

Sometime ago my wife brought home one of those wooden puzzles. She said that she had purchased it for me, but it was three days before I ever got my hands on it. When I was finally able to put the thing back together, I let Ray Marcrom borrow it. When he returned it, he left out a piece, and I soon discovered that each piece was totally essential to the completed unity of the puzzle. None of the other parts would hold together even if just one piece was missing.

The thought struck me that the missing piece was like the 'missing ingredient' without which the recipe will not turn out right. There is a great similarity to our eternal security, and it is further illustrated by a molecular compound. If you take away just one element, you have altered completely the original substance. Salvation is like a set of interlocking, interdependent items. If you take away one part, you don't have salvation anymore.

It is sometimes hard just from the pieces of the puzzle to understand exactly what it will look like when it has been put together. And so, we have problems perceiving the big picture of eternal life from just the elements of faith, repentance, baptism, etc. The pieces just don't seem to fit. But they are still all essential to the final product.

There are many pieces to this particular puzzle, and you must know them, and how they are fitted together. The Bible is the only instruction booklet; we cannot figure it out on our own.

We may solve a puzzle like Rubik's cube, but not know how we got there and not be able to get there again. We see the same thing in life.

Steve Brown