

Security of the Soul Part 3

- Part 1 of this series refuted the doctrine “once saved always saved.”
- Part 2 of this series stressed the child of God can have confidence of his/her salvation. (1 Jn. 5:13).
- The Scriptures plainly affirm that the Christian who is submitting to the will of God can have assurance of salvation.
- Part 3 will discuss some things that hinder the Christian from having confidence of his/her salvation and being able to sing the words “Blessed Assurance” with true confidence of salvation.

Some Reasons Some Are Not Confident Of Salvation

1. Some reject the grace of God and feel salvation is on the basis of merit.
 - a. Though they may not be egotistical they believe salvation is earned by a good life and good deeds.
 - b. This is clearly a false and dangerous rejection of God’s grace.
 - c. Salvation is by God’s grace. (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:5,8-10).
 - d. No one deserves salvation.
 - e. The fact is, however, that God bestows His free gift on those who love Him and seek to do His will. (1 Jn. 5:3; Matt. 7:21).
2. Many Christians refuse to accept God’s forgiveness. (Heb. 8:12).

Heb 8:12 "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

- a. God says “I will remember their sins no more.” See Mic. 7:19
- b. Many do not really believe this promise of God.
- c. They believe God keeps a record of sin and never forgives.
- d. They believe they will give account for every sin they committed in life when they stand before God one day.
- e. The word “remember” in Hebrews 8:12 does not mean the Omniscient God forgets our sins, but it means He ceases to hold them against us.
- f. We will not give account of forgiven sins in the judgment.

3. Some never have confidence of salvation because of a perfectionist attitude.
 - a. Somehow they think they must be sinless or nearly sinless to be saved.
 - b. Because they cannot live up to this expectation of absolute perfection they lack confidence of salvation and think they will probably be lost or perhaps barely squeeze into heaven.
 - c. Christians with this attitude make poor witnesses of Christ and rarely convince anyone to follow Christ.
 - d. How can one who lives with constant uncertainty of his/her salvation motivate others to live a life of uncertainty?
 - e. God wants us to live life with confidence and assurance of salvation and not as those who have no hope. (Rom. 8:37-39).

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

Rom 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- f. None of these external things “will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - g. We can separate ourselves if we abandon God and cease to live for Him and please Him.
4. Others lack confidence of salvation because they refuse to forgive themselves.
 - a. They exclaim, “What I did was too bad! I cannot forgive myself.”
 - b. They ignore the fact that “the chief of sinners” accepted God’s forgiveness and because of God’s forgiveness he forgave himself.
 - c. What Paul wrote in 1 Timothy should be considered by all who refuse to forgive themselves or believe that God could never forgive them. (1 Tim. 1:13-16).

1 Tim 1:13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

1 Tim 1:14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are {found} in Christ Jesus.

1 Tim 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost {of all.}

1 Tim 1:16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

- 1) Paul made the point he had been “the foremost” of sinners prior to his conversion.
 - 2) God showing mercy to him was proof that all men who accept God’s grace in Jesus can be saved.
- d. He lived with confidence of his salvation. (2 Tim. 1:12; Phil. 1:21; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).

Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

2 Tim 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2 Tim 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

5. Some never have confidence of salvation because they listen to men - not the promises of God.

a. Men often distort the Scriptures and basically teach the Christian cannot have confidence of salvation.

b. They refuse to accept the plain teaching of the Bible.

6. Some ignore the fact the Bible teaches Christians can have confidence. (1 Jn. 5:13).

1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

a. John was not writing sinless Christians. (1 Jn. 1:7-10).

b. John was affirming that Christians who walk in the light and confess their sins “know” they “have eternal life.”

c. “Know” is not wishful thinking or uncertainty, but it is full confidence.

d. “Know” expresses certainty, confidence, assurance.

7. Some never have confidence of salvation because they confuse their own feelings with the approval of God. (1 Jn. 3:19-21).

1 John 3:19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

1 John 3:20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

a. Some conscientious Christians never feel they have done enough and always have feelings of guilt regardless of what they do.

b. John points out that “God is greater than our heart and knows all things.”

c. The one who lives with doubt should take notice of 1 John 3:19.

d. One can have confidence in his/her salvation because God “knows all things” and approves us even if we have feelings of guilt and condemnation.

e. He knows our hearts, motives and every thought and action.

f. He knows if we are sincerely seeking to please Him.

8. Some never have confidence of salvation because they think their salvation depends on what others do.

a. Often times friends and loved ones disappoint us and refuse to follow the Lord and His teachings.

- b. Some believe they are responsible for this and may be lost because others refuse to obey the Lord.
 - c. Each of us will be judged by our own conduct. (2 Cor. 5:10).
9. Some never have confidence of salvation because they believe one must be right about everything to be saved.
- a. It is certain that the Christian should seek to learn what is right and must pursue it.
 - b. It is impossible to be right about everything.
 - c. The best of Christians confess they do not know everything and daily confess sins because they recognize they often sin.
 - d. They also keep diligently studying the word of God to learn God's truth and recognize they are not perfect in their understanding of everything.
 - e. No one can ever know he is right about everything in this world.
 - f. He may not even know in the world to come.

Conclusion.

- 1. In summary the Bible teaches that the child of God is eternally safe (can be sure of his salvation) as long as he continues to love God and keep His commandments.
 - a. This means a Christian can be confident of his salvation as long as he humbly confesses his sins and walks in the light.
 - b. He is able to say with absolute confidence, "It is well with my soul."
 - c. He can have the peace that surpasses understanding. (Phil. 4:6,7).

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- 1) Keep in mind these promises were not made to perfect Christians - there are none. (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).
- 2) God's perfect peace comes to those who accept God's forgiveness and remain determined and committed to please Him.
- 3) The faithful Christian has the attitude of the psalmist. (Psa. 19:14).

Ps 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

- d. He knows one day he will be with the Lord forevermore. (1 Thess. 4:17, 18).

1 Thess 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thess 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words

1) Heaven is not a temporary place.

2) It is an everlasting place of bliss. (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 22:5).

2. Each one of us needs to ask “Is it well with my soul?”

a. Are we on the way to heaven or hell?

b. If we are not on the way to heaven, we need to immediately get right with God repenting and confessing our sins.

c. We must daily walk in the light and daily confess our sins. (1 Jn. 1:7, 9).

d. We should never deny our sins or seek to hide them.

e. It is vital that we keep on confessing our sins and keep hungering and thirsting for righteousness. (Matt. 5:6).

f. The lukewarm, indifferent Christian makes the Lord sick. (Rev. 3:15,16).

Rev 3:15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

g. We should always keep in mind that the blood of Jesus is constantly cleansing us of all our sins.

h. This motivates us to be joyful, confident and assured of salvation.

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