
Assurance of Salvation

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

How many people in our day know the Grace of God by Divine Revelation with its many benefits? We have a generation of so called Christians who have not comprehended Grace. This is evident by their life-styles and reactions to the TRUTH of the Bible. Their lives give no evidence of conduct taught by Grace. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" Titus 2:11, 12.

The Indwelling Christ

The child of God is not let to his own misguided feelings as to the possession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Fleshly emotionalism can easily be a substitute for the possession of a Person. The moment we trust in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, we receive Him (in the Person of the Holy Spirit) within our heart and lives. "But as many as RECEIVED HIM, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE on his name" John 1:12. There need be no question if Christ has entered the heart and live. The evidence will be clear to all who observe the person making such a profession. How sickening to hear the oft spoken reaction to the question, "Are you a Christian?" Nine times out of ten their reply is human action. They went forward in a meeting. They made a decision. They made a public profession of faith. The Deacon signed a card and they were taken into the membership of the church. Is it any wonder they think these actions to be important when the minister begs them to take some course of action for fifteen minutes at the close of his sermon? How dare we beg people to do something when the Bible plainly states, "Not of works lest any man should boast...that not of yourselves" Eph. 2:8, 9

The Practice of Sin

Is it possible to have the Holy Son of God within our being and practice sin at the same time? Not according to the Bible! The third chapter of I John plainly states that we will not practice sin because Christ arrived to TAKE AWAY our sin (verse 5). The entire book of I John was written to give us absolute assurance of knowing God and possessing Eternal Life. "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" I John 5:13.

The greatest evidence of Christ living within is our conduct. I John declares, that we will obey God's commandments, love other Christians, hate the worldly system and all things that are in it, overcome the spirit of antichrist, possess His Spirit within us, be born of God, overcome the world, and be given understanding that we may know the True God. Study these qualities that are revealed in I John. It will take you only a few minutes to read these five brief chapters. We do not do these things in order to get saved; we practice them because of the change

wrought by the Resurrection Power of Christ within us. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" II Cor. 5:17.

God Our Father

The indwelling Christ reveals God as our Father. "All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him" Matt. 11:17. Many people know some things about God; but do not know Him personally and intimately. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent" John 17:3. Sweet fellowship with the Father and Son is known only by those who walk in the light. This is the path of true Christians. "If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth" I John 1:6.

Understand the Bible

The indwelling Spirit of Christ imparts an ability to comprehend the Scriptures. "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore, said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you" John 16:12, 15. On the Emmaus road Christ opened the Scriptures (Luke 24:45). Do you know the joy of being taught by Christ within you heart and mind? "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him" I John 2:27.

Resent Sin

The Holy Christ within gives us a new sense of the blackness of sin. We have been cleansed FROM sin. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost: which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour" Titus 3:5, 6. Think with me for a bit! Is it possible for a sinless Christ, who became a sin offering sweat drops of blood, that He should not, when free to manifest His presence, create a new sense of the sinfulness of sin in the person He indwells? Remember I John informs us that the Born Again Christian (there are no other kind!) will practice Righteousness, hating and refusing to practice sin. He is no longer a sinner who continues to sin as the runner continues to run. "Thy words have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" Psalm 119:11. Right here is where many people want to insert our dual natures and state how weak the flesh is and how everybody sins in word, thought, and deed every day. Do you want to? Are you forced to? There is no deviation from the verses you have already read. Of course the Holy Spirit continues His work within the lives of Christians. When He convicts a child of God of wrong doing, he clings to God's provision for cleansing and intercession. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness: I

John 1:9. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" I John 2:1.

The Character of Christ

Divine presence in the heart is indicated in nine Scriptural words: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" Gal. 5:22, 23.

We have the manifestation of such a life before us. "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" John 13:34. "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" John 15:11. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" John 14:127. Note Paul's declaration: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" Phil. 1:21.

Motivation of Obedience

Why are there so few professing Christians under the absolute authority of God's Word? That question has already been answered in the Bible. "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" John 14:21. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" John 15:10, 12.

Our becoming involved in the World Evangelization (including soul-winning in your neighborhood) is obedience. Only the person under God's absolute authority can obey that Great Commission that includes, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I HAVE COMMANDED YOU: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" Matt. 28:20. Two verses forever settle the question of our ability to obey Christians. "For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" I John 5:3. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Phil. 4:13.

The Bible is very plain as to the actions of the Christian. No such conduct? You or anyone acting different than the Word declares need to have the Regenerating Power of the Spirit operates within. The lack of this work can be the consequence of looking for a change in your feelings rather than looking to the faithfulness of Christ. It can be the result of wanting something for yourself (like a selfish desire to escape Hell) rather than the accomplishment of God's plan and purpose for His glory alone. Just as faith and the revelation of Grace are communicated through the Bible, so is assurance received from the same source. God pity the person with a closed Bible. There are still a few Pastors teaching it from the pulpit.

Listen to the conviction and assurance of a preacher who traveled extensively and suffered much for the spreading of

the Gospel: "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" II Tim. 1:12.

The Greatest Sin

Will God receive into His Family all who places their confidence in the finished work of Christ? Has He declared such relationship in His Word? Are you a sinner in a hopeless condition independent of His Grace? Does He have sufficient Power to impart a desire to please Him in all that you do? Can you accept Eternal Life as a gift from God? Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Can you be assured of all His promises to His children, made so by the operation of Regeneration? (Having been Born Again). To doubt God's Word and fail to rest upon the faithfulness of Christ will be your greatest sin. God cannot and will not meet your need unless you believe Him to be telling you the TRUTH about yourself, with sufficient Power to change your heart and life.

If you do not have assurance of sins forgiven, I would read these many verses over and over. Find a place of prayer and talk to the Lord. He will hear you. (He had promised!) Name your sins to Him. Ask and believe Him to forgive and remove all your sins to Him. Ask and believe Him to forgive and remove all your sins on the basis of Christ taking your deserved judgment upon Himself on Calvary's Cross. By faith place your name in John 3:16 where it says, "For God so loved THE WORLD, that he gave his only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Do it and let me know about it! I have a special booklet for new Christians that I will send to you.

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