

Assurance of Salvation

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TEXT: I John 5:7-13

INTRODUCTION: Once we are saved is it possible to know we are saved for eternity and to have assurance of that salvation? Many would say that you cannot know for sure. However, our attention needs to be turned to the Word of God. Let's look at some things that can give us this assurance.

I. THE BASIS OF ASSURANCE – HOW WE ARE SAVED

- A. With all of the religions in the world there are only two ways for men to try and come to know God: by grace through faith or by our works (whatever form that may take).
- B. If it is by works than assurance is impossible and we can never know that we have done enough to merit heaven.
 - 1. Verses like I John 3:2, "Beloved now are we the sons of God..." are meaningless.
 - 2. I Thessalonians 4:13-18 really holds no comfort because we have no guarantee our loved ones made it.
 - 3. What a confusing and uncertain way to approach something as important as eternal life.
- C. However, if it is by faith in the Finished work of Christ on Calvary than we can claim all the promises of the Bible. Ephesians 2:8-10.

II. SOME PRINCIPLES OF ASSURANCE – HOW WE CAN KNOW WE ARE SAVED

- A. Christ's life gives us assurance. Galatians 2:20
 - 1. We often equate this verse with Christian living, but consider what it is saying.
 - 2. Now that I am a Christian, Christ lives in me. IT IS NOT THAT I AM JUST A BETTER PERSON BUT THAT "Christ liveth in me". THIS ETERNAL LIFE I HAVE IS CHRIST IN ME.
 - 3. COLOSSIANS 1:27, "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in me the hope of glory."
 - 4. HOW LONG WILL CHRIST LIVE? ROMANS 6:9, "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him." HE WILL NEVER DIE!!
 - 5. IF CHRIST IS IN US AND HE WILL NEVER DIE THEN WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE AS WELL!
 - 6. SOME WOULD SAY, YES BUT HE COULD LEAVE US, HEBREWS 13:5, "Let your conversation be without covetousness ; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
- B. CHRIST'S WORD GIVES US ASSURANCE – I JOHN 5:7-13
 - 1. VERSES 5-9 SETTLE THE FACT THAT CHRIST IS GOD WHICH WAS A QUESTION THAT WAS PREVALENT IN THAT DAY.
 - 2. VERSE 10 REFERS TO THE "WITNESS" AND BEGINS TO TALK ABOUT THE "RECORD". VERSE 11 AGAIN REFERS TO THE "RECORD". WITNESS SPEAKS OF HOLY SPIRIT BUT THE RECORD IS GOD'S WORD!
 - 3. VERSE 13 SAYS "These things have I written unto you...." AGAIN REFERENCING THE BIBLE. ROMANS 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." WHEN YOU HAVE DOUBTS ALWAYS GO TO GOD'S WORD FIRST!
 - 4. IN VERSE 13 NOTICE THAT AS WE BELIEVE GOD'S WORD AND BELIEVE ON THE SON OF GOD THE RESULT IS WE WILL BELIEVE ON THE SON OF GOD! "LORD I BELIEVE, HELP THOU MY UNBELIEF". AS WE BELIEVE GOD'S WORD IT STRENGTHENS OUR FAITH!!!

C. CHRIST'S HANDS GIVE US ASSURANCE – JOHN 10:27-29

1. THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF OUR BEING IN THE HANDS OF GOD. PSALM 8:3, “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained:” GOD MADE THE HEAVENS WITH HIS FINGERS AND YET WE ARE SAFE WITHIN HIS HANDS. IF ANYTHING COULD TAKE US OUT OF HIS HAND THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE STRONGER THEN HE IS!
2. BUT WHAT IF HE CASTS US OUT? JOHN 6:37, “All that the father giveth me shall come to me: and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” NOTICE VERSES 38-40 ALSO.

CONCLUSION: WITHOUT ASSURANCE THERE CAN BE NO REAL PEACE IN OUR LIFE. AT WHAT POINT WOULD WE KNOW WHEN WE HAVE DONE ENOUGH OR SINNED ENOUGH TO GAIN OR LOSE SALVATION. WE ALSO NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT TELLING SOMEONE TO “DO IT AGAIN JUST TO MAKE SURE”. THIS APPROACH OFTEN DOES NOT SETTLE THEIR PROBLEM ESPECIALLY IF LACK OF ASSURANCE IS RESULT OF UNCONFESSED SIN (II PETER 1:8-9). THEY WILL SOON BE RIGHT BACK WHERE THEY WERE BEFORE. WE NEED TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND IT IS NOT HOW MUCH FAITH THEY HAVE BUT RATHER THE OBJECT OF THE FAITH. NOT WHAT THEY SAID OR HOW THEY SAID IT BUT AGAIN THE OBJECT OF THEIR FAITH (JOHN 5:24).