities and powers, that is, He defeated all the hosts of evil led by Satan; and so we may take it that the angels referred to here are good angels, and the principalities and powers are possible evil angels. But there is nothing that good angels would do and nothing that evil angels can do which will result in the separation of the believer from Christ. And then further he says, ***"neither things present nor things to come."*** Again let me put the question, Can you think of any experience through which a believer might ever go which is neither a thing present nor a thing to come? And the Holy Ghost says that neither things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from the love of Christ. As though that were not enough, He speaks in a more general way when He says that neither ***"Height nor depth (nothing in heaven, nothing in hell), nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*** It looks to me as though we are safe if we are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eternal Security: Its Meaning

When we speak of the eternal security of the believer, what do we mean? We mean that once a poor sinner has been regenerated by the Word and the Spirit of God, once he has received a new life and a new nature and has been made partaker of the divine nature, once he has been justified from every charge before the throne of God, it is absolutely impossible that that man should ever again be a lost soul. Having said that, let me say what we do not mean when we speak of the eternal security of the believer. We do not

(continued inside)

mean that it necessarily follows that if one professes to be saved, if he comes out to the front in a meeting, shakes the preacher's hand, and says he accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour, that that person is eternally safe. It does not mean that if one joins a church or makes a profession of faith, is baptized, becomes a communicant, and takes an interest in Christian work, that that person is forever secure. It does not mean that because one manifests certain gifts and exercises these gifts in Christian testimony, that that person is necessarily eternally secure.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said to the people of His day, as recorded in *Matthew 7:21-23*: ***“Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”*** Such people then may have been very active in what is called Christian work - they have preached, they have cast out demons, that is, their influence has been such that men and women have found deliverance from satanic power through their ministrations in the name of Jesus, they have professed with their lips, they have accomplished many wonderful works, but they are found in that day among the lost, and when they plead their great activity and their earnestness in Christian testimony, the Lord says to them, ***“I never knew you.”*** Notice, He does not say to them, ***“I used to know you, but you have forfeited My favor and I do not know you any longer.”*** He says, ***“I never knew you.”***

The Sheep Of Christ

You remember how He speaks of His own in *John 10:27-30*: ***“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one.”*** Of His own He says, ***“I know them.”*** Of these others, in spite of all their activity, in spite of all their accomplishments, He says in the day of judgment, ***“I never knew you.”*** That is a very solemn thing. That answers a question that is frequently put to us. I do not know how many times I have had individuals come to me with a hypothetical case like this: ***“Suppose a man who joined the church, who professed to be saved, who for a number of years was a very active Christian worker, perhaps a Sunday school teacher, perhaps an elder or a deacon in the church, maybe a minister, but after some years of apparent consistent Christian living and helpfulness in testimony he turns his back on it all, returns to the world, utterly repudiates Christianity, and now denies in toto the gospel he once professed. How does that square with your doctrine of the eternal security of the believer?”***

That does not touch the matter at all. The apostle John tells us how we are to understand a case like that. He says in *1 John 2:19*, ***“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but***

they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us,” or literally, ***“That they were not altogether of us.”*** That is, it is possible to do all the things that I have spoken of and yet never be regenerated. It is quite possible to join a church, to make a Christian profession; it is quite possible to observe the Christian ordinances, to teach and to preach, and yet never be born again. If one teaches and preaches the truth, it will produce good results and will do men good whether the teacher or the preacher be real or not, for it is the truth that God uses. Of course He can use the truth to better advantage when it is proclaimed by a holy man living to the glory of God than when it is proclaimed by a hypocrite. Nevertheless, God uses His truth regardless of who may proclaim it, and that explains how people may do mighty works in the name of Christ and yet never be born again.

Christ's One Offering

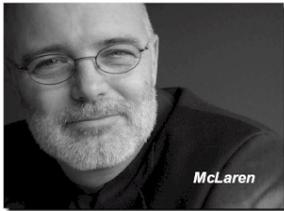
When we say that the believer in the Lord Jesus is eternally secure, we base it upon a number of lines of scriptural testimony. In the first place, we rest it upon the perfection of Christ's one offering upon the cross. Personally, I never can understand how thoughtful people, taught by the Holy Spirit of God, can carefully read the Epistle to the Hebrews and not see that throughout that Epistle the writer is contrasting the many sacrifices offered under law with the one sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. That to which he particularly calls attention is this: under law every time an Israelite sinned, he needed a new sin offering, and every year the nation had to celebrate the great day of atonement when a new offering was presented to God for the people. Why? Because those sacrifices could never take away sin, they simply covered sin for the time being. But we are told in Hebrews 10 that when the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world and offered Himself without spot to God, the effect of His sacrifice was eternal. Verse 14 makes this clear: ***“For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”*** Perfected for how long? “Oh,” says somebody, “as long as they are faithful.” No, that is not what it says. “He hath perfected for ever.” Why? Because the sacrifice is all-efficacious.

I am sure my brethren who deny the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer do not realize that in so doing they are putting a slight upon the finished work of Christ, they are reducing the sacrifice of Christ practically to the level of the offerings of bulls and goats in the Old Testament dispensation. I am sure they do not mean to do that, for they love their Lord just as truly as I trust I love Him, and they do not want to dishonor Him. But they are afraid that this doctrine will lead people to be careless about their lives, and therefore they stress the possibility of a man losing his salvation after he has once been justified by faith. But they do not pursue that to its logical conclusion; they do not see that it is a practical denial of the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are saved eternally because the sacrifice of Christ abides.

