

The Certainty of Salvation

Introduction

- The question of “what must I do to be saved?” is closely followed by “how do I know that I am saved?”
- There are some groups that teach that a person may lose their salvation and, to be honest, we may not always *feel* saved.
- “Doubt is to your spirit what pain is to your body; it doesn't mean you're dead, it means something's wrong.” - Adrian Rogers

The Gospel in Five Steps

- One of the simplest outlines to share the Gospel is the “Roman’s Road”, which typically is present using four steps:
 - Every man is a SINNER - Romans 3:10,23
 - Every sinner is SENTENCED to Hell - Romans 6:23a
 - Christ came to be our SAVIOR - Romans 6:23b
 - The SOLUTION is Faith in Christ - Romans 10:9,13
- To these four, we now add a fifth for this lesson: the SECURITY of the believer.
 - This addresses the question: “Once I have confessed my sins and call on God through faith in Christ, how do I know that salvation is sure?”

Hindrances to Assurance

- Not remembering the exact time, place, events, or details of when they were received salvation.
 - A better question is what you believe *now* rather than what you did *then*.
- Questioning some procedural detail of their salvation experience.
 - For example, being saved through private Bible study and not “walking an aisle” in a meeting.
 - Faith must be in Christ and not the process of coming to Him.
- Personal struggles with sin.
 - Sometimes because we struggle with sin, we may think we are not truly saved.
 - The presence of sin in the life of a believer can most certainly cause doubts.
- Not having a true doctrinal foundation for understanding.
 - Some people have been taught false doctrine, or worse, no doctrine at all.
 - It is important that every new believer be given a foundation to understand the sureness of their salvation.
- By looking to ourselves for proof and assurance of salvation.
 - If we are trusting in ourselves, then salvation is being placed on a faulty ground.

Why We Can Be Certain About Our Salvation

- “It is our privilege to know that we are saved.” - D.L. Moody
- The promises of the Bible show us that we can know for sure that we have eternal life.
 - The language of the Bible shows assurance and not doubt is the desire of God.
 - I John 5:11-13 – “...that ye may know...”
 - The Holy Spirit works to give us assurance.
 - Romans 8:16
 - **Conclusion:** God did not intend for us to have doubts about our salvation.
- The promises of the Bible show that a believer is fully removed from the guilt and penalty of sin.
 - There is forgiveness of *all* sins.
 - Colossians 2:13 – “...forgiven all...”
 - God promises “no condemnation” for those in Christ.
 - John 5:24
 - Romans 8:1
 - We are justified – made “just as if” we had never sinned – in the sight of God.
 - Romans 5:1
 - **Conclusion:** From these promises we see that salvation frees us from being found guilty of our sins (past, present, future) and facing everlasting judgment for them.
- The promises of the Bible show our salvation is not based on ourselves.
 - It is not based on us, our righteousness, or works.
 - Ephesians 2:8-9 – “... it is the gift of God: not of [our] works...”
 - Titus 3:5-7
 - It is based entirely on the work of Christ
 - I John 5:11-12
 - **Conclusion:** If we cannot gain salvation through our own actions, then we cannot lose it by them either.
- The promises of the Bible show that our salvation is kept safely by God.
 - We are kept in the hands of Christ and the Father
 - John 10:27-29
 - We are sealed by the Spirit
 - Ephesians 1:13-14
 - No matter the trials we face, we can be sure He keeps our salvation secure.
 - II Timothy 1:12
 - **Conclusion:** For our salvation to be lost, it would require God to fail in power and promise – an impossibility!