

**The 1689 Confession of Faith, Chapter 18 – “Of Assurance of Grace and Salvation”,
Session # 3 – “Assurance & Antinomianism”, presented by Pastor
Paul Rendall on June 24th, 2018, in the Adult Sunday School.**

Paragraph 1 – “Although temporary believers, and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favour of God and state of salvation, (a) which hope of theirs shall perish; yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may in this life be certainly assured (b) that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them c) ashamed.”

(a) Job 8:13-14; Matthew 7: 22-23; (b) 1st John 2: 3; 3:14, 18-19, 21, 24; 5: 13; (c) Romans 5: 2 and 5

Paragraph 2 – “This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon(d) a fallible hope, but an infallible assurance of faith founded on the blood and righteousness of Christ(e) revealed in the Gospel; and also upon the inward(f) evidence of those graces of the Spirit unto which promises are made, and on the testimony of the(g) Spirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God; and, as a fruit thereof, keeping the heart both(h) humble and holy.”

(d) Hebrews 6: 11, 19; (e) Hebrews 6: 17-18; (f) 2nd Peter 1: 4-5, 10-11; (g) Romans 8: 15-16; (h) 1st John 3: 1-3

A Shorter Definition of Assurance:

Assurance of salvation is the right conclusion that you come to, based on the truth of the Scriptures, concerning your state before God, that your faith in Christ is genuine, and that you have eternal life.

So, now, having looked at the Definition of Assurance and the Characteristics of Saving Faith, we can begin our study of the doctrine of assurance, as our Confession teaches it, by stating that it is possible to be a temporary believer or an unregenerate person, and to deceive yourself into thinking that somehow you are a true believer, apart from being born again, and by exercising saving faith in the gospel. “Temporary believers, and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favour of God and state of salvation, which hope of theirs shall perish.” Now, how do people do this? How do they deceive themselves into thinking that they are a Christian when they are not? They do so through entertaining false hopes and carnal presumptions.

1st Possibility of Deception – Antinomianism – Not believing that God expects every Christian to keep His law as a rule of life.

Matthew 7: 21 – Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Now, you can see here that just because these persons called upon the Lord, saying, “Lord, Lord,” it did not mean that they had really come to know Him at all. Why? Because they falsely thought that having gifts of the Spirit meant that they had the grace of salvation. But Jesus says that it is only those who are doing the will of the Father in heaven who will enter heaven. Some

professed Christians think that because Christ fulfilled the law that there is no obligation to keep the 10 commandments any longer. And they may also make a big deal like these folks did, about their having one or more of the Charismatic Gifts to prove that they were true Christians. But, we should understand that it is only those persons who have grace from Christ which translates into loving Christ enough to attempt to keep God's commandments, by His grace, who will enter the kingdom of heaven. Those who will strive to do God's will by grace are the only persons who will actually go to heaven.

Our Confession beautifully words how true assurance is found:

“Yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.”

This sentence show us that when you love the Lord Jesus in sincerity and you are trying to live your life before Him having a good conscience related to your walk with Him, you can be assured that you are in a state of grace. It is not that you walk is perfect, or without sin, but you are sincerely trying to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before Him, knowing that you are trusting in Christ's perfect obedience on your behalf for your justification, and Christ's enabling grace to help you to do what is right. This walk with Christ is acceptable and pleasing to Him and to the Father because you obedience in rendered to the Triune God through the Spirit, and it is not simply fleshly efforts at keeping God's law.