

BLESSED ASSURANCE

By: Randy Baker

“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.” (John 10:27-29) The thought conveyed by the words of our Lord is indeed beautiful. However, some have used these words to promote false ideas.

John McArthur, Jr. is a popular author in the denominational world. He uses these words of Jesus to promote the idea of once saved always saved. He writes, “Picture the believer resting securely in Christ’s hands, which are in turn clasped tightly by the Father’s hands. Now that’s a secure position! Yet, some suggest that while God holds tightly on to us perhaps we can leap or fall out of that heavenly grasp. Not so.” (Saved Without A Doubt, pp. 16,17) McArthur fails to realize that the words of Jesus are addressed to those who **hear** and **follow**. (John 10:27) It is possible for a person to discontinue hearing and following. When that occurs the promise of the text is forfeited.

However, we should never lose sight of the assurance described in the above text. There is an assurance/confidence that the people of God have as a result of their relationship with Jesus Christ. (John 5:13) We don’t have to go through life wondering about our salvation. We can know where we will spend eternity. As long as we continue to hear and follow the Lord, our salvation is secure. There is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the love of God against our will. (Romans 8:35-39) I can pillow my head each night with the confidence that heaven is mine.

John “Raccoon” Smith moved his family to Huntsville, Alabama in 1814. He had saved \$1,500 to purchase several thousand acres, which was a considerable amount at that time. In January 1815, while Smith was visiting neighbors, he received word that his cabin was on fire. Smith rushed home only to find that two of his children had perished, his cabin and the \$1,500 destroyed. He was able to scrape around the rubble and find a small mass of silver worth \$76 –all that remained of his life savings.

Nothing in this life is certain. Our material things can be lost in a fire, tornado or other catastrophe. Our bodies can be ruined in a moment. However, in the spiritual realm, as long as we continue to hear and follow we can take comfort in the final salvation.