

“How Do I Know If I’m Saved?”

1 John 2:3-6

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

- Un-Biblical teaching on this topic has caused much confusion and harm.
- 1. Confusion about this topic has given many non-Christians a false sense of assurance.**
 - “I had a religious experience, therefore I am saved.”
 - 2. Confusion about this topic has led many true Christians to doubt their salvation.**
 - “I never had a religious experience like you. Am I really saved?”
 - 3. Confusion about this topic has led to un-Biblical methods of evangelism.**
 - It becomes man-empowered: “I must get this person to convert.”
 - 4. Confusion about this topic has resulted in a whole new un-Biblical belief system.** (I.e., ‘carnal Xns’)
 - What should we believe about those who “converted” but show no evidence of change?
→ There’s no such thing as an ‘asymptomatic’ Christian.
 - 5. Confusion about this topic has led to a poor witness to the world.**
 - The world sees people who profess to believe in Christ, yet live lives no different than non-Christians.

HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE KNOW HIM? 1 John 2:3-6

- 1. John wants them to have assurance of their salvation. v.3a** Ref. 1 John 5:13; 2 Peter 1:10
 - In his letter, John communicates 3 evidences of salvation.
→ *NOTE: Evidence of salvation is different than the way of salvation.
- 2. The 1st Evidence of Salvation. v.3b**
 - We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commandments.
 - Knowing God and keeping His commandments are linked; they go together. John 14:15
- 3. A negative example. v.4** Ref. Hosea 4:1-2; Matthew 7:21-23
 - The person who says he is a Christian but lives a lifestyle of disobedience is a liar.
 - *Not* knowing God and *not* keeping His commandments are linked; they go together. Ref. 1:6
- 4. A positive example. v.5a**
 - Whoever keeps His word, in him truly...
 - The love of God has impacted...affected... him or her.
- 5. John’s summary. v.5b-6**
 - Conclusion of John’s argument for the 1st evidence of salvation: *By this we may know that we are in him...*
→ Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which Jesus walked.
 - Whoever says... ought to walk... → words backed up by actions.

SHEPHERDING OUR HEARTS

- 1. Knowing Jesus Christ in a saving way will impact the way a person lives.**
 - The person who lives in Him walks in His ways.
 - Your character begins to conform to Jesus’ character. 1 Jn 4:19: *We love because he first loved us.*
- 2. Knowing Jesus Christ in a saving way does not mean that we stop sinning.**
 - New life? Yes. Sinless? No.
 - John is not teaching perfectionism (Xns can achieve sinlessness this side of heaven). Ref. 1 Tim 1:15
 - John is not teaching moralism (keeping God’s law outwardly, but not inwardly). Mt 23:25; Lk 11:39
 - John is teaching that a heart change produces a life change. Jer. 31:34; **Ez 36:25f**
- 3. Knowing Jesus Christ in a saving way means a heart change has happened on the inside.** John 3:3,7
 - How can you live a new life in Christ if you do not have a new heart? Read and pray Ezekiel 36:24-29.
 - How can you keep God’s Word if you do not know what it says?
 - How can you walk like Jesus if you don’t know Him and His life?