

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Discipleship 1 - Chapter 3

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Would you buy insurance from a salesman who told you that he “Hoped” that his company would pay off on your claim? What if he told you he “thought” his company had money enough to pay when you needed it - would you purchase a policy from him? Purchasing insurance is an important decision, and you need to Know that what you buy is worth your investment. Yet, many people go to church in search of eternal life and listen to Pastors tell them they “hope” that their instructions will result in eternal rewards. When asked whether or not they will enter heaven when they die, these trusting souls respond with a casual, “I hope so,” or “I think so.” HOW SAD! The Bible says, “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:13)

Jesus did not come to offer a mere hope of heaven; rather He came to offer the certainty of eternal life, a realization bringing with it the peace of God which passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7). Isn't it sad that many people spend a great deal of time making certain about relatively minor decisions, but spend little time seeking a sure answer to life's greatest questions, “Where will I spend eternity?”

Assuring Facts About Salvation

A careful study of God's Word reveals that those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour can have an assurance of salvation which is based on facts not feelings. Feelings may change from day to day - feelings bring little assurance. God's Word never changes (Matt. 5:18) - it brings great assurance. Our assurance of salvation is based on at least three facts revealed in God's Word.

Fact Number One - “Everlasting means everlasting and eternal means eternal.” Almost everyone has heard John 3:16. This great verse closes, “...whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Question - when does everlasting life end? The answer is never! Everyone who believes in Jesus for salvation receives everlasting life. This truth is found over and over in the Bible. “He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life” (John 5:24). “And this is the promise that He hath promised us, even eternal life” (1 John 2:25). When Jesus promises us “everlasting” and “eternal” life, He promises us something which will never end. This fact alone should relieve any fears of losing our salvation.

Fact Number Two - God promises to keep us saved. Just as an infant is totally dependent upon his parents for physical life, so a Christian is totally dependent upon God for spiritual life. God promises to care for us. Read the following verses carefully:

(John 10:27-29)

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: ²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

Did you see the picture? When you were saved, you were spiritually placed in Christ's hand. God then wrapped His hand around Christ's hand and He guarantees that you will never again be lost.

Fact Number Three - At the time of salvation, God places the believer in a position of assurance. Just as many complex physical changes take place when a baby is born into the world, so several spiritual transformations occur when a person is converted from sin to the Saviour. Among these is the new and wonderful position in which the new believer is placed by God, a position which has three aspects. Let's look at these.

1. Sonship - When a person receives Christ, he is born as a son into God's family, John 1:12 says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God,..." Salvation affords sonship, Can a person ever cease being his father's son? No! Neither can a Christian ever lose the family position granted him by God.
2. Citizenship - When a man receives Christ he becomes a citizen of heaven. Philippians 3:20 tells us, "Our conversation {citizenship} is in heaven."
3. Relationship - At the moment of salvation, a believer is placed into the body of Christ. "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members of another"(Romans 12:5). No member of the body will ever be amputated!

Questionable Feelings About Salvation

Virtually every Christian will at some time be plagued with feelings of doubt about his salvation experience. This happens not because the doubter

has lost his salvation, Rather it occurs because something has severed the warm bonds of fellowship with God that every Christian should constantly enjoy.

Nothing will ever sever a Christian's sonship, but sin will often hinder our fellowship. Remember how you felt when as a child you disobeyed your earthly parents? Did you want to go home? Were you excited about family time? NO! Your feelings were not then the normally warm feelings of sonship because the relationship had been marred through disobedience. Likewise, as a child of God, your relationship with your heavenly Father can be disturbed but never destroyed, Remember God's promise, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Did you call? If so, then to restore the warm feelings of your relationship, you need only seek God's forgiveness for the specific sin that has broken your fellowship with Him. That's why His Word says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Search out the cause of your doubts, and remember that your salvation is based not on feelings but on facts!

