

SERIES: "LAST...BUT NOT LEAST":

An In-Depth Study of MALACHI - the Final Prophet of the Old Testament Era-  
PART X - Malachi and T.U.L.I.P.

"Perseverance of the Saints"

WEDNESDAY, March 11th, 2009

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- I. Although this is the one "point" of Calvinism that you (as one who believes in "ETERNAL SECURITY" and "ASSURANCE of salvation") might at first assume to be the one you would most certainly agree with, upon closer inspection that "assumption" also sadly becomes INCORRECT.
- II. Biblical "ASSURANCE of salvation" does not depend upon one's performance but upon the Gospel's declaration that Christ died for the sins of the whole world AND upon His PROMISE that "whosoever believeth in Him" receives the GIFT of eternal life.
- III. In contrast, the Calvinist's "assurance" is in God having predestined him to heaven as one of the "elect" - and his performance plays a large part in helping him to know whether or not he is even in that select group.
- IV. Meanwhile, the Scriptures clearly declare a very different picture in verses such as: Matthew 11:28; John 6:37 and John 10:28.
- V. One of modern day Calvinism's most outspoken proponents, John Piper, candidly wrote these words on this matter: "...we must own up to the fact that our final SALVATION is made contingent upon the subsequent obedience that comes from faith."
- VI. While many Calvinists would deny it, CERTAINTY as to one's ultimate SALVATION is built into the very fabric of their system!
- VII. ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION IS IMPOSSIBLE IN CLASSICAL (5-Point) CALVINISM and here is why: Since WORKS are an INEVITABLE outcome of 'true' salvation, one can only know if he/she is truly saved by the presence of good works! BUT since no one is PERFECT any assurance is IMPERFECT as well. Therefore you may think you believed in Jesus Christ, and you may think that you have saving faith, but be sadly MISTAKEN.
- VIII. When our ASSURANCE of salvation is based AT ALL on our works, we can NEVER have absolute assurance! BUT...DOES THE BIBLE DISCOURAGE GIVING OBJECTIVE ASSURANCE of SALVATION? HARDLY!! On the CONTRARY, such assurance is

broadly offered AND works are Never required for assurance. (\*\*John 5:24; Romans 8:38,39; I John 5:11-13)

IX. AN INTRIGUING OBSERVATION: John Calvin taught that being born into a Calvinist family AUTOMATICALLY made the child one of the elect, as did infant BAPTISM, so long as one believed in its efficacy. **THUS, WHILE BELIEVING THE GOSPEL IS NO SURE WAY TO BE SAVED, BELIEVING IN ONE'S INFANT BAPTISM IS!**

X. Following Calvin's teaching, like the MORMONS and Jehovah's Witnesses, many Calvinists believe that the only way to make one's "calling and election sure" (II Peter 1:10) is NOT through FAITH BUT through Good Works! **ODDLY**, although the first 4 points of Calvinism insist that man can do NOTHING, the 5th point depends (in the view of many) upon human EFFORT.

XI. ASSURANCE FOR ETERNITY:

1. Biblical assurance of eternal life in heaven rests alone upon God's PROMISES in His Word and upon the "Keeping power of God." (John 1:12,13; 3:17-18, 36; 5:24; I John 5:11-13)
2. Jesus said, "Come unto me,..." and we came. The gospel said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be SAVED..." and we believed! We believed, and we were SAVED "according to the PROMISE of life which is in Christ Jesus." (II Timothy 1:1) AND are simply RESTING in His abundant PROMISES including; "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). By simple faith in God's PROMISES, the God Who "CANNOT LIE" (Titus 1:2), the Believer KNOWS that he has passed from DEATH to LIFE and will never perish! We then are given the WITNESS of the Holy Spirit within (I John 5:10) and "the Spirit itself beareth WITNESS with our spirit, that we are the children of God...heirs of God, and JOINT-heirs with Christ." (Romans 8:16,17)
3. Note these critical verses which also clearly speak to this matter of ASSURANCE FOR ETERNITY: \* Ephesians 1:13,14; \* II Timothy 1:12; \* I Peter 1:3-5; \* John 14:1-3; \* I Thessalonians 4:17,18

XII. God help us to defend the misrepresentation of the character of God which Calvinists have presented as they deny God's love for ALL AND as they insist that God does not make SALVATION available to all BECAUSE He does not want ALL to be SAVED! (A FINAL REMINDER OF WHAT GOD HAS ACTUALLY SAID: Romans 1:16; Luke 2:10)

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ADDITIONAL NOTES: