

HOW TO BE SURE OF YOUR SALVATION

It is important for every believer to have a solid foundation on which to build. And no matter how long you have been a Christian, it is always good to go back and review "the basics" from time to time. We begin with assurance of salvation.

Even though I became a believer at the age of nine, I did not have assurance of salvation until I was a junior in college when a girl on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ took the time to show me in God's Word why I could be assured of my salvation. I begin with this lesson with everyone I disciple because building a strong foundation begins with assurance of salvation.

Memory verse for the week: John 5:24 (Write it out below in your favorite version.)

DAY 1: THE GOSPEL

LOOKING UPWARD

1. On what is your assurance of salvation based?
2. What role do feelings play in your salvation?
3. What is the relationship between salvation and works?

We will address these questions and others in today's lesson...

LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

4. Let's begin with two questions used in Evangelism Explosion:
 - (a) If you were to die tonight, do you know for certain where you would spend eternity?
 - (b) If God were to ask you why He should let you into heaven, how would you answer?

5. In order to answer that question correctly, let's briefly review the gospel. Write out the main points from the following verses:

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23a

Romans 6:23b

Romans 5:8; John 3:16

- a. Why do we need a Savior?
- b. What was the motivation behind Christ dying for us?

Ephesians 2:8-9

- a. What is grace?
- b. What are we saved from?
- c. What is faith?
- d. Can you work for your salvation? Why or why not?
- e. In James 2:14-26 James addresses the relationship between faith and works. Some say that Paul and James are saying the exact opposite, but they are not. What exactly is James saying in this passage, and how does it relate to Ephesians 2:8-9?

6. What does faith have to do with receiving Christ as your Savior, and why is faith a necessity?

7. How does one express faith?

8. Why is it important for a believer to have assurance of salvation?

LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

- Are you a sinner?
- Do you need a Savior?
- Have you placed your faith in the One who came to save you from the penalty for your sins?
- If not, what is holding you back?

There is no greater time than now to accept Jesus as your Savior if you have not already done so. One way to express your faith is through prayer. You can put your faith in Him as Savior by expressing with your heart, "Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I can never be good enough to pay the penalty for my sins. Thank you that you died on the cross for my sins and you paid the penalty for me. I accept your payment, and I put my faith in you and your work on the cross as my Savior. Indwell me now with your Holy Spirit."

- If you have put your faith in Christ, how should you respond to God moment to moment?
- How are you, in reality, responding to Him?
- Write out your thanksgiving to Him for the great gift He has given you.

DAY 2: CHRIST IS IN YOUR LIFE

As a believer, you can be assured of five truths:

1. Christ is in your life.
2. Christ will never leave you.
3. You have eternal life.
4. You became a child of God.
5. Your sins are forgiven.

We will focus on these five truths the rest of this week and next week. Even though you may “know” these things are true, it is important to know where in Scripture these truths are supported. When you become a believer, you begin a new relationship with Jesus Christ as He indwells you through the Holy Spirit. In today’s lesson we will focus on the first truth – Christ is in your life.

LOOKING UPWARD

1. How do you know Christ is in your life? Where in Scripture would you go to support it?

LOOKING TO GOD’S WORD

Read Ephesians 1:13-14.

2. According to these verses, how do you know that Jesus Christ is in your life?
3. What is your responsibility?
4. What does God do once you put your faith in Him as Savior?
5. Notice the Trinity in this passage – God the Father, Son, and Spirit. How is each one involved in our salvation? (List the “who” and what is said about each one.)

Read Revelation 3:14-22, the letter to the church at Laodicea.

6. Revelation 3:20 has also been used to support that Christ is in your life once you ask Him to come in. There has been disagreement over this verse concerning the audience to whom this letter was written. Some believe it was addressed to believers because it was originally addressed to the church at Laodicea, and therefore, cannot be a verse that can be used for an evangelistic invitation. Others feel it was written to both believers and nonbelievers. Because of the spiritual condition of the church at Laodicea, it is likely that there were nonbelievers in that church and this verse was used as an invitation to nonbelievers and those who professed to be believers, but in reality were not. I agree with that view.

