

Confident of Our Salvation

Introduction

Romans 3:21-26

1. Paul challenged the brethren in Corinth to:

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves.** Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?...

A. The importance of the test: To know whether we are in fact in fellowship with God.

2. We need the security of being sure of our salvation.

God's Grace

1. God's grace is conditional. His commands must be obeyed.

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who **obey** Him,

A. God has promised to deliver us from sin and despair IF we follow His instructions. This has always been true.

Joshua 6:2 And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I **have given** Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

B. God has always made plain to man what He wants of us.

Ephesians 3:1-4 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles– if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, **when you read, you may understand my knowledge** in the mystery of Christ),

2 Timothy 3:14-17

C. In our obedience, both “spirit” and “truth” are required

John 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must worship in spirit and truth.**"

2. When we compare what we have done (including our motives) with what God said to do, we can KNOW whether we have pleased God or not.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

A. We also can KNOW if we are God’s faithful children.

1 John 5:11-13

3. However, there is a problem concerning God’s grace as practiced in the denominational world of religion.**The “Faith Only” Doctrine of Man****1. Before one accepts a doctrine, one must first ensure that it is a doctrine of God, not man.****A. Jesus said:**

Matthew 15:8-9 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, **Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**' "

B. James emphasized:

James 2:17, 24: Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead..... You see then that a man is justified by works, and **not by faith only.**

2. Yet in spite of this, many teach:
 - A. That one receives remission of sins at the point of faith, prior to baptism and apart from “doing” anything as a condition of salvation.
 - B. That faith is a gift of God, something God does “to” us rather than something we choose.
Romans 10:17
 - 1) The problem with a “faith only” doctrine is that people have difficulty knowing when and if one has really entered a right relationship with God.

Examples of Conversion

1. To KNOW when we are saved, when we are in the proper fellowship and relationship with God, one must look at the various accounts in the New Testament:
 - A. The Ethiopian Eunuch
Acts 8:26-39
 - B. Paul
Acts 22:1-16
 - C. The Philippian Jailer
Acts 16:25-34
2. In the New Testament law of Christ, the specific act of baptism clearly separated the “before” and “after.”
3. “Rejoicing” came **AFTER** the act of baptism.
4. Do you think any of these individuals had difficulty pinpointing the time when they received the forgiveness of sins and entered into God’s fellowship?
1 Corinthians 6:9-11

