

(9-5-99)

8/14/16

Proofs of Genuine Salvation
Proofs of Salvation
1 John 2:3-6

INTRODUCTION

1. This morning we are once again looking into John's first letter; written to the believer's living in Asia Minor.
2. Having looked last week at 1 John 2:1-2, we are now looking at vv.3-6
3. Read 1 John 2:3-5
4. *As we are learning together we see that:*
First John is a book that deals with (absolutes and certainties.)
5. *And* As John writes this letter he is dealing with a group of false teachers who have come into the assembly teaching false doctrine. *As 2:26 says "to deceive you"*
6. We have already seen some of it. *in chapter 1*
7. They taught that you could have fellowship with God and walk in darkness (1:6).
8. They taught that you could reach a place in your life where

you have "no sin" (1:8).

9. They further taught that you could also reach such an attainment where you never sin (1:10).

AND AS WE SAW LAST WEEK
Ch 2: 1-2
Taught us:

10. Even though a Christian has been delivered from sin and his desire is not to sin, there will be times when ^{he} you will sin.

11. John says that in chapter 2, verse 1: "And if anyone sins."

12. Now as we look at vv.3-6 John gives us (assurance) of who is truly in the fellowship.

13. Even though he has already hinted at this in chapter one, he once again drives this point home.

14. John talks a lot about *knowing* God in 1 John. In vv.3-6 he uses the word *know* 4 times: In v.3 - 2 times; v.4 - 1 time; and v.5 - 1 time.

15. Throughout the book he uses the word *know* (32 times).

16. John wants you to *know* God and to *know* that you *know* Him.)

17. Thus that is the purpose of this letter.

18. So in vv.3-6 John gives us **(3 proofs of genuine salvation.)**

Proof #1:

I. Obedience to God (vv.3-4)

**A. Genuine Salvation is Evidenced by Obedience to God
(v.3)**

1. We are commanded to obey the Gospel
 - a) 2 Thess. 1:8
 - b) Rom. 1:5 - Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name.
 - c) Rom. 10:16 - But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"
 - d) 1 Peter 4:17 - For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

2. We are commanded to obey Jesus Christ
 - a) John 3:36 - He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (NAS)
 - b) Luke 6:46
 - c) Heb. 5:9 - And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

3. We are commanded to believe in Jesus Christ
 - a) 1 John 3:23

- b) Rom.6:17 - But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

B. Genuine Salvation is Evidenced by Keeping His Commandments (v.3)

“Keep” Gr.tereo, (Pres.act)subj.) “to guard, keep” (Rienecker), “to attend to carefully” (Wuest) “The word has the idea of observing or holding something fast in memory” (Rienecker).

“Commandments” Gr.entole, “precept” (Strong), “an order, command, charge” (Wuest).

Kenneth Wuest,

“The precepts (commandments) are those given by our Lord either personally while on earth or through His apostles in the New Testament Books. Thus, a solicitous guarding of the precepts of Christ, a consuming desire that they be honored, a passionate determination that they always be kept, is a proof gained from experience, that that person has come to an experiential knowledge of the Lord Jesus and is at present in that state of knowing Him” (Word Studies in the Greek NT, Vol.4, p.113).

1. It is a matter of love

- a) John 14:15 - If you love Me, keep My commandments.
- b) John 14:21 - "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I

will love him and manifest Myself to him."

c) John 14:23 - Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

d) 1 John 5:2-3

2. It is a matter of relationship

a) John 15:14 - "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

b) James 2:23 - And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

c) Mat. 12:50 - "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

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Genuine Salvation is Not Evidenced by a Shallow Profession (v.4)

1. It doesn't matter what one says

a) 1 John 1:6,8,10

b) James 2:14-20

c) Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

"Judas heard,
All of Christ's
Sermons"
(Thomas Goodwin)

2. If you do not "keep His commandments" you are a "liar and the truth is not in" you

PROOF # 2 :

II. Love From God (v.5)

A. This is Given to the One who Obeys the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

"But whoever keeps His word"

"Keeps" Gr. tereo, (same word used in vv.3-4)

1. The "love of God is perfected in him"

"Perfected" Gr. teleioo, "to bring to the goal" (Rienecker), "to complete, accomplish, fulfill" (Strong)

Fritz Rienecker,

"True love for God is expressed not in sentimental language or mystical experience, but in moral obedience" (Linguistic Key to the Greek NT, p.786).

- a) 1 John 4:12
- b) 1 John 4:18

2. The love of God is given to Him - Rom.5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

B. This is Given for Assurance that You are In Him

1. The love of God in your life gives evidence of the grace of God - 1 John 4:8

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

2. God's love provides assurance

Proof #3:

III. Abiding in God (v.6)

A. Examine What You Are Saying Against What You Are Doing

1. It is more than saying

- a) Remember the false teachers (1:6,8,10)
- b) Remember the person in verse 4

2. It is doing

- a) "Abides" Gr.meno, "Continue (Strong), "abide, remain" (Thayer).

"The word refers, in a connection like this, more than merely to position. It is used very often of persons abiding in a home, which implies more than mere position, but rather fellowship, communion, dependence, harmony, friendship... To abide in the Lord Jesus implies not only position, but relationship. It implies friendship: friendship, dependence, harmony, communion" (Wuest).

- b) John uses this word 14 times in this epistle
- c) 1 John 3:24

B. Live Your Life As Jesus Did.

1. Walk as He walked

“Jesus’ life of obedience is the Christian’s pattern. Those who claim to be Christians ought to live as He did (cf. John 6:38) since they possess His Spirit’s presence and power” John F. MacArthur, Jr., The MacArthur Study Bible, (Dallas: Word Publishing) 1997.

- a) In humility - Phil.2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
- b) In love - John 13
- c) In dependence on the Father - Lk.22:42 - "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

2. Talk as He talked

In comparison to the talk of the false teachers who are constantly “saying” what they believe to be true about themselves you need to develop the language of Jesus— Let your speech be His will and His Word

- a) As Luke 22:42 points out His speech

→ Not my will
but yours be
done.

demonstrated dependence on the Father.

- b) In 1 Peter 2:21-24, He did not reprove his accusers but committed Himself to God:

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed.

CONCLUSION

1. ✓ Are you basing your assurance of salvation of what you did years ago or are you basing it on the present?
2. ✓ Do you see in your life the pattern of obedience to God?
3. ✓ If so it is the proof of His love in your life.
4. ✓ Obedience to God, love from God and abiding in God — these are some of the proofs that John gives for salvation.
5. ✓ Where are you at today?