

What is Sanctification? Lesson 8 – Assurance of Salvation – Part 3

Introduction

- Having assurance of salvation means that I am _____ that I belong to Christ and Christ belongs to me.
1. The Word of God _____ us that we are saved.
 2. The Holy Spirit bears _____ in us that we are saved.
 3. The presence of good works gives _____ that we are saved.
- Making your good works the primary basis for assurance results in:
 - Having greater _____ and less assurance.
 - Living without the _____ of the assurance of your salvation.
 - Living under constant _____.
 - Never _____ in the freedom of the finished work of Christ.
 - Living in a state of spiritual _____.
 - _____ on trying to live for Christ.
 - Remember:
 - The first thing we should do to gain assurance of our salvation is to believe what the _____ promises to those who trust in Christ.
 - The second thing we should do is to see and believe the _____ of the Holy Spirit's work within us.
 - Then, after we've done those things, we can finally examine our lives for evidence of _____.
- A. Good works are not the _____ of our salvation.
- Our assurance is often shaken by:
 - Falling into some _____.

- Being allured by sudden and strong _____.
- Our _____ of spiritual duties.
- _____ and _____ that come upon us.
- When we fall into sin, we are not told to doubt our salvation, we are told to believe the promises of the _____.

1 John 1.9 If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 2.1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, **we have an advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

- Too often when we fall into sin:
 - We are inclined to trust in _____.
 - We attempt to do more good works to _____ for our sins.
 - We try to find reasons within ourselves to be _____ before God.
 - We _____ to trust the finished work of Christ.
- The reason we do those things after we sin is because deep down inside, we still tend to think that _____ are the basis for our salvation.
- Christians never stop needing to believe the _____.

B. Good works are the _____ of our salvation.

- Since good works are the fruit of faith they can _____ our assurance.
- Obedience to God does not make us a Christian, it is evidence that helps _____ us as a Christian.

Matt 7.16–17 You will **recognize them by their fruits**. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.

○ What are some of the evidences of true saving faith?

- True Christians display the habit of _____ God's commandments.

1 John 2.3 *And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we **keep His commandments**.*

- True Christians do not _____ practice unrepentant sin.

1 John 3.8 *Whoever **makes a practice of sinning** is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.*

- True Christians regularly _____ their sin.

1 John 1.9 *If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- True Christians show _____ for other Christians.

1 John 4.12 *No one has ever seen God; if we **love one another**, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.*

- True Christians _____ through their trials.

James 1.12 *Blessed is the man who **remains steadfast under trial**, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.*

- True Christians _____ temptation.

James 1.14 *But each person is tempted when he is lured and **enticed** by his own desire.*

- True Christians _____ to God's Word.

James 1.22 *But be **doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

- True Christians avoid showing _____.

James 2.1 *My brothers, **show no partiality** as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.*

James 2.8 *If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.*

- True Christians have _____ faith that gives the evidence of good works.

James 2.17 *So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

- True Christians seek to _____ their tongue.

James 3.8–10 *but no human being can **tame the tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. **My brothers, these things ought not to be so.***

- True Christians possess God's _____ which is revealed in their godly behavior.

James 3.13 *Who is wise and understanding among you? **By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.***

James 3.17–18 *But **the wisdom from above** is first **pure**, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and **good fruits**, impartial and sincere. 18 And **a harvest of righteousness** is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

- True Christians are _____ to the one true God.

James 4.4 *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?*

- True Christians avoid speaking _____ of other Christians.

James 4.11a ***Do not speak evil against one another**, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law.*

- True Christians avoid the spiritual dangers of the love of _____.

James 5.1–3 *Come now, you **rich**, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be **evidence against you** and will eat your flesh like fire. You have **laid up treasure** in the last days.*

- True Christians _____ suffering and persecution.

James 5.10–11a *As an example of suffering and **patience**, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who **remained steadfast.***

- True Christians are _____ in their speech.

James 5.12 *But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but **let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no**, so that you may not fall under condemnation.*

- There is not any _____ thing that proves that someone is a true Christian.
- A true Christian shows a pattern of good works that, when taken _____, gives good evidence that they are a true Christian.

C. Confusing good works as the root of our salvation instead of the fruit of our salvation will _____ us from having assurance.

- Here are some common questions people ask themselves that _____ them from having full assurance of their salvation:
- **EXAMPLE QUESTION 1: Do I really _____ Jesus?**

Matt 22.37–38 *And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God **with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind**. 38 This is the great and first commandment.*

- That question is not the Gospel, it’s _____.
- It’s a good question to ask if we are _____ sin in our life.

John 14.15 *If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

- It’s a bad question to ask if we hope to gain _____.
- No one will ever love God _____ until they reach Heaven.
- The basis for our assurance is not our love for Jesus, but _____ for us.

- **EXAMPLE QUESTION 2: Did I really _____ the Gospel?**
 - Making the strength of your own faith the basis of your salvation is no different than making love for Jesus the basis of your salvation: it turns faith into another _____.
 - It’s a bad question to ask: Do I have _____ faith in Christ?

- It's not the size of our faith or the strength of your faith that saves us, but the _____ of our faith that saves us: Jesus Christ.

Luke 17.6 And the Lord said, "If you had **faith like a grain of mustard seed**, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

- The _____ of faith is always God and not our own strength.

Eph 2.8 For by grace you have been saved **through faith**. And this is not your own doing; **it is the gift of God**.

- Trusting in our faith does not save us; _____ saves us!

• **EXAMPLE QUESTION 3: Why do I often commit the same _____ again and again?**

- Only a true Christian will be _____ enough about sin his life to ask such a question.
- Unbelievers may be sorry about the consequences of their sin but they are not _____ about breaking God's law.

Gen 39.9b How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?

- A true Christian feels godly _____ that leads to repentance.

2 Cor 7.10 For **godly grief produces a repentance** that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

- A true Christian wants to _____ his sins and be clean.

Psa 32.5 I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psa 51.1–2 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
2 **Wash me** thoroughly from my iniquity,
and **cleanse me** from my sin!

Conclusion:

- Beware of being robbed of your assurance by looking at _____ instead of to Christ.
- Beware of making your own good works the _____ of our assurance
- The root or _____ basis of our assurance is the promises of God and the character of God.
- As you see the fruit of good works in your life, you can be assured of your salvation, because that is _____ of God's grace at work in your life.
- _____ in the finished work of Christ and you will find full assurance for your soul.