

## Know What You Believe You Can Know - Assurance

John 3.16-18

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### A. You must be Saved to be sure (John 3.3,16) - If you are unsure of your eternal salvation it will affect you in four areas:

*[John 3:3<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ]*

1. **Your Service** [- You will either try to earn your salvation or you just won't serve at all.]
2. **Your Spirit** [- You will have very little joy.]
3. **Your Strength** [- When tough times come you won't be able to stand.]
4. **Your Soul** [- You will forever ask yourself, "Am I going to Heaven?"]

[Once you are born again you receive everlasting life (John 3.16).]

*[John 3:16<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ]*

- **[Everlasting - aionios (gk) - Without beginning and without end. This speaks of the glory of the presence of God.]**

[Everyone will live forever. The true question is where will you spend eternity.]

[Jesus is man's only hope for fulfilling God eternal purpose for mankind.]

### B. You are Safe with the Savior (John 3.16-18).

*[John 3:16-18<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. <sup>18</sup> He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ]*

**[Illustration:** Harry Ironside stated that salvation was like Noah inviting a pagan in his day to place his trust in God's Word and come in to the ark. Some view salvation like Noah offering to put a peg on the outside of the ark. "If you just hang on through the storm, you'll be saved." Salvation is not dependent on our holding on to God, but on our being securely held by and in Christ.]

1. **We are safe from Isolation** (2 Tim 4.16-18; Heb 13.5). [You will never stand alone

again. Paul sent some, then some left him, yet he was not alone.]

*[2 Timothy 4:16-18<sup>16</sup> At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. <sup>17</sup> Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. <sup>18</sup> And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. ]*

*[Hebrews 13:5<sup>5</sup> Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. ]*

2. **We are safe from Trepidation (1 John 4.15-19,18).** [- Trepidation is fear which causes apprehension. Perfect love casts out fear - Some are afraid to serve for fear of making a mistake.]

*[1 John 4:15-19<sup>15</sup> Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. <sup>17</sup> Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. <sup>19</sup> We love him, because he first loved us.]*

*[1 John 4:18<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. ]*

**[Illustration:** Watchman Nee tells about a new convert who came in deep distress to see him. "No matter how much I pray, no matter how hard I try, I simply cannot seem to be faithful to my Lord. I think I'm losing my salvation." Nee said, "Do you see this dog here? He is my dog. He is house-trained; he never makes a mess; he is obedient; he is a pure delight to me. Out in the kitchen I have a son, a baby son. He makes a mess, he throws his food around, he fouls his clothes, he is a total mess. But who is going to inherit my kingdom? Not my dog; my son is my heir. You are Jesus Christ's heir because it is for you that He died." We are Christ's heirs, not through our perfection but by means of His grace.]

3. **We are safe from Condemnation (Rom 8.1; Matt 10.28).** [Man cannot take away what God has given.]

*[Romans 8:1<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ]*

*[Matthew 10:28<sup>28</sup> And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ]*

### C. You are Secure for all eternity (John 3.17; 2 Cor 1.21-22; Eph 1.13-14; Isa 49.16)

1. **[Saved (John 3.17) - sozo (gk) - to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction.]**

*[John 3:17<sup>17</sup> For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ]*

2. **[Sealed - God has set His mark upon you, you are redeemed (2 Cor 1.21-22; Eph 1.13-14).]**

*[2 Corinthians 1:21-22<sup>21</sup> Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; <sup>22</sup> Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. ]*

*[Ephesians 1:13-14<sup>13</sup> In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. ]*

3. **The Five C's of security (John 10.27-30): [Placed in God's hand]**

*[John 10:27-30<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: <sup>28</sup> And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and my Father are one. ]*

- a. **Conferred (vs 28a)** [- *And I give unto them eternal life; . . .* - Who gave you eternal life - Jesus, who is God.]
- b. **Command (vs 28b)** [- *. . . and they shall never perish, . . .* - His decree concerning eternal life - Never Perish ]
- c. **Constraint (vs 28c)** [- *. . . neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* - None is able - Pluck means to seize or carry off by force ]
- d. **Control (vs 29)** [- *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* - The Father hand is the greatest hand ]

[Graven upon the palms of His hands (**Isa 49.16**).]

*Isaiah 49:16<sup>16</sup> Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.*

- e. **Confirmation (Rom 8.15-16)** [- The presence of the Holy Spirit within the child of God is their confirmation of their salvation.]

*[Romans 8:15-16<sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear;*

*but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. <sup>16</sup>  
The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of  
God: ]*

**D. You are Sent for His glory (Matt 28.19-20).**

*[Matthew 28:19-20 <sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. ]*

1. [**Illustration:** The 3-year old felt secure in his father's arms as Dad stood in the middle of the pool. But Dad, for fun, began walking slowly toward the deep end, gently chanting, "Deeper and deeper and deeper," as the water rose higher and higher on the child. The lad's face registered increasing degrees of panic, as he held all the more tightly to his father, who, of course, easily touched the bottom. Had the little boy been able to analyze his situation, he'd have realized there was no reason for increased anxiety. The water's depth in ANY part of the pool was over his head. Even in the shallowest part, had he not been held up, he'd have drowned. His safety anywhere in that pool depended on Dad. At various points in our lives, all of us feel we're getting "out of our depth" -- problems abound, a job is lost, someone dies. Our temptation is to panic, for we feel we've lost control. Yet, as with the child in the pool, the truth is we've never been in control over the most valuable things of life. We've always been held up by the grace of God, our Father, and that does not change. God is never out of his depth, and therefore we're safe when we're "going deeper" than we've ever been.]

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