FROM YOUR READING

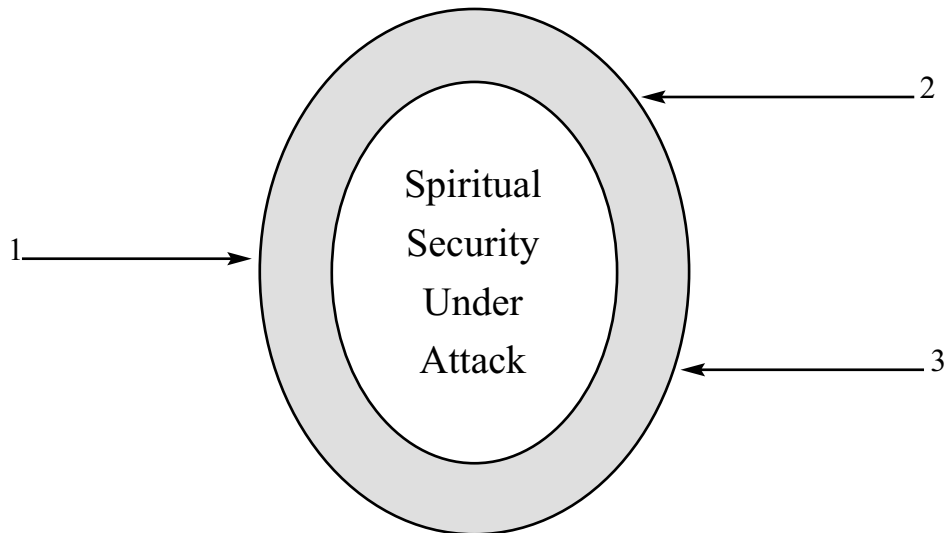
1. What verse in the Bible tells us that we can know that we have eternal life? _____.
2. What is the most important question a person ever has to answer? _____.
3. (True or False) Christians sometimes doubt their salvation? _____.
What normally causes a Christian to doubt their salvation?
_____.
4. Name three important aspects of the Christian's position in Christ.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

Are these positional aspects of the Christian life temporary or permanent? _____.
5. Describe the picture found in John 10: 27,29:

_____.
6. What three facts give us great assurance about our salvation?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

GROUP TIME

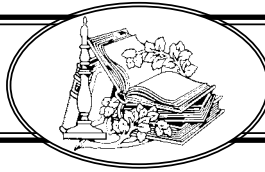
3



Christians living in _____ will lose the assurance of their salvation.

Christians being accused by _____ will lose the assurance of their salvation.

Christians who do not _____ God's Word will lose the assurance of their salvation.



The following material is given for your personal Bible Study and Christian growth. The basic assignments for the course are given and a special “achiever” assignment is suggested for those who desire to go the extra mile. Before you begin, pray that God will allow you to really grow through this endeavor.

SCRIPTURE ASSIGNMENT

Read Your Bible and Answer the Following:

Assurance of salvation is necessary for Christian to have peace and to be able to help others. As you look up these verses you will discover that God wants His children to enjoy the assurance of a home in heaven.

1. God gives three things to offer a Christian assurance of salvation. What are they?
 - a. _____ Romans 8:16
 - b. _____ 1 John 5:13
 - c. _____ 1 John 3:14; 2 Cor.5:17

2. According to John 1:12, what assurance is given to the person who receives Jesus Christ as Saviour? _____

3. What confidence should the believer have according to Philippians 1:6? _____

Notice here the “good work” spoken of is salvation. Who began the work of salvation for the believer? _____

Who then would “perform” the work of salvation for the believer? _____

Look again at John 10:27-29 and thank God for this promise.

4. What do you learn about God from Titus 1:2? _____

_____ What does God promise in Romans 1:13? _____

Can this promise be false? _____

Achiever Questions

What evidence of eternal life and salvation should be seen in the believer's life?

1. 1 John 2:3 _____
2. 1 John 4:2-3,15 _____
3. 1 John 4:8,12 _____
4. John 14:27 _____
5. Romans 5:5 _____

MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

Books of the Bible: 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Verse: Romans 8:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Achiever's Verse: Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT

1. On a 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper, list the changes that God has brought in your life since you were saved.
2. How have these changes strengthened your assurance of salvation?