

Today is Sunday August 18, 2024

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

By Elder Curtis Pugh

It is a wonderful thing to know you are saved! Some people think that it is not possible to know that you are saved. Some say you cannot know until what they call "judgment day." However, the Bible teaches that God's children know who they are. We read, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is," (1 John 3:2). And again we read, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God," (1 John 5:13). Eternal life – being a child of God – is a present possession, not something awaiting the future. Note the Bible says "...that ye may know that ye have eternal life..." and "now are we the sons of God..." - "ye have" and "now are" - important words!

But just how can a sinner know that he or she is saved? Some people believe they are saved – that they are a child of God – because someone told them that they are. Many people think they are saved because they have done something. They prayed a "magical prayer," or "went forward" in a religious meeting, or "got baptized," or some such thing. But that makes salvation based upon works and the Bible says that salvation is "Not of works, lest any man should boast," (Ephesians 2:9). Others think they are saved because they believe in God and that the Bible is true, etc., but the Bible says, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble," (James 2:19). So then there is a kind of faith that is like the demons have which is not at all "the faith of God's elect," (Titus 1:1).

Being born again or regenerated is a work of the Holy Spirit. You cannot birth yourself into God's family by praying, being baptized, or any other work. It is something the Spirit does. And real assurance of salvation – of the new birth – is a work of the Spirit also. The Bible says, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God," (Romans 8:16). The Bible teaches that whenever a sinner is born again the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in or indwell the newborn one. The Bible tells us the difference between lost sinners and born again children of God: "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his," (Romans 8:8-9). Does "the Spirit of God dwell in you"?

**What time I am afraid,
I will trust in thee.**

Psalm 56:3

WELCOME TO THE SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Where the truths of God's word have been taught
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Our Prayer List

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, 12 year old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and

Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Act 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms

“Pastor’s thought for the week.”

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;” 1 Peter 5:2

Does God truly “will” all men to be saved?

1 Timothy 2:4 *“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”*

Most of those who fail to recognize and understand the Sovereignty of God will answer yes and point to scriptures like this one while ignoring all the rest of the scriptures. God is the Creator of all things and in that He is Sovereign in all things. David wrote in **Psalms 115:3** *“But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.”* God does as He pleases because He can because He is Sovereign in all things including Salvation. Paul writes in Romans 9:13 – 14 *“As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.”* God loved Jacob and hated Esau at His choosing, not because of anything else. God’s Sovereignty allows God to do anything He chooses and without unrighteousness in His choice. Paul went on to write these words in verse 15 *“For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”* God is not unrighteous in His choices even in making a person righteous and another unrighteous, *“Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”* V. 21 If a person is happy taking scriptures out-of-context and making it seem that the ordained will of God is that all men to be saved as it appears here then they have found the scriptures to be out-of-context altogether making the bible worthless at best. The question we must all ask is can God be Sovereign and will for something He cannot have? Not all men will be saved, people die everyday lost and without Christ. The truth is, if God wanted all men to be saved then all men would be saved because the absolute will of God never fails. God will that people do a lot of things, but unless it is God’s absolute will or ordained will, none will do anything God wills. It is no different than to say God wills all men to go to church, or God wills all men to accept Christ. It is God’s ordained will that causes lost sinners to come to Christ, it is by God’s drawing power that delivers them. God does not want anything He cannot have, God never fails. Therefore, it is deceiving to ever look at a scripture that eliminates the ordained will of God.

“Pastor’s thought for the week” – Continued

God would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth, but neither will ever happen. This is not because God failed, it is because God’s Sovereign will did not call them. Romans 8:29 - 30 *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”*

Church information and Happenings

- Please pray about our Bible Conference coming up, September 13th & 14th
- Happy Birthday Brother Nathan Lavina Saturday August 24th

Psalm 3:4-8

“I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah. I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.”

