

The Assurance of Salvation (2)

Introduction

- A. Christianity has been designed by God to work. The Gospel is the power of God.
- B. When one believes on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, he is given eternal life I John 5:10-12. This new life changes the character and habit patterns of the believer.

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold, all things become new. II Cor. 5:17

- C. Because one is changed when he becomes a Christian the evidence of this change is in itself a basis of the assurance of salvation.

I. In Our Relation to God – the Evidence is Obedience, I John 2:3-5.

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. But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in Him.

Observation: These verses plainly state that the true believer will obey God! Obedience will be a dominant characteristic of his life. This does not mean that the Christian will be sinless – John himself concerned that viewpoint (I John 1:8,10).

II. In Our Relation to the World – the Evidence is Separation, I John 2:15-17.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world

Observation: The Christian will not seek his ultimate pleasure in the things of the world. The true believer will recognize the difference between living for God and His glory and living for himself and his own selfish satisfaction. This will lead him to make those decisions which will enable him to live in the world and yet separate from it. The Bible is very clear – if a person puts his own fleshly desires first and does so consistently – he is not a Christian.

III. In Our Relation to Sin – the Evidence is Freedom, I John 3:9.

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit (practice) sin; for His seed remaineth in him; and he cannot (practice) sin, because he is born of God.

Observation: The practice of known sin cannot be a characteristic of a believer's life. The evidence of being a Christian is that he will continually seek to be free from sin. The inner struggle to put the Bible into practice is a comforting reminder that we are the people of God.

IV. In Our Relation to the Brethren – the Evidence is Love, I John 3:14.

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Observation: The true believer will prefer the company of Christians to that of non-Christians. This will be a characteristic of his life. The Gospel not only changes the heart of the believer, it gives him the desire to find his fellowship among the people of God. That person who professes to be a Christian and yet finds himself more at home among non-Christians should examine his heart.

V. In our Relation to the Holy Spirit – the Evidence is Progress, I John 3:24.

And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.

Observation: The Holy Spirit dwells in the believer to be his guide, to teach him the Scripture, lead him into a deeper walk of holiness, and by all of this to glorify Jesus Christ (John 15:26,27; 16:13-15). The Christian can therefore look back in his life and see some measure of progress in his spiritual development. If a person has no desire for the Scripture or spiritual things – and if this attitude is a characteristic of his life – that individual has never been born again.

VI. In our Relation to Ourselves – The Evidence is Understanding, I John 5:20.

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true

Observation: When the power of God in salvation enters a person's life, there is an inner instruction given to that person so that the basic themes of the Gospel are recognized as true and important (I John 2:27). This is why the word "know" is so often used to describe the believer (Matt. 7:23; John 17:3). The Christian will have an inner certainty that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that the Bible is God's Word.

Conclusion

- A. If a person is characterized by disobedience to God, love for the world, known sin, dislike for Christians, disregard for a progressive walk with God, and an ignorance of Bible truth, that person is not a Christian. We must be honest with God's Word and these tests of salvation.
- B. It is the will of God that the believer have the assurance of his salvation. However, this assurance must be based on the Scripture and not on his emotions.
 1. God has promised eternal life to all who believe on His Son. When we have obeyed God then we should rest in the truthfulness of His word.
 2. John reminds us that the operation of the grace of God in our lives also serves as an evidence of salvation. That inner desire to please God, when it is united with realistic decisions of faith to practice the Bible, form a Biblical basis for assurance. Note I John 5:13.

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