

READ

The Assurance of Your Salvation

BY DR. RON JONES



Unilever is an Australian consumer products company that makes a deodorant and antiperspirant called Sure. During the 1980s, they advertised their product by showing images of confident people raising their hand high into the air, including a student asking a question, a bridesmaid catching a bouquet, and a policewoman directing traffic. The snappy ad jingle closed by saying, “Confident, confident, dry and secure. Raise your hand, raise your hand if you’re sure!”

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you can and should be able to raise your hand with confidence that you are sure of your salvation. The apostle John says assuredly, “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 John 5:13). As a belief system, Christianity teaches there are some things we can know for sure.

Philosophy, on the other hand, begins with the basic assumption that we cannot know anything for sure. Socrates famously said, “The only thing I know is that I know nothing.” However, this is where human philosophy and biblical truth part ways. Colossians 2:8 warns, “See to it that no one takes you captive

by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Philosophy is right about one thing. We cannot know anything unless someone or something with knowledge reveals truth to us. That’s exactly what the Bible says God has most certainly done in creation, in our conscience, through His written Word, and in the Living Word who is Jesus Christ. For that reason, we can raise our hand and be sure of so much, including that we possess eternal life through faith in Jesus.

Theologically, the assurance of our salvation flows out of the doctrine of eternal security, which points to the Holy Spirit’s role in securing our salvation. The Holy Spirit is God’s unbreakable seal on His people (Ephesians 4:30). The presence of the Holy Spirit in us from the moment of saving faith is also God’s guarantee of our spiritual inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22). Think of the Spirit as like an earnest money deposit in a real estate transaction. The buyer’s indication of good faith is the deposit he gives to the seller. He is saying, “I am good for the rest of the purchase price

at closing.” In the same way, the Holy Spirit is the first installment of the salvation inheritance God promises to give us in Christ.

A Trinitarian view of salvation helps to understand our assurance (Ephesians 1:3-14). God the Father planned our salvation, God the Son purchased our salvation, and God the Holy Spirit promises, secures, seals, and guarantees our salvation. Salvation is all about what God has done for us by His own gracious action. Because God is the One who guarantees our salvation by His Spirit, we should never doubt that He has saved us (1 Peter 1:4-5).

Why is the assurance of our salvation so important? Generally speaking, psychologists tell us that insecure people develop unhealthy relationships. They are self-obsessed and present false exteriors. They put other people down to make themselves feel good. I could go on but I think you get the idea.

Likewise, insecure Christians have a difficult time accepting the fullness of God’s grace and forgiveness. Because they worry they might lose their

salvation, they are always seeking God’s approval rather than embracing the righteousness of Christ applied to them by faith. They often feel more rejected than redeemed, and certainly not pleasing in the eyes of God. An insecure believer may feel unworthy to come boldly before the throne of grace in prayer for help in time of need. Eternal insecurity can also lead to legalism, the measuring of one’s spirituality by a list of arbitrary externals and the placing of those demands on others in the body of Christ.

For all of these reasons and more, the assurance of your salvation is essential to your healthy growth and development in Christ. This is why the devil, the accuser of God’s people, will do everything he can to cast doubt on what God has declared to be true about you in Christ.

The phrase “once saved, always saved” is not found anywhere in the Bible, but the concept certainly is. As a believer in Jesus Christ, therefore, remember this: Confident, confident, saved and secure. Raise your hand, raise your hand because you’re sure!

REFLECT BY ANSWERING QUESTIONS

1. On the scale below, circle the number that describes how much you depend on your feelings (1) or faith (5) in your daily walk with Jesus.

1 2 3 4 5

This quiz draws from content delivered in the video plus this study guide.

1. The doctrine of eternal security says that once saved I must work hard to keep from losing my salvation. T F
2. The reason you can be assured of your salvation is because you are doing better everyday to obey the Lord's commands. T F
3. Which member of the Holy Trinity specifically guarantees your salvation?
 - God the Father
 - God the Son
 - God the Holy Spirit
 - All of the above
4. Read Hebrews 10:21-23. We can draw near to God with confidence because ...
 - We are fully assured of our salvation.
 - We have a clean conscience.
 - God who promised salvation is faithful.
 - All of the above
5. The doctrine of eternal security is widely accepted throughout the body of Christ without controversy. T F
6. If you doubt your salvation, you are not truly saved. T F
7. Philosophy and biblical theology are at odds when it comes to knowing anything for sure. T F
8. As children of the living God by faith, we should always draw near to God with confidence. T F

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 John 5:13

SCRIPTURE MEMORY TIPS

- 1** WRITE THE VERSE ON A 3X5 CARD AND CARRY AROUND WITH YOU.
- 2** READ IT THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE YOU GO TO BED AT NIGHT.
- 3** SAY IT ALOUD TO YOURSELF. RECORD IT ON YOUR SMART PHONE AND PLAY IT BACK TO YOURSELF.
- 4** WRITE IT OUT SEVERAL TIMES.
- 5** FIND A PARTNER AND RECITE THE VERSE TO EACH OTHER.



Answers to Quiz

1. F
2. F
3. God the Holy Spirit
4. All of the above
5. F
6. F
7. T
8. T

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the ESV[®] Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version[®]), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Starting Point: A Disciple's First Steps

Copyright © 2018 Ron Jones, All rights reserved.

Something Good Publishing
Ron Jones Ministries
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456
www.somethinggoodradio.org

Permissions

You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute these notes in physical form, in its entirety or in unaltered excerpts, as long as you do not charge a fee. For posting online, please use only unaltered excerpts (not the content in its entirety) and provide a hyperlink to the specific resource located at SomethingGoodRadio.org.

About the Author

Ron Jones is the lead pastor of Atlantic Shores Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, a radio Bible teacher, and author of *Mysteries of the Afterlife: Exploring Its Amazing Secrets*. His ministry extends beyond the church he serves through a daily radio broadcast called *Something Good with Dr. Ron Jones*. A lifelong learner, Ron earned degrees from Purdue University, Dallas Theological Seminary, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He lives five minutes from the beach with his wife Cathryn. They have two kids in college who are also NCAA athletes.