

Evidences of Our Assurance

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Date: 23 October 2022

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[0:00] It is a beautiful day the Lord's given us, and I am enjoying driving down Santa Clarita and seeing the mountains and hills, whatever you might call them, but to me it's different than where I live, and I'm rejoicing in it.

As a matter of fact, how'd you get this built so that you could have that view from here? It's beautiful. 1 John chapter 5, let's just start in verse 13.

We're going to emphasize some things here today. It says, 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.

Okay, this is the first epistle that John wrote. This is not the Gospel of John, obviously. So John's referring to some things that he wrote.

So just because it's school hour, Sunday school, teaching, let me say that John wrote five books in your Bible.

[1:11] The Gospel of John and the three epistles, this being the first, first, second, third John, and John also wrote the book of Revelation.

So when he refers to things that he's written, he's a pretty significant writer. We emphasize a lot, and rightfully so, the Paul line epistles, the books that Paul wrote.

They're doctrinally for the Gentile, for the church. But John did some writing, too. Now, so in reference, Matthew presents Jesus Christ as the king, and the Lord's genealogy goes back to Abraham in Matthew chapter 1.

Now, Mark presents Jesus Christ as a servant, and nobody really cares about the genealogy of a servant, just so long as a servant does what he's supposed to do. Luke presents Jesus Christ as the son of man, and therefore the genealogy in Luke chapter 3 takes Jesus Christ right back to Adam.

But the Gospel of John presents Jesus Christ as the son of God. His genealogy goes back. Take your Bible, go to John chapter 1.

[2:29] The genealogy in the book of John, genealogy of Christ, goes back to God himself.

Verse 1, it says this, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. That's his line.

He is God. And the reason the Gospel of John presents the Lord as the Son of God, because it is written for this purpose, to convince, convict, and convert sinners to the saving knowledge of Christ. Amen. John wrote some of the most profound verses in your entire Bible. Of course, John 3.16, For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believed in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Everybody knows that verse. I mean, I heard it as a kid. And people are familiar with that. And probably, that may very well be the most profound verse in the Bible.

[3:38] But it's all there. But he wrote this, too. He wrote John chapter 5 and verse 24. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that hears my word and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.

Now, that is, that right there confounds the doctrine of most organized religion. Because he emphasizes, reemphasizes it again in our passage that we started with tonight, with today, whatever it is, you can know.

And there's a lot of things I don't know. Amen? A lot of things I'll never know. A lot of things I have no burden to know. But boy, I tell you what, I know that I'm going to heaven when I die. And I'm glad that's based on what God said. John's burden was for people to know they could have that. And so, somebody said one time, I don't know who thinks of this kind of thing, but that the Gospel of John was written at the fourth grade level.

I don't know about that, but if that's true, the reason for it is so that it would be easy for people to understand that they can be forgiven and they can know it.

[4:53] All right, so we're going to talk about, it said there in our text in 1 John 5, 13, these things, and we use that as a proof verse sometimes to show people, yes, you can know, you can know, it says that you may know, and that's good for that.

But what I want to emphasize this morning, in this hour, is he said, these things have I written, so there's more than just that verse. So we're going to look at some of those things.

So let's pray again. Father, thank you for grace. And I pray and ask, Lord God, you help me say something, and be a blessing to these people that have come out. And I pray it in Jesus Christ's name, amen and amen.

It says this in 1 John 5, in verse 10, He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself. He that believeth not God hath made him a liar, because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

Let me tell you this to you. A born-again child of God has the witness of God in himself. And there's evidence of it.

[6:00] Matthew chapter 7, verse 20, Wherefore by their fruit ye shall know them. It's not a haircut. It's not a suit and tie. Amen.

That stuff can and is often faked. But the witness of 1 John 5, verse 11 is this. And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life.

And this life is in his Son. And he that hath the Son hath life. And he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. The witness is that we have a confidence, our faith in what the book says, about knowing where we're going to spend eternity.

Now many people believe it's impossible to know, but the Bible says you can know. The Bible says in John chapter 8, verse 32, And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Now I look at that verse, and that means anything in the truth puts you in bondage. And I'll tell you something, the bondage, and I think I said it the other night, the bondage of not knowing where you're going to spend eternity, that's something Jesus Christ never intended for you to have when he made you free.

