

The Believer's Assurance of Salvation

John's gospel was written that we might have life; John 20v31 *"these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His Name"*.

1st John was written that we might know that we have eternal life, i.e. to have assurance of our salvation. We are to know and be assured:

- *"we do know that we know Him",* i.e. know Christ as our Saviour (ch2v3).
- that we are abiding in Him (ch2v6) & abiding in the light (ch2v10).
- that *"your sins are forgiven you for His Name's sake"* (ch2v12).
- *"We know that we have passed from death unto life"* (ch3v14).
- *"we know that we are of the truth, shall assure our hearts before Him"* (ch3v19).
- *"that ye may know that ye have eternal life"* (ch5v13).
- *"We know that we are of God"* (ch5v19) and that *"we are in Him that is true"* (ch5v20).

Many other scriptures similarly convey the assurance of presently possessing salvation:

- *"being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Rom 5v1)
- *"we have (present possession) redemption through His blood"* (Eph 1v7)
- God *"hath saved us"* (2 Tim 1v9)
- *"all that believe are justified"* (Acts 13v39)
- *"By grace are ye saved"* (Eph 2v8)
- *"your sins are forgiven you"* (1st John 2v12)

Every believer can have the confidence of the apostle; *"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day"* (2nd Tim 1v12).

The devil will seek to cause us to have doubts & fears about our salvation. That is when we need to take again *"the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked"* (Eph 6v16). Assurance comes by implicitly receiving in faith what God says in His Word concerning the salvation for those who are trusting in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

1st John 2v3-12

v3-11: 3 positive tests of the reality of Christian profession, *"He that saith ..."* (v4,v6,v9).

1. **v3-5a:** Responsibility to God; the test of **obeying** divine commandments, proving that we know Him in terms of a vital & saving knowledge of Christ, providing *assurance based on my obedience*.

2. **v5b-6:** Responsibility to Christ; the test of **following** the example of the Lord Jesus, to walk as He walked, proving that we are abiding in Him, providing *assurance based on my walk*.

3. **v7-11:** Responsibility to our brethren; the test of **loving** our brethren, proving that we are abiding in the light, providing *assurance based on my love*.

v12: Certainty regarding the believer's forgiveness of sins, providing *assurance based on Christ's work*.

A present & plenary forgiveness *"for His Name's sake"*, i.e. resting entirely upon His sacrifice at Calvary & that finished & accepted work of Christ.

"The work of Christ gives salvation, and the Word of God the assurance of it" ('Safety and Certainty' by W. Hoste)