

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

“JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE” – Romans 3:24

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C. H. Spurgeon is quoted as saying that he was so sure of his salvation that he could grab on to a cornstalk and swing out over the fires of hell, look into the face of the devil, and sing, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!"

- **SCRIPTURAL assurance is related to Bible facts and is based upon the:**

- a. Penalty that was paid (Rom. 6:23 with Gal. 3:13 and 1 Cor. 15:3),
- b. Promise of eternal life (John 3:16; 6:47; 10:28; 1 John 5:11-12)
- c. Personal faith in Christ and His grace (Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 3:26; Rom. 10:13),
- d. Position in Christ (Eph. 1:6; 1 Cor. 1:30; Romans 3:22; 8:34-39).

FREE
GRACE

- **SUBJECTIVE assurance is related to man's ideas, feelings, moods, attitudes and is:**

- a. Based upon human works or performance (Eph. 2:8-9),
- b. Boasting in man's goodness (Luke 18:21; Rom. 3:12, 23),
- c. Bargaining with God (Matt. 19:16),
- d. Blindly comparing oneself with other sinners (Luke 18:11),
- e. Believing Christian heritage and church affiliation saves (Acts 8:33; Acts 4:12),
- f. Baptism and rituals instead of Christ (Col. 2:8),
- g. Being able to confess all known sins before one dies. *1 John 1:9 is for Christians – not the unsaved. Confession of sin is the basis for restored *fellowship* with God – not salvation and *justification* before God (Rom. 5:1; 8:30, 33; Gal. 3:24. Tit. 3:7).

BONDAGE &
LEGALISM

- How many sins must you confess in order to get into Heaven? What if you forget to confess one sin or don't know you did something wrong (Lev. 4:2; Numb. 15:24-27) and fail to confess an unknown sin before you die?
- How good must you be to get into Heaven and how bad must you be to go to hell?
- What level of discipleship assures you that you are saved and going to Heaven?
- How many good deeds must you perform to be sure of Heaven?
- What is the ratio of "good" versus "bad" things one must do to be lost and end up in hell? Who determines this ratio and sets the standard?
- What percentage of your life must you yield to God in order to be saved – 50, 60, 70, 80, 99 or 100%?
- How can salvation be free (Rom. 3:24; 8:32; Rev. 21:6; 22:17), if you must BECOME something or DO, PROMISE, and FOLLOW something, or PERFORM good works your entire life to keep it?
- If you can DO good things in order to go to Heaven, then why did Christ die on the cross?
- Since Jesus said "It is finished" (John 19:30), how can good works merit or maintain your salvation?
- How can Jesus be the ONLY way to Heaven (Jn. 14:6), if you can DO something to get there?
- How can Jesus be the Savior (Jn. 4:42), if you don't allow Him ALONE to be your Savior?
- Is the Gospel really "good news" (1 Cor. 15:3-4), if in the end, it can't save you?

Remember: You cannot TRY and TRUST as the same time!

There can be NO assurance when man looks to himself. He must look ONLY to Christ and His promise of eternal life (Isaiah 45:22 – "Look unto me and be ye saved").

Salvation is by GRACE alone, through FAITH alone, in CHRIST alone!