When I came to the Lord Jesus Christ and put my trust in Him, not only were all my sins up to the day of my conversion forgiven, but all my sins were put away for eternity. When a

young Christian, I was taught something like this: I thought when I was converted that all my sins, from the time of dawning accountability up to that night when I put my trust in the Lord Jesus, were put away, and now God had given me a new start, and if I could only keep the record clean to the end of my life, I would get to heaven; but if I did not keep it clean, I ceased to be a Christian and I had to get converted all over again. Every time this happened the past was under the blood, but I had to keep the record clean for the future. What a God-dishonoring view of the atonement of Christ that is! If only those of my sins that were committed up to the moment of my conversion were put away by the atoning blood of Jesus, what possible way would there be by which sins I have confessed after that could be dealt with? The only ground on which God could forgive sin is that Jesus settled all upon the cross, and when I trust Him, all that He has done goes down to my account.

- continued next week



Surprise, Surprise... Brian McLaren aligns with New Age Leaders

by Eric Barger

For over three years now there has been a presentation slide in my seminar, *“The Errors of the Emergent Church,”* stating the

following: *“Emergent leaders believe that Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism have failed them and have instead chosen mystic ideas that more closely align with New Age philosophy than biblical Christianity.”* From the mountain of material I had read and researched I knew this conclusion was true. Now we see my observations substantiated as absolute fact.

Getting further away from Christianity every day, Emergent guru, **Brian McLaren**, has joined the throng of apostates, earth worshippers, environmental nut cases, New Age leaders, and outright occultists in something called **“The Vision Project”**. Their website is a compilation of essays fit for, well, the Antichrist. Surprised? **No**. Troubled? **Absolutely!**

Here are a few of McLaren's fellow travelers in The Vision Project:

- Maurice Albertson, Founder, Village Earth, USA (Globalist)
- A. T. Ariyaratne, Founder, Sarvodaya Shramadana, Sri Lanka (Buddhist)
- Kofi Annan, Secretary-General UN, Ghana (Globalist)
- Bono, Lead singer, U2, activist for the poor, Ireland (Globalist)
- Andrew Cohen, Spiritual teacher, editor of What Is Enlightenment? magazine, USA (New Age Leader)
- Michael Dowd, Evolutionary Christianity, USA *
- The Earth Charter Initiative (A key Globalist/New World Order group)
- Joseph Goldstein, Insight Meditation Society, USA (New Age Leader and Buddhist)

- Barbara Marx Hubbard, Founder, The Foundation for Conscious Evolution, USA (Perhaps the most influential New Age author alive today!)
- Joseph Jaworski, Global Leadership Initiative, USA (Globalist)
- Michael Lerner, Tikkun, USA (New Ager and former guru to Hillary Clinton)
- Leane Roffey Line, Emergent Mind, USA
- Sara McKechnie, President, Lucis Trust, USA (Originally named **“The Lucifer Publishing Company,”** Lucis trust was founded to be a publishing arm for the works of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, the infamous Russian telepathic spiritualist and medium, known as the god-mother of the modern occultic New Age Movement.)
- Dale McKechnie, Vice-president, Lucis Trust, USA
- Robert Muller, UN University for Peace, Costa Rica (One of the 20th century's most important Globalists.)
- David Steindl-Rast, Benedictine monk, USA
- Heidi Rose Robbins, Astrologer and poet, USA

* Dowd is perhaps the foremost leader endorsing evolution to Christians. Amazingly, he is a graduate of Evangel University of the Assemblies of God and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary! He's an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and along with his wife, Connie Barlow, teaches “Evolutionary Christianity” to diverse groups, including those identified as Christian, Unitarian Universalist, Unity Church, Free Thinkers, Religious Science, secular humanists, and Religious Naturalists. He readily associates with Buddhist teaching.

These aren't all of the participants in The Vision Project but I believe you get the idea. These people are, as we ex-hippies used to say, **“far out!”**

Keep in mind, McLaren is continually referred to as an **“evangelical.”** He is published by allegedly Christian publishers like Zondervan, and is sought after as a speaker, being regularly invited to address Christian churches, Bible colleges, and universities. **Why would anyone who seriously studies and believes the Bible care to glean anything from the likes of Brian McLaren?** The answer to this, of course, is that the last-days deception is in full swing around us. The Church at large has had its spiritual senses so dulled that now anyone who dares suggest that the teachings of McLaren and other emergent sages be biblically tested are themselves immediately targeted with accusations, accusing them of being “unloving,” “narrow minded,” and “antiquated.” **What is actually going on around us is liberalism round two, repackaged. Those perpetrating it detest examination.**

The fact is that Emergent Christianity isn't really Christianity at all! How tragic that so few people around the Church these days seem to notice or care. Its touted as the latest wave; the newest innovation; the **future** of the Church. But in reality, it will be the very demise of Christianity unless there is a resounding wake-up, probably accompanied by a housecleaning from top to bottom in many local churches and even entire denominations.

Brian McLaren and other Emergent leaders, authors, and speakers should come clean and admit they are really interested in a universalistic world religion focusing only on here-and-now experiences and not on eternity. In actuality, this is what they are doing and I for one am not going to relent, saying so in hopes that some of their confused disciples might actually come and follow the Bible - something McLaren and the others had abandoned long ago. ■

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Vicki Martin
 Cradle Roll 2: Lou Martin
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: Kayla Avey

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of July 17, 2011

Sunday School ----- 18
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 56
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 32
 Wed. Evening, 07/20/11 Service ----- 29

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of July 17, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,459.40
 Love Offering, Grubb Family ----- \$ 372.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 8.00
Total Received for Week of 07/17/11: \$ 1,839.40

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR JULY:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received thusfar during July, 2011 ----- \$ 18.00
Amount Still Needed By August 5, 2011: - \$ 255.08

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today** - OK? Thank you.

LISTEN TO -



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 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English, Lou & Vicki Martin ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White