

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - July 27, 2023

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Title: Soteriology - The Doctrine of Salvation - Part VI

"The Assurance of Salvation"

I. Introduction

A. Knowing that you are saved from the ultimate penalty of sin, eternal separation from Almighty God, should make you shout for joy!

B. The hymnologist captured such a beautiful truth in the hymn titled "Blessed Assurance" and the first stanza of this hymn really says it all.

"Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine.
O what a foretaste of glory divine.
Heir of salvation - purchased of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood."

C. The next line is about a personal testimony. "This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long." This hymn will make you shout!!!

D. Let us rejoice in the fact that we have the Word of God, that provides those who have surrendered their life to Jesus Christ, The Assurance of Salvation.

E. This lesson will conclude our study in the series of lessons on Soteriology - The Doctrine of Salvation. I do trust that you have been and are continuing to be blessed as we study the Word of

God together.

F. Let us now move into our lesson for this session on The Assurance of Salvation.

II. The Blessing of Assurance of Salvation

A. No greater peace comes to the Christian than when he or she knows they are saved. Because God wants every believer to be free from doubt, He inspired the first epistle of John.

B. The theme of 1 John is Assurance of Salvation. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that you have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (1 John 5:13)

C. The fact that men of the Bible knew they were saved gives us confidence that we can also know.

D. God wants us to live a life of peace, not a life of turmoil. He gave us His Word in order that we could have confidence that our home in heaven is assured.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

(John 14:1-3)

III. The Condition of Lack of Assurance of Salvation

A. The lack of assurance is a common problem.

1. It is not unusual for Christians to have doubts about their salvation. The average Christian may have at least one time

in their life when they doubt whether they are saved.

2. For a young child this may occur every time they sin. They have the mistaken idea that Jesus leaves them every time they do something wrong.
3. For others, doubts arise because of a confusion in terminology regarding the requirements for salvation.
4. Are those with a strong sense of assurance more spiritual than those who consistently doubt? Of course not! Many great Christians of the past have had times when they seriously doubted their salvation.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure. ..." (2 Peter 1:10)

B. Lack of Assurance is a serious problem

1. A lack of assurance should not be taken lightly. One should never minimize this problem, whether it is one's own or another's.
2. One good rule-of-thumb is this: It is dangerous for a well-meaning counselor to give assurance based on their knowledge of the character of the doubter. "Why, of course, you're saved, you have been in church for years." "Now, I remember the day you came forward when you were five years old."

Comment: That type of counsel has never helped anyone!

3. Doubts occasionally arise as the result of comparing our

experience with someone else's. But no two experiences are necessarily the same.

4. Some people cry when they receive Christ as Savior; others jump up and down; and others show very little emotion.
5. God has made each person unique, and that fact needs to be accepted in one's comparison of the salvation experience.

C. The Cause of a Lack of Assurance of Salvation.

1. Youth

- a. The majority of Christians are saved when they are very young. Many have grown up in homes where they have been taught the Bible from the very first days of their lives. There are two things that result in doubt late in life:
 - Childlike faith brings many to salvation between the ages of four and seven.
 - Most children remember very little about events in their lives before the age of five.
- b. As a result, many teenagers who were saved when they were young cannot remember the events of their salvation.

2. Tenderness

- a. God gives to the Christian a tender heart toward the things of the Lord. Satan often is the master of using this spiritual asset to his own advantage.

- b. A Christian will often be moved by the preaching of God's Word and that is the way it ought to be.
- c. The Word of God will continue to touch our hearts after salvation. The cross of Calvary should always touch our hearts.
- d. Often doubts and a tender heart are the very indication that a person is saved.

3. **Shocking Conversions**

- a. Another cause of doubt occurs when some "prominent Christian" announces that they, in reality, were never saved until "yesterday."
- b. This can create a contagious reaction and others might say: "If he or she were not saved, then I must not be saved." But there is a problem with this.
- c. The reason doubts arise is that we may tend to compare that other person's outward reputation to our inward knowledge of ourselves.
- d. We will always look worse in that kind of comparison. The thinking may go something like this: "If he (who is so good) was not really saved, then I (who am so bad) must also not be really saved."
- e. This is basing one's salvation on works. We can be thankful the another individual now has the peace of

God that they did not have up to that point. But that should in no way shake our assurance of salvation.

