

OUR GREAT AND MERCIFUL BENEFACTOR

God's knowledge of His people is inseparably connected with His very foundation, and that foundation "standeth sure" (II Tim. 2:19). How dishonoring to God is that doctrine which says that He may love a person enough today to count them among His precious sheep, but tomorrow they may commit some misdeed that causes Him to erase their name from the Book of Life and to cast them into hell forever. This is not the God of the Bible. The God of the Bible says of His people, "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" (John 10:28-30). I have often wondered if those who think a person can lose eternal salvation have ever read those verses.

Let us thank the Lord daily for His precious and unbreakable promises to His people. And let us likewise strive daily not to displease our Great Benefactor but rather to honor and praise Him for His abundant mercies unto, and upon, our unworthy heads!

Let us also remember why we needed saving in the first place. It certainly was not because we were good, deserving folks, but it was because we were poor wretched, fallen and condemned sons of Adam who had neither the desire, nor the ability, to recover ourselves from our ruined condition by nature. But for God's sovereign grace and mercy we would have lived and died in love with sin and enslaved by the powerful inclinations toward hell and damnation.

---Elder Ralph Harris