**How Can We Be Assured**

**Of Our Salvation?**

 **4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.**

 **1 John 1:4**

**Introduction:**

 Many brothers and sisters in the church of Christ can tell you their conversion story and how once they understood what they needed to do after being taught, knew what they needed to do to be saved and added to the body of Christ. Did they lose sleep over the idea of dying in a lost condition or did they or we wrestle with the thought constantly until the process of salvation was complete? Once they were baptized which completed the process of salvation, there may have been a since of relief knowing that they or we were now saved and apart of Christ’s church, the body of Christ.

 Then later on in their or our daily walk they or we may have started to have feelings of doubt about their or our salvation and were they or we doing what God wanted them or us to do in their or our daily lives to be completely sure and secure in and confident of their or our salvation. Maybe a sermon over how a child of God can still lose their soul as described in **2 Peter 2:20-22:**

 **20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.**

 **21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.**

 **22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”**

 Does this describe you or someone you know? Maybe you’re having these feelings now and don’t know why but for some reason doubt and maybe some guilt has crept in and is causing you to worry about your salvation. Someone ask you are you saved, and you answer “I **think** I’m saved” “I feel **pretty** sure I’m saved” “I **might** be saved” are these answers showing, by using a qualifier, a strong faith in the assurance that being in the body of Christ that we are saved? No. When we meet people in the world who are lost they need to see that assurance in our actions mostly but also in our words. We can’t answer timidly, or have the sound of doubt in our voice when talking about salvation.

 Do you live in a constant state of anxiety because of this doubt or unsureness? Do you think about sins you committed 25 to 50 years ago? Where do we get our answers in the Bible to these questions we struggle with daily and really shouldn’t struggle with in our daily walk with God.

 The book of **1 John** is the book that we are going to find these answers to these questions we have that are bringing doubt to our minds in our daily walk with God. It is not God’s desire for us as His children, to walk around in fear, frustration, doubt and anxiety. Who does it sound like that wants us to walk around afraid, unsure, doubting and in anxiety—Satan does! Not God.

 Let’s pick out one point in each chapter of 1 John that can help us with answering these questions on how to deal with this anxiety, fear, doubt and unsureness. **1 John** is a book of assurances.

**I. Chapter 1**

**Point #1 in 1 John is Continual Cleansing let’s look at 1 John 1**

**1 John 1:4**

 **4** And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

**1 John 1:7**

 **7**  But if we **walk** in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with

 one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son **cleanses us from all sin.**

The word “walk” and the word “cleanses” are both in the present tense and tells us that if we keep walking in the light or as long as we are walking in the light, that the cleansing is a continual process.

 Let me ask you a question at this point, Can we sin and still be walking in the

 light? **Yes!**

 If some of you said no then let me ask you a question based on your answer of

 **no.**

 **Then, what is the blood of Jesus cleansing us of, if we can’t sin while**

 **walking in the light?**

\*Walking in the light does not mean you are sinlessly perfect, if that were the case we would never make it to the light.\*

Look at what the very next verse says **1 John 1:8:**

 **8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

So the key is we have to continually keep our eyes on Jesus and confess our sins as the next verse, 1 John 1:9 tells us:

 **9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Or we make a liar out of Him as **1 John 1:10** tells us.

 **10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**

But this does not mean that our salvation is like a game of ping pong. One minute I’m saved and the next minute when I sin a sin of ignorance, I’m lost, until I repent. So if I die in sin before I can repent I’m just out of luck.

The are some people who believe this to be the case and when one takes on this philosophy they have just reduced the salvation of a soul to a crap shoot or gambling. That is not the way salvation works and that is not God’s plan. To have us guessing all of our lives.

The key is **1 John 1:7** that continual cleansing that goes on in a brother or sister’s life that is continually serving God on a daily basis, keeping His commands, a doer of the word.

**Romans 4:8 says:**

 **8**  **blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”**

So do we sin when we are walking in the light? **Yes,** but as long as we are continuing in the light and repenting and making right our sin through confessing to God our sins, God will not hold or count our sins against us, we are keeping the commands of God.

Romans 8:1 says:

 **8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

 **2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.**

**See through Romans 8:3-11 also…**

**…who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit!**

**It’s not once saved always saved as some may think, that is a false doctrine (2 Peter 2:20), but it is conditional on walking in the light and keeping the commands of God.**

**II. Chapter 2**

**Point #2 in 1 John 2 is Perfect Propitiation let’s look at**

**1 John 2:1-2:**

**Christ Our Advocate**

 **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.**

 **2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**

**\*Advocate** is one who pleads our case

**\*Propitiation** who appeases our sinful situation

**Illustration:** Traffic ticket attorney who acts as an advocate and appeases the judge

**1 John 2:3-4** This is conditional based on these verses

 **3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.**

 **4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,**

**III. Chapter 3**

**Point #3 in 1 John 3 is Destroying Doubt let’s look at**

 **1 John 3:19-20**

 **19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;**

 **20 for whenever our heart condemns us,** **God is greater than our heart,** **and** **He knows everything.**

**IV. Chapter 4**

**Point #4 in 1 John 4 is** **Fixing the Fear** **let’s look at** 1 **John 4:16-18:**

 **16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

 **17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.**

 **18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

**1 John 5:3**

 **3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.**

**Luke 1:6 —> Elizabeth and Zacharias**

 **6** And **they were both righteous** before God, **walking blamelessly** in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.

**1 Kings 15:5 — King David**

 **5** because **David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord** and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, **except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.**

**V. Chapter 5**

**Point #5 in 1 John 5 is Complete Confidence let’s look back at 1 John 1: 4**

 **4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.**

**Your joy cannot be full unless you know that you are saved!**

**1 John 5:13**

 **13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.**

 **1. You can know that you have eternal Life.**

 **2. How? I (John) write these things to you! The written word of God.**

**The Bible doesn’t say that you feel these things, it is only by the written word of God that we know we have eternal life.**

**1 John 5:18 says:**

 **18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of** **God protects him,** and **the evil one** **does not touch him. (1 Peter 5:8)**

**If I’m continually walking in the light the devil, can’t touch me. Only if I choose to not walk in the light or allow myself to be involved in something that is questionable that would lead me to sin.**

 **6**  do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

 **7**  And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**How do you become a part of the body of Christ, the church that Christ founded in Matthew 16:18?**

**You have to complete the following steps:**

**HEAR**

**Romans 10:17, John 8:32**

**BELIEVE**

**Hebrews 11:6, John 20:31**

**REPENT**

**Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30**

**CONFESS**

**Romans 10:10, Matthew 10:32**

**BE BAPTIZED**

**Galatians 3:27, Mark 16:16, ACTS 2:38**

**Continue to Live the Christian Life by obeying the commands of God of which Christ simplified to the these two basic commandments:**

 **37 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.**

 **39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

 **40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”**

If you’re already a Christian please let us know how we can help you with something you have been caring around on your own. Don’t do that anymore, handed it over to God and pray to Him to take this/these burdens from you and let us pray for you as well, your brothers and sisters in Christ!

If we can help you in anyway, please come while we stand and sing!