

## BLESSED ASSURANCE!

1 John 5:1-13

INTRODUCTION: When we speak of assurance of salvation we are speaking of the confidence that a person is child of God forever: 1 John 5:13; John 3:14-16. What a blessing it is to know that you have eternal life! Knowing that you are loved by your family and that it is a forever love is extremely important.

### I. REASONS PEOPLE DOUBT THEIR SALVATION!

There are several reasons that people doubt their salvation. Sin in our lives brings a feeling of estrangement from God. 1 John 3:9-10: If sin is a constant bent in your life you should doubt your salvation. 1 John 3:19-21. False teaching will often bring doubts about salvation. When a liberal pastor sows seeds of doubt about the Word of God being authoritative it breeds doubts about all the Bible. Other pastors teach that salvation starts with faith in Jesus Christ finished work on the cross but then they teach your continued salvation depends upon your works: Ephesians 2:8-10. Good works cannot save us or keep us: Romans 4:1-8. Also, false teaching about the importance of emotions will cause a doubting of salvation. When the Christian life is based on emotions and not on the Word of God assurance of salvation is rare. A failure to take God at His Word will also make us doubt our salvation. 1 John 1:9. Satanic attacks will also make us doubt our salvation: Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Don't let Him use you and your words to add confusion to other people's hearts.

### II. HOW TO COUNTER THE ENEMIES OF ASSURANCE!

We must understand that it is God's will for men to be saved and to know it: 1 Timothy 2:1-6. God's desire for mankind is that they be saved, not for us to be condemned. 2 Peter 3:9. We must understand that God has done everything needed to give us total assurance of our salvation: 2 Peter 1:1-4; 1 Peter 2:22-25. We do not believe in universal salvation—that is, that all people are Christians simply by virtue of the fact that God created them. John 1:10-13; John 3:35-36; John 5:24. We need to receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior.

### III. FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH ASSURANCE!

If today you or someone you know is struggling with the assurance of their salvation, here are three tests to apply: 1. Do I believe the Word of God? 2 Timothy 3:16-17. 2. Do I have the witness of the Spirit in my heart? Romans 8:15-16. This is conviction of heart, not feeling here. Are you fully persuaded that you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? 3. Do I have the daily walk of a believer in Jesus Christ? Do you have a deep desire to please the Lord? 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Our salvation has nothing to do with our feelings: but it has everything to do with the trustworthiness of our God. Once we have trusted in Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior we can rest on the Word of God and in the witness of the Spirit of God! Revelation 20:11-15. How can you tell today if your name is written in the Book of Life? 1 John 5:9-13. You see what we have done is simply take God at His Word.