- In light of that, how would you use this verse to give someone assurance that Christ is in his life?

LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

- What difference does it make in your daily life to know that Christ lives in you? How does it impact you?
- Reflect on these passages and write out some "lessons for life" from these verses:

Romans 8:9-11

Colossians 1:25-27

- Why is "Christ in you, the hope of glory"?

DAY 3: CHRIST WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU

There are disagreements on the issue of eternal security. Some believe that when you sin, Christ leaves you. Or if you choose to turn away from Him, He leaves you. Others (including myself) believe strongly that once **truly** saved, you cannot lose your salvation. Christ will **never** leave you, if you have sincerely put your faith in Him! Today we will look at this issue of eternal security, and how you can know, standing on God's Word, that He will never leave you.

LOOKING UPWARD:

1. How do you know that Christ will never leave you? Where would you go in Scripture to support your answer?

LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

2. Christ will never leave you, even when you sin. How do these verses confirm this truth?

John 10:27-29

Ephesians 1:13-14

Hebrews 13:5b

3. How many times do you need to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior? Why?
4. What insights does **Hebrews 10:11-14** give?
5. Perhaps you know someone who started off strong in their Christian faith and then later turned away from the Lord. How do you explain that? Did they "lose their salvation"?

6. Some will use Hebrews 6:1-8 to support the view that one can lose his salvation. How would you handle this passage?

LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

- What difference does it make in your life to know that Christ will never leave you?
- How do you respond when you don't **feel** that Christ is in your life?
- Are you struggling today in your relationship with Christ? Perhaps you are walking in sin and do not feel His presence; or perhaps you are just going through a "dry" time. Write out the above Scriptures and personalize them to your own life. Claim them. Lean on God's Word, not your feelings.
- Complete the sentence, "God, I feel _____,
but your Word says _____."
- Write out a prayer of thanksgiving that He will never leave you.

DAY 4: YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

LOOKING UPWARD

1. The third truth you can be assured of as a Christian is that you have eternal life. How would you define eternal life? When does it begin?

2. How do you **know**, without any doubt, that you have eternal life? What Scriptures do you use to support that?

LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

3. What do you learn about eternal life from Romans 6:23?

4. According to these passages, how do you **know** you have eternal life?

John 3:36

John 5:24

1 John 5:11-15

5. What words stand out to you in 1 John 5:11-15? Look for repetition. Why are these words emphasized?

6. What is our assurance of eternal life based on? (How does Hebrews 5:9 confirm this?)

7. How does Jesus define eternal life in John 17:1-3 and who has it?

8. In Luke 10:25-28, a lawyer put Jesus to the test and asked, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Why do you think Jesus handled this question the way He did? Looking at the story that follows about the Good Samaritan, what was the message Jesus was trying to get across to this man concerning eternal life?

LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

- Believing in Jesus Christ is more than an intellectual knowledge of Him. Believing involves an adherence to, trust in. Do you really know Him, or do you just know of Him?
- Spend some time thanking Him for the eternal life He has given you. Ponder what it required on His part to give you eternal life. Write a psalm of praise to Him.

DAY 5: YOU BECAME A CHILD OF GOD

LOOKING UPWARD

1. What are the benefits of being a child of God?

LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD

Read John 1:12-13.

2. How do you become a child of God?

3. List all that is true of "children of God."

4. What does it mean to "receive Him"?

Read Romans 8:14-17.

5. According to this passage, what are characteristics and privileges of a child of God?

6. What took place in order for us to become adopted as "sons" according to Galatians 4:4-7?

7. What are the results of being adopted children of God?

8. How is the Trinity manifested in both the Romans 8 and Galatians 4 passages?

LOOKING REFLECTIVELY

- Are you living like a child of the King, or a child of this world? How do you express gratefulness to your Father for adopting you? Spend some time today thanking Him for what He has done for you. Cry out to your "Abba, Father."
- Some of you do not have fond memories of your earthly father. But God, your heavenly Father, loves you completely and wants to pour out His love on you. What expectations do you have of your heavenly Father?

The fifth truth you can be assured of as a believer is that your sins are forgiven. We will cover this truth in Assurance of Forgiveness.