

Subject: *Blessed Assurance*

Scripture: *1 John 5:11-13*

This message is about the assurance of salvation, how to know for sure that you are saved. For more than a week millions of people were concerned about Hurricane Dorian. Day after day we watched the weather reports wondering where it was and where it was headed. In those weather updates they referred they showed the projected path of the storm and referred to “the cone of uncertainty.” Too many people live in the cone of spiritual uncertainty. You ask them if they are saved and on their way to heaven and they answer: “I hope son, I think so” instead of saying “Yes, I’m sure of it.” Some say that we can’t be sure of salvation. They say it is presumptuous to say that. But God said that we can be sure and we can know. God wants us to know.

1. THE REASONS FOR NO ASSURANCE

A. Some are confused about the gospel and salvation

I recently talked with a 20 year old who said he had been baptized three times, once when he was a young boy and then two more times. Sometimes preachers and teachers are to blame because they have not made it clear.

B. Some don’t read and study the Bible for themselves

God gave us a whole book of the Bible to provide assurance, the book of 1 John. The word “know” is found 38 times in this short letter. Look again at **1 John 5:13**. Turn to **1 John 1:3-4**. God wants us to know and to have full joy in knowing that we are saved.

C. Some have a wrong or unbalanced view of God

They think of God only as holy and righteous and not merciful and forgiving.

D. Some misunderstand their ongoing struggle with sin

They assume if they are saved they wouldn’t do this or that, wouldn’t say this or that, or wouldn’t think this or that. They don’t realize this is a normal struggle (Rom. 6-7).

E. Some can’t remember the details of their conversion experience

Only God knows the precise moment when a person is saved. We don’t remember the details of our physical birth, but we don’t doubt whether we’re really alive.

2. THE PROBLEM OF FALSE ASSURANCE

There was a church called Hope Baptist Church. This church had a group to leave and start another church. They called it New Hope Baptist Church. A few years went by and another group left and started another church and someone suggested the name, No Hope Baptist Church. Actually there is something worse than no hope and that’s false hope.

A. Trusting in human approval

Matthew 23:27-28 ²⁷ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

B. Trusting in religious works

Matthew 7:21-23 ²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

C. Trusting an emotional experience

Acts 24:25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. Conviction is not the same as conversion.

D. Trusting a superficial momentary response

Luke 8:13-14 ¹³ They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

They remember how they walked an aisle or prayed a prayer, even though they never continued and they never bore fruit. There is something worse than no hope, and that is having a false hope of heaven.

3. THE BASIS OF REAL ASSURANCE

Real assurance only comes when our life matches up with what God says in Scripture.

“The blood of Jesus makes us safe, but the Word of God makes us sure.”

- R. A. Torrey

A. The test of obeying God

1 John 2:3-4 ³ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

John 8:30-31 ³⁰ As he spake these words, many believed on him. ³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.

B. The test of loving God

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.

C. The test of righteous living

1 John 2:29 *If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.*

1 John 3:7 *Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*

Hebrews 12:14 *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.*

D. The test of loving others

1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

E. The test of the Holy Spirit's presence

1 John 3:24 *And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

1 John 4:13 *Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.*

Romans 8:16 *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.*

F. The test of continuing faith

1 John 5:13 *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

Hebrews 3:14 *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.*

The faith that fizzles before the finish had a flaw from the first. This is the doctrine of perseverance. From God's standpoint believers are preserved. From our standpoint believers persevere. John MacArthur said, "Our salvation is kept by Christ's holding onto us, not by our holding onto Him. Our holding onto Him is evidence that He is holding onto us."

G. The test of a changed life

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. God loves us just like we are, but He doesn't leave us like we are.*

H. The test of spiritual fruit

Galatians 5:22-23 ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* ²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. God is looking for spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.*

EXAMINE YOUR LIFE

✓ **2 Corinthians 13:5** *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves*

✓ 2 Peter 1:10 give diligence to make your calling and election sure

Are you saved? Are you sure? Does your life match up with what the Word says about a real Christian?

In times like these you need a Savior

In times like these you need an anchor

Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock.

This Rock is Jesus,

Yes, He's the One;

This Rock is Jesus,

The only One.

Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock.