

# **Christians at Texas State Bible Study # 2**

## **The Assurance, Security and Joy of Our Salvation (1)**

### **Why do we need to be saved?**

In order for one to be regenerated, he first has to realize his need of the divine life. In John 3:3 the Lord said, *Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

In spiritual things to see is to enter into (v. 5).

*Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

If you have not been born of God, you cannot enter into, or see, anything in the realm of God's kingdom.

In order to enter into any kind of kingdom, you need that kind of life. If you do not have that kind of life, you can never get into that kingdom, that realm, or really understand what is within that realm.

Even before man fell, he still needed the divine life. The very man whom God put in front of the tree of life was not fallen. He was pure, he was good, he was perfect, and he was sinless, but he was only human not divine. Thus, Genesis 2 indicates clearly that this sinless man, perfect man, good man, and pure man, still needed the life of God.

### **What is salvation?**

The highest definition of God's salvation is that to be saved is to be brought by God into Himself. When we repented to God and believed in the Lord Jesus, we were brought into God the Father, although we might not have realized this at the time. According to the context of John 14, this is God's highest intention. Through the crucified and resurrected Christ, God has brought us into Himself (John 14:1-3, 6, 20).

### **THE ASSURANCE OF OUR SALVATION**

If you recently have had the experience of receiving Christ, you may have had times when you doubted the reality of that experience; that is, you may have questioned whether you were really saved. Without the real assurance of salvation as a solid foundation, it is difficult for a new Christian to grow and experience the deeper things of the Christian life. Nevertheless, the Bible says it is possible to know absolutely, unreservedly, that you are a saved person. How can this be? Let us read 1 John 5:13:

*I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.*

It is not, "that you may *think*," not, "that you may *hope*," but "that you may *know*." We do not need to wait until we die to find out; this assurance is for us to enjoy today.

### **God Says So**

Our first means of assurance of salvation is God's Word. While man's word may be untrustworthy, God's Word remains sure and steadfast. It is impossible for God to lie. Whatever God says stands firm forever.

*Forever, O Jehovah, Does Your word stand firm in heaven. Psa. 119:89*

*In order that by two unchangeable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us, Heb. 6:18*

*God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not establish it? Num. 23:19*

The Bible is God's very Word, inspired by Him. We can take this Word, believe this Word, and trust this Word.

***All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 2 Tim. 3:16***

What then does God say about salvation? He says that the way of salvation is a person, Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 14:6; Acts 10:43; 16:31). He says that whoever believes that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and confesses with his mouth that Jesus is Lord is saved. He says that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom. 10:9-13).

***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life. John 3:16***

***Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6***

***To this One all the prophets testify that through His name everyone who believes into Him will receive forgiveness of sins. Acts 10:43***

***And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household. Acts 16:31***

***That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes on Him shall not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him; For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:9-13***

Have you done this? Have you believed in Christ and confessed openly that He is your Lord? Have you called on His name? If so, you are really saved. God says so. That settles it.

### **The Holy Spirit Bears Witness**

Not only do we have God's Word *outside* us telling us we are saved, we also have a witness *inside* us, telling us the very same thing. What the Bible speaks to us from without, the Spirit confirms within. First John 5:10 says,

***He who believes into the Son of God has the testimony in himself.***

Sometimes, after we have received Christ, we may not *feel* saved. Nevertheless, if we check within the deepest part of our being, with our spirit, we will find a kind of inner witness, an assurance, that we are children of God.

***The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God. Rom. 8:16***

If you doubt that you have this inner witness of the Spirit, try this simple experiment: try declaring boldly, "I am *not* a child of God!" You will find it very difficult to even whisper such a falsehood. Why? Because the Holy Spirit within you bears witness, "You *are* a child of God!"

### **Our Love for the Brothers Is Proof**

The third means of assurance is our love for other brothers and sisters in Christ. First John 3:14 says,

***We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers.***

A saved person undoubtedly senses a kind of love for others who are also saved. You sense a desire to fellowship, to enjoy Christ with others. This is the spontaneous result of being saved, one of the clearest signs of a saved person. This love transcends the cheap, selfish "love" of today's age. It is a love that is impartial—it loves those who are alike and those who are different. This is the real oneness and harmony the world longs for. Yet it is ours when we receive Christ.

***How good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell in unity! Psa. 133:1***

This is the testimony of a saved person.

By these three witnesses—God's Word, the Spirit's inner witness, and our love for the brothers—we may know and be sure that we are really saved.