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Morning Service

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Christian Assurance

The doctrine of assurance is a cornerstone of the church. Almost every church has a doctrine of assurance, but not all doctrines match the Bible's doctrine of assurance. The 'seeker sensitive' and emerging church movements today have downplayed, or in some cases, rejected the very notion of having doctrines at all. The error of this should be obvious. Doctrine is our belief in God, who God is, and what God expects from us. These new movements have created new doctrines to replace Biblical doctrine which they feel are to 'harsh' to attract people. Their only goal is to have large congregations at the expense of sound sound theology. So if their view of God is not based solely from scripture, who, and what are they saving people to? How is one to know they are saved then? By signing a card? Putting a dated cross on the wall?

Fortunately, the Bible very clearly lays out the doctrine of assurance for us. John points out in his epistles how the evidence of God's efficacy manifests itself outwardly. This is our only guide post in which to gauge our salvation. Today's sermon illustrates a very clear systemic theology that we can use to 'check' our assurance with absolute certainty.

John outlines a very clear and power systematic theology that outlines who God is, what He does and how He effects His own.

God is the Light of Truth

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

God is Righteous

1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

God is Love

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

From these three pillars we now have a picture of assurance. Someone with the assurance of God will exhibit;

- Love and fellowship in the truth of the Gospel
- Love of obeying the Gospel
- Desire to practice righteousness and mortify sin in obedience to the Gospel
- Willingness to help a brother, even to the point of laying down there lives in obedience to the Gospel.

Notice that the key word in all of these outward appearances is obedience. Your assurance is evidenced by your obedience to God's Word and nothing else. Re-baptism, re-dedication, re-committing, and other such feel-good rituals are emotional contrivances and hinder salvation and usefulness to God.

God will teach you in His word that you'll never have to wonder about your assurance.

As you listen to the sermon consider the following questions;

- Do I doubt my salvation? If so, what have I been doing to relieve the doubt?
- How was I acting a month ago, a year ago? Have I seen active evidence of my war on sin in my life?
- Am I reading God's word or looking to other ideas for my comfort of assurance?
- Does the doctrine of the church I attend agree with the Bible?

Scripture References

1 John 3:19-24 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.

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

Hebrews 6:11-12 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, (12) so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Luke 6:47-49 "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: (48) he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. (49) "But the one who has heard and has not acted *accordingly*, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

Galatians 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Edwards' Sermon on Religious Affections

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/edwards/affections.toc.html>

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the desire for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.

