

THE ASSURANCE AND CERTAINTY OF SALVATION

I. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF 1 JOHN: TO GIVE US ASSURANCE OF OUR SALVATION

God does not want any person to have any doubts or questions about his salvation, but to be certain and confident about it. What is most important in life is knowing God and Jesus Christ, and then knowing for certain that you know Them. John 17:3

II. HOW TO KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, HOW TO KNOW YOU ARE SAVED

A. 1 John 1:9 - a true Christian confesses his sins to God. Psalm 51:2-4

B. 1 John 2:5 - a true Christian obeys God. John 14:20

C. 1 John 2:10 - a true Christian loves his brother. 1 John 3:17-19

D. 1 John 2:12 - a true Christian knows he is forgiven. Colossians 2:14

E. 1 John 2:13 - a true Christian knows God, and has a relationship with Him. John 17:3

F. 1 John 2:14 - a true Christian overcomes the enemy. Ephesians 6:10-18

G. 1 John 2:15 - a true Christian does not love the world. 1 John 3:6

H. 1 John 4:16 - a true Christian believes God loves him. Romans 8:35-39

I. 1 John 4:18 - a true Christian does not fear God's judgment. Romans 8:31-34

J. 1 John 3:23 - a true Christian believes in Jesus Christ, in who He is and in what He did. A true Christian is a believer, for he is saved by believing and he continues to believe.

K. A true Christian knows he's a Christian because these qualities I just mentioned are to different degrees evident in his life. This doesn't mean a Christian is perfect, but there's godliness in his life, and this then gives him or her assurance. 2 Peter 1:3-11

III. A TRUE CHRISTIAN BELIEVES IN THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD

A true Christian believes that Jesus is the Son of God. He believes in the entirety of His person, in who Jesus is and in what He did.

IV. A TRUE CHRISTIAN GROWS IN CONFIDENCE THAT HE IS SAVED

It is not beginning knowledge or progress in knowledge, but rather it is fullness of knowledge, or complete knowledge.

V. CAN A PERSON LOSE HIS SALVATION AND BECOME UNSAVED? **NO!**

VI. ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE FALLACY OF LOSING YOUR SALVATION

A. If a person can lose his salvation, then where in the Bible does it say you can? It doesn't. In fact, God's word says God will keep you saved. Jude 24-25

B. If a person can lose his salvation, then what kind of sin does a person need to commit to lose his salvation? There are no sins by which a person can lose his salvation. Christ died for all of a person's sins, big or little.

C. If a person can lose his salvation, are there so many sins a person needs to commit before he loses his salvation? Again, Christ died for all our sins.

D. If a person loses his salvation, then how does he get his salvation back again? He can't lose it, and so all this talk about getting saved again is foolish talk.

E. If a person loses his salvation, can he get it back and then lose it again? Again, you have to see that this lie of the devil is not true, is illogical, and makes no sense at all.

F. A god who is like this is no god at all. What kind of god says all your sins are forgiven and then says they're not all forgiven? Our God is not like this – He is faithful, forgiving, and does not go back on His word. Christ's death was sufficient to pay for all the sins of any unbeliever who repents of his sins, and trusts in what Christ did for him. 1 Thessalonians 5:24

VII. SALVATION IS BASED ON GRACE AND NOT ON WORKS

It is God's grace that saves you, and it is God's grace that keeps you saved. 1 Cor. 15:10

GOD WILL KEEP YOU STRONG TO THE END
SO THAT YOU WILL BE BLAMELESS ON THE DAY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
GOD IS FAITHFUL, WHO HAS CALLED YOU INTO FELLOWSHIP
WITH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

1 Corinthians 1:8-9

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What is the main lesson of 1 John? Why is this lesson so important?
3. List some of the main ways you can be assured of your salvation?
4. Which one of these truths about assurance of salvation is most relevant to you at this time?
5. You can't give a person assurance of his salvation, but how can you help him to have assurance?
6. Why do some people believe a person can lose his salvation? Why is this thinking so wrong?
7. How does your understanding of God's grace relate to this discussion about assurance?