

Hebrews

6:7-12

Participation in the things of God and association with the people of God, does not equal salvation.

This passage serves as a warning for all people to check their hearts to make sure that their surroundings do not serve to camouflage their heart of unbelief.

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Over time the heart of a person is revealed by the production of fruit or the production of thorns.

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Biblically, thorns often are representative of the curse of God upon sin.

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Genesis 3:17-18

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It is no accident that we see thorns come up not only at the fall of man, but at the redemption of man.

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John 19:2

And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe.

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2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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Deuteronomy 11:1-17

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Deuteronomy 29:1,16-20

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After laying out the dire consequences of rejecting Christ, the author assures the Hebrew believers of their salvation.

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Why does the author feel sure of things that accompany salvation for the Hebrews?

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Do we sometimes think that those who know the most theology or are the most discerning about life are the spiritual elites?

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What about you?

Do others identify you as a Christian by what you know or for the way you love them?

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1 Corinthians 8:1b

This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.

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Paul implies that pride of knowledge has the potential to tear down others, while on the other hand love builds others up.

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1 Corinthians 13:4

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

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Are you more prone to be puffed up with knowledge or for the building up of your fellow Christians through service?

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John 13:34-35

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The Bible greatly commends both sound doctrine and love. As believers, we must not sacrifice one for the other.

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Works do not save a person, but works can certainly reveal whether or not a person is saved.

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Ephesians 2:8-10

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Should a Christian have assurance of his or her salvation?

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Philippians 3:12-14

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Having the right assurance of salvation is healthy. It energizes a believer to press on and to not be a sluggish Christian.

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A lack of assurance can lead to a debilitating Christian life.

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As your assurance increases, may it produce more love for your fellow Christians.

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1. Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-3. Paul is certainly a man who loved sound doctrine. However, he was also aware that knowledge without love can be bring great harm to not only an individual but also to a church. How do we as believers make sure that we are maintaining a healthy balance of sound doctrine and love?
2. Someone once said, “No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.” Though not a scripture, is this a principle that reflects what we have studied today?
 - A. Who are you most likely to listen to in your life, those who know the most, or those who love you the most?
 - B. Would people be more prone to listen to you if they truly knew that you loved them? Think of some practical ways that you can grow in your love for fellow church members. Be specific.
3. It is common for Christians to say we love one another; however, we often do not define the word as scripture does. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. List the attributes of love that Paul lays out in these verses, and discuss the type of church that this type of love for one another would build.
4. Arguments, quarrels, and divisions might seem to be something that only people outside of the church have to deal with, but such things can be problematic even for those within the church. What wisdom can we gain from the following passages regarding to our relationships with other Christians. See James 4:1, Titus 3:8-11, 2 Timothy 2:22-24.
5. How would you respond to a professing Christian who said, “Christians who believe in eternal security and assurance of salvation are just prideful.”

What verses could you use to help with this question? Ex.: 1 John 5:13, _____,
_____, _____.