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How to Know That you Know You Are Saved

I John 5:6-13

INTRO: Through the years of my ministry, I have often been asked the question, "How can I know without a doubt I am saved? How can I be sure I am on the way to heaven?"

One of the main purposes of the book of I John is to give the believer assurance of salvation (I John 5:13). John uses the word "know" 27 times in the epistle of I John. The Bible says that you can know without a doubt that you are saved. God wants folks to be saved, and He wants them to have assurance of salvation.

One word that is used several times in I John 5:6-13 is the word "witness". God has given the child of God

The witness of the spirit.

The witness of the sovereign.

The witness of the scriptures

to give the believer the assurance of salvation.

I. VSS. 6-8, THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT.

A. Vs. 6, Jesus Christ came into the world to be our Saviour. He came with a purpose and the Spirit of God bears witness to this fact.

1. "This is He that came."

a. Kenneth Wuest says, "'Came' is an aorist participle in the Greek text, referring to a definite fact in history, the first advent of the Son of God embracing human nature without its sin through virgin birth" (175).

b. The Spirit bears witness to the fact that Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem. Jesus Christ is not a myth; He is the Son of God.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed

The little Lord Jesus 'laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. Jesus came "by water and blood."

a. First this points to the beginning and the culmination of our Lord's earthly ministry.

1.) Water speaks of our Lord's baptism (Matt. 3:13-17). This signified the beginning of His ministry.

2.) Blood speaks of the crucifixion of Jesus. It speaks of His death. The Corinthians said that Christ left Jesus before His death on the cross. The Spirit testifies that Jesus was as much Christ at His death as He was at His baptism. Jesus Christ is eternal God.

b. The second meaning of the "water and blood" is found in John 19:33-35. The blood and water testify of the cleansing power of Jesus.

1.) Water symbolizes the "living water" (John 7:38).

2.) Blood speaks of the death of Jesus. It is because of the blood sacrifice that we have the living water. The water speaks of daily cleansing for the believer (Eph. 5:26).

3. "It is the Spirit that beareth witness."

a. The Holy Spirit makes the truth live. The church was told to tarry in Jerusalem until the Day of Pentecost. They were to sit and wait. Why? Because without the work of the Holy Spirit making the Gospel live, no one can be saved.

b. "The Spirit is truth."

1.) The Holy Spirit exalts Jesus and the truth about Him (John 16:13).

2.) The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible (II Pet. 1:21).

Whatever the Spirit says is truth; so the Bible is truth and whatever the Bible says about Jesus is truth.

B. Vs. 7, Just as the Trinity here witnesses of the truth about Jesus at His baptism (Matt. 3:16-17), the Trinity bears witness from heaven of the eternal Sonship of Jesus.

C. Vs. 8, There are three that bear witness on earth that Jesus is the Christ.

1. The Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and makes it real to sinners. When the Bible speaks about the blood, the Spirit says, "That is truth." "The Spirit bears testimony through blood that God has provided for man's need" (Pentecost 98).

2. Water speaks of cleansing. What do we have on earth today that will keep us clean inside? The Word of God is God's cleansing agent.

a. The Word of God tells us how to be saved, how to be cleansed by the blood (I Pet. 1:23; I John 1:7).

b. The Word of God not only shows us how to be saved, it keeps us clean after salvation.

1.) John 15:3.

2.) Eph. 5:25-27.

3.) Psa. 119:9-11.

3. The blood speaks of the precious blood of Jesus, the blameless Lamb's blood that was shed for our sins. The Holy Spirit testifies to our hearts that the blood is the way to eternal life (Heb. 9:22).

4. "These three agree in one." These three are united in their witness and purpose. That is they want you to be saved and sure.

II. VSS. 9-10, THE WITNESS OF THE SOVEREIGN.

A. Vs. 9, It is a fact that "we receive the witness of men." But we must see that "the witness of God is greater."

1. The word "receive" means "to accept as valid." Daily we accept the testimony of men; we take their word every day.

a. Man swallows what the news puts out. Man accepts what they read and hear.

b. We accept the doctor's diagnosis.

c. We accept the medicine that the druggist gives us.

d. Everyday people receive the witness of men.

2. "The witness of God is greater."

a. "Since we are in the habit of receiving the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater (and therefore should be received); because this is the testimony of God " (Wuest 177).

b. God has testified that Jesus is the Son of God (Matt. 3:16-17).

c. Folks believe what other men say, but reject what God says about His Son.

When men reject the Gospel, they are rejecting what God said about His Son.

B. Vs. 10, Believers have the witness of God's truths within them. Those who reject God's testimony about His Son imply that He is a liar.

1. "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself."

a. Believers have the Holy Spirit living within them and He gives testimony that what God says is true.

b. Romans 8:16 says, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." This is where feeling comes in. God doesn't promise feeling before we believe. Many people are looking for a feeling before salvation, but God's order is facts, faith, then feelings.

2. "He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar."

a. When you don't believe God, you are calling Him a liar.

b. God says, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isa. 55:1). Also, in Ezekiel 33:11 we read, "As I live thus saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel."

c. If you say that you do not need Christ to be saved, you are calling God a liar.

3. The reason that you call God a liar is because you will not believe the record that God gave of His Son. The record that God gave is found in verse 11.

III. VSS. 11-13, THE WITNESS OF THE SCRIPTURES.

A. Vs. 11, To have eternal life, you must have Jesus. To have Jesus is to have eternal life.

1. "Hath given" points us to the cross where Jesus died (John 3:16).

2. W.E. Vines says, "The possession of eternal life involves the possession of the Son of God Himself, without whom eternal life is impossible" (101).

B. Vs. 13, When you trust Jesus as Saviour, you also get eternal life. "He that hath the Son hath life."

1. Note that John didn't say, "He that is a church member hath life, or he that is baptized hath life." John said, "He that hath the Son hath life."

2. "He that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

a. Without Jesus man is lost.

b. Without Jesus man is headed to hell.

C. Vs. 13, John had a twofold purpose in writing I John.

1. John wrote, "That ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." John wrote so folks would be saved.

2. John also wrote, "That ye may know that ye have eternal life."

a. If you have trusted Christ then you have eternal life.

b. John has written down these things "that ye may know that ye have eternal life."

CONCLUSION: Do you have Jesus? Is He your Saviour? If He is not your Saviour, believe the witness and trust Him today.