

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 15- The Affections of the Heart

144. The Assurance of Salvation- Part 13

WAOY Thursday 01/31/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what the Apostle John taught about, "The Assurance of Salvation". So, let's read **1John 3: 19-24** again together:

19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Now on the last broadcast- we were looking at the three questions that we need to ask and answer about this issue:

1. What happens when someone who is saved- sins?
2. How are sins that are committed *after* Salvation paid for?
3. And just how do our sins that we commit after we are saved affect our Salvation?

And how you answer these three questions formulates your view of just how secure and steadfast your Assurance is. Now on the last broadcast- we were looking at the second question and on today's broadcast- I want to continue to examine this question:

2. How are sins that are committed *after* Salvation paid for?

Now any time we discuss the issue of Assurance- we must understand not just that God does forgive us from our sins- but we must also discuss just why God forgives us.

If we are not careful- we will develop a very wrong attitude about the issue of forgiveness. Let me explain.

Most everybody that I know believes that if they simply ask God to forgive them- then He will. But let's examine that a little bit.

Just why does God forgive us from our sins when we ask Him? Does God *owe* us forgiveness? No- He does not. Is God *obligated* to forgive us? No- He is not.

Now this issue underlies a very important Biblical concept about God that many have forgotten today. Due to an enormous amount of bad and false teaching out there today- many have come to believe in a wrong concept about God. You don't have to listen for very long and you will hear some variation of this concept being taught through the airwaves nearly every day.

The concept that is wrong is the notion that God exists for Man's glory. Now you may not hear it put just like that- but that is the concept and it is taught in a variety of ways. You may hear it taught from the angle that God desires you to fulfill all your dreams or that God will bless you to do whatever is in your heart or that God will not and even that He cannot move in the earth like He wants to unless we cooperate with Him or that God will always forgive you no matter what you do.

But however you may hear this taught- the result is the same- God exists for Man's benefit or Man's glory. But the Bible teaches that Man exists for God's Glory- which in many cases is just the *opposite* of what we have been taught. The Bible teaches that the whole duty of Man- the only reason that Man was created and the only reason that Man exists on the earth- is to know God in fullness and to love God in fullness so that we may worship God in the manner that He is entitled to be worshipped- so that our joy will be full.

So according to Scripture- it is God Who is the Master and we are the servants; it is God Who is above and we are beneath; it is God Who is more beautiful and more lovely and more important and it is God Who is the focus of all our worship and all our desires.

So as believers- we are not “free”. As believers- we are bond slaves. And as slaves to Christ- we should not speak the language of masters- but we should speak with the language of slaves.

But the mentality and language of slavery is insulting to us. And it always has been insulting to the pride and arrogance of fallen Man. That is why the Gospel is so offensive to the lost and why so many preachers and teachers have been persecuted all throughout time. Speaking the language of Scripture offends our human sensibilities- because in our fallen state- we really think that we are in charge and that God owes us and that God exists to serve us- not the other way around.

And this false concept is never more true than when we discuss the issue of forgiveness. If you believe that God owes you- then forgiveness is something that God is *obligated* to give to you for no other reason other than you asked Him for it. But to think like that beloved- is to violate the very essence of all that the Scriptures teach. To think that God forgives because He *has* to or because He *needs* to or because He *should*- is to put God in a place of being indebted to us- which He will never be. Read with me **1John 2:12:**

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

The Apostle John teaches here that God forgives us for one very important reason:

... for His name's sake.

Now anytime you see the phrase, “**for His name's sake**” or see where God says He does something, “**for My Name's sake**” or “**for My Glory**” it all means the same thing- that God does all that He does in the earth for one reason and one reason only- for His Own Glory!

Now think about this for a second. Doesn't that just make sense? I mean, over and over in the Bible- God tells us to worship Him and to bring Glory to Him. So, forgiveness is no different. God forgives for the very same reason that He does everything else in the earth- for His Own Glory!

To get an idea of how all this works – let's read **Romans 8:30:**

and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Now the way that the Greek is written here shows us that this statement by Paul is what is called a “universal statement”. So, this verse is best understood to say:

All of these whom He predestinated- He also called; and all of those who were called He justified; and all of those He justified He will also glorify.

So 100% of those who were chosen in God from before the foundation of the world to be saved- will be “called” by God. So this “calling” is an *effectual* calling- which means that what God *wants* to happen from this calling *will* happen. That is what the word, “effectual” means.

So part of God’s Sovereignty is that He is *effectual* in that which He desires. So, what God *wants*- God *gets*. God doesn’t *try* to do something- where *sometimes* it works out and others times it doesn’t work out- that doesn’t describe the God of the Bible. No, God doesn’t “try” to do anything- He simply does it. God doesn’t hope; God doesn’t wish; and God doesn’t pray- God does.

You see, in His absolute Sovereign position as Lord and Creator and Owner of the Universe- God has chosen to save *some* of the people of this earth who are lost. And that choosing has nothing to do with anything that these people did or did not do. This choosing is based on nothing more nor less than God’s very Own good Pleasure. Read with me **Ephesians 1:1-7:**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

So God doesn't just *offer* Salvation for His elect and then hope and wish that we would take Him up on His offer. No, God's "Effectual Calling" means that everybody that God has chosen *will* be called and everybody who is called *will* come and everybody who comes *will* be justified and everybody who is justified *will* eventually be glorified in Heaven.

So God is not like some jilted girlfriend on Friday night sitting by the phone hoping that someone will call. No God is total and complete all by Himself and is in need of nothing. He saves us- not because He *needs* us- but He saves us because He has *chosen* us.

So because that is true- God's Own Name and God's very Own Reputation is linked up with those who are saved. We have been brought into God's Family only because He chose us for that- not out of anything that we did- and so that causes us to belong to Him. And so God forgives us when we sin- because it brings honor and glory to Him to do so- not simply because we asked him to.

You see, dear friends- forgiveness brings God glory because it demonstrates the majesty of His Grace and it also demonstrates to the entire world that His choosing of us is permanent and cannot be undone. So God is just and faithful to forgive us- not out of any obligation and not because of any sense of debt that He has toward us in anyway- but strictly because it honors God to do so- and upholds the integrity of His choosing us to belong to Him.

So the answer to question #2 is that God forgives us when we sin after Salvation so that His Name will be glorified and so that the integrity of our being chosen by Him before the foundation of the world will stand as a permanent testimony of His Grace and Mercy.

And to prove that what I am saying is true- just look at the natural Jew. God still works with the Jew- even after they have completely and utterly rejected Jesus as their Messiah. God chose the Jew and God's choice is eternal. Even when they sin and even when they disobey and even when they reject- God still deals with them- not because they are worthy; and not because they are easy to work with; and not because they are good people- but because God's Name is linked to them and He chose them and it brings glory to Him to forgive them.

But all Jews are not chosen- **Romans 9** clearly teaches that all Israel is not Israel. But 100% of every single Jew on earth who is chosen by God will come to faith in Jesus Christ before they die. That is the Promise of God- and He forgives them- not simply because they repent- but for His Own Name's sake.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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