

Assurance of Salvation

Sermon 22 in the Romans Series

Romans 8:12-17

I. Living According to the Flesh 8:12-14

A. We are Debtors 12-13a

1. Not debtors to the flesh.
We have been saved by God's grace.

2. What has the flesh ever done for you?

It has caused you to flee from God – as Adam did.
It manifests itself in remaining sin – which should be our greatest grief.

3. Living accord to the flesh leads to death v. 13a

The “you” of v. 13a is singular, not the same as the “we” in v. 12

B. We have a different Spirit if we have the Spirit of God. v. 13b-14

“The flesh is the cause of all our troubles. What has our flesh done for us? It makes us sin, brings us into misery, and into the realm of death. That has been the result of Adam's original fall. That is why we are all born in the flesh. But the apostle urges upon us that we are under no obligation to it any longer. Realize, he says, what the flesh did for you; but now you do not owe anything, you are not a debtor to it in any sense. Do not pay it any allegiance, he says, do not show any subservience to it, have nothing to do with it at all. It is entirely against you; and you do not belong to it now. Our obligation is to Someone else.” Martyn Llyod Jones

II. Assurance of Salvation 8:16

There are two witnesses: The Holy Spirit and our own spirit.

It is not merely the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our life that produces this assurance. It is the spirit Himself.

Douglas Moo “The Holy Spirit is not only instrumental in *making* us God's children, he also makes us *aware* that we are God's children.

“Bears witness with” is a single Greek word which means: to testify jointly, i.e. corroborate by concurrent evidence:-- testify unto, bear witness with.

This testimony is internal and cannot be fully explained.
It is *felt* and *experienced* by the believer.

The best expositors of Romans from Haldane to Hodge say, “It's something more than objective knowledge. It's an inner testimony and assurance from God Himself that we belong to Him.”

This assurance can be stronger and weaker at times.

The reality of this experience is mentioned in other ways in Scripture.

- It is the Father and Son coming and making their abode with us.
- Christ manifesting Himself to us and supping with us.
- Paul alluded to it earlier in this epistle – **Rom 5:5** -- *And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

1 John 5:10a -- *He that believes on the Son of God has the witness in himself:*

This work of the witness of the Spirit is never the first work of the Spirit in the life of the believer.

The first work is the opening of the blind eyes.

The first work is showing us our sin and need of a savior.

The first work of the spirit is the work of regeneration

III. Two Common, but False Ways of Gaining Assurance

1. Simply trusting in a “Decision”.

You will find yourself asking, “What if I didn’t really mean it.”

2. By Works.

Assurance of salvation is no guarantee of salvation.

False assurance is based on false doctrine.

Not by works of righteousness which we have done.

IV. The Christian Doctrine of Assurance of Salvation (LBCF Chapter 18)

1. Assurance of salvation is Possible

2. Assurance of Salvation is for all Believers

It is true that all believers do not have assurance at this moment.

It is true that a person can struggle and have a lack of assurance and still be saved.

Roman Catholicism and those who believe in libertarian free will can never have true assurance of salvation.

Philippians 1:6 -- Being confident of this very thing, that He which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

How can I as a believer live with confidence unless I am assured of the truth that “No one can pluck me from his hand?”