Point: Our salvation is not determined by people, but by a Person - The Lord Jesus Christ!

D. The Cure for a Lack of Assurance of Salvation

1. Testimonies of God's men

- a. There is no agony so great as that of a spiritual Christian who is having serious battles concerning their salvation experience. God wants us to know that we are saved.
- b. Christ knows who belongs to Him, and He wants us to know that we are His.

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." (John 10:14)

(1) John knew he was saved.

"Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us his Spirit." (1 John 4:13)

(2) Simon Peter knew he was saved.

"Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me."

(2 Peter 1:14)

(3) Paul knew he was saved.

"... For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12)

2. Tests of God's Word

a. Desire for obedience

- (1) One proof of salvation is a desire to obey God's Word. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in your life at salvation (1 John 4:13).
- (2) The Christian can no longer enjoy a life of habitual sin. The sinner sins and enjoys it. The Christian cannot enjoy sin for long because he or she cannot continue in the same sin without knowing the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him ... He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." (1 John 2:3-6)

b. Experiencing Inner Conflict

- (1) Often an inner concern about one's salvation is a confirmation of salvation in their life. A conflict requires two sides.
 - (a) The unsaved individual has only one nature; the Christian has two natures.

Point: A conflict like Paul experienced may be a good test of assurance. "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth not good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." (Romans 7:18)

c. Loving the right things

- (1) Love for God (Romans 8:5-9)
- (2) Love for God's Word (John 8:47)
- (3) Love for God's People (1 John 3:14)

d. Illumination of the Word of God (1 John 3:24; 4:13; 5:6)

- (1) Do you have some understanding of the Word of God? Although you will never understand it all, you have the Holy Spirit as your teacher.
- (2) The unsaved person does not understand much, if any, of God's Word.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Cor. 2:14)

e. Your present belief (John 6:47; 1 John 5:4-13)

- (1) One of the best questions to ask a person who cannot remember the time and place of their salvation is this: "What and who are you today believing in to get you to heaven?"
- (2) The verb in 1 John 5:13 is in the present tense -

"These things have I written unto you that believe (are now believing) on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, ..."

- (3) What do you believe today? Who are you trusting in today?

Point: If you are "now believing and trusting in Christ, you are saved!"

And the Church said - Amen!

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the following biblical passages by filling in the blank spaces. Each passage has been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"There is therefore _____ no _____ to them which are _____ Christ Jesus, who _____ not after the _____, but after the _____."

[Romans 8:1]

"Let your _____ be without _____; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will _____ leave thee, nor _____ thee."

[Hebrews 13:5]

"Come now, and let us _____ together, saith the Lord: though your _____ be as _____, they shall be as _____ as snow; though they be _____ like _____, they shall be as _____."

[Isaiah 1:18]

"Come unto me, all ye that _____ and are _____ laden, and I will give you _____. Take my _____ upon you, and learn of me; for I am

_____ and lowly in _____: and ye shall find rest unto your
_____."

[Matthew 11:28-29]

"For if we sin _____ after that we have _____ the
knowledge of the _____, there remaineth no more _____
for sins, But a certain _____ looking for of _____
and of fiery _____, which shall _____ the
adversaries."

[Hebrews 10:26-27]

"O give _____ unto the Lord, for he is _____: for his mercy
_____ for ever. Let the _____ of the Lord say so,
whom he hath _____ from the hand of the _____; And
_____ them out of the lands, from the _____, and from the
_____, from the _____, and from the _____."

[Psalm 107:1-3]

I sincerely hope that you have been blessed through this series of lessons on Soteriology - The Doctrine of Salvation. I also trust and pray that you have the assurance of your salvation, based on the infallible Word of God.

In the Master's Service,

Pastor Austin