[7:14] Amen. So the things, I want to emphasize some things, and we're in 1 John 5, and he's referring, he's at the end of the epistle, and he's referring to things that he's written in the epistle.

So we're going to look at a couple things in the book of 1 John that John is referring to when he says these things have I written unto you. Go to 1 John chapter 2 and verse number 3.

Now we're talking about knowing that you're saved, knowing that you have eternal life. In 1 John chapter 2 and verse 3, the Bible says this, And hereby do we know that we know him.

All right, that's what we're talking about. If we keep his commandments. Now there are people that read that and interpret that to mean that if you break a commandment, you lose your salvation. And many people interpret it that way. So in other words, if you lie, or you cheat, or you steal, or you commit adultery, or you kill somebody, maybe you were saved, but you lost your salvation now because the saved person wouldn't do those things, so you lost it.

[8:30] But I guess they kind of ignore some of the other sins that the Bible doesn't ignore, like let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody.

I mean, what about those? I mean, those are sins. Do they say you lose your salvation over those things? I don't know. That's the problem. See, they contradict themselves in their very beliefs, and it's because they don't rightly divide the Word of God.

Let's face it. If you could lose your salvation, you would. Amen. Instead of being saved by grace, I guess you'd be saved by grace.

You know, always slipping in and out of the body of Christ. Amen. I'm not saved by grace, man. I got in by faith, and if you're saved here this morning, so did you.

And thank God you don't lose your salvation when you sin. Amen. You can lose some things, that's for sure, but it's not your standing as a child of God.

[9:33] 1 John 2 and verse 1 says, My little children, these things write I unto you, that you sin not. Now, that's our goal. But the verse says, And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

We're sinners by nature. Amen. We ought to work at not sinning, but, you know, the Bible says, A just man falleth seven times and rises up again.

I wish we were perfect. I'm looking forward to that day. But thank God we can go to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Amen. We have an advocate with the Father. It said, And hereby do we know that we know him, and we keep his commandments.

Now, that word keep means to highly regard. How many have heard the expression keepsake? If you've buried relatives, maybe you inherited some things.

[10:41] I've got a garage full of stuff that came from my mom and dad, and there's some stuff in there that was precious to them, and because I, you know, saw it on the shelf or looked at it growing up or knew that it was precious to my mom or something, I would call it a keepsake.

It doesn't have any real, I don't use it for anything, but it means something. And it says, Keep the commandments. I want you to look at it like this. It means that you value them, like a keepsake.

Jesus Christ asked in John chapter 6, after probably coincidentally, in John 6 verse 66, it said, And from that time forth, many disciples went back and walked no more with him.

Again, that's rhetorical. It's not coincidental at all. But then Jesus said to the twelve, to the disciples, Will ye also go away? And Peter answered correctly, and he said, To whom shall we go?

Thou hast the words of eternal life. Peter understood the value, the importance of the word of God. And thank God we do. Amen. And we've been talking during the week, and there's a lot of nice people out there, populating churches all over America and the world, nice, well-meaning people that do not understand the value of what you and I have in our life.

[12:08] And it isn't because we're super spiritual. I got saved in jail, and ended up, God put me right into a church that taught me the truth of the word of God. And I thank God for that. And I value that.

Because a lot of people have never had the benefit of what you and I know. We need to learn to have grace. Because in a church this size, there's people that came from all different backgrounds, but a desire within a person for the truth will allow God to lead them through the truth.

And what we value here and now, for what we know, is the precious word of God, His commandments, and we, again, we value them. So, to keep His commandments doesn't mean you've never messed up, or you've never, ever broken one.

The Bible says in 1 John 1 and 8, if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. I had a prisoner one time in a jail.

I was not a prisoner myself that day. I was, you know, preaching. And I give him the gospel, and he says this to me. He says, I don't think I can live it.

[13:20] And praise the Lord for an honest man. Because I looked at him, and I thought, I don't think I can live it either. That is, in me dwelleth no good thing, man. If Jesus Christ doesn't show us how, if He doesn't lead us how, if He doesn't bear witness to His word, none of us can live it.

Amen. And we need Him, and that's why we value the book. That's why we know what we got going for Him. It ain't a feeling. We can be easily deceived. The heart is deceitful above all things.

It's desperately wicked. God gave us a Bible, and it's a cry and shame, that everybody doesn't have a grasp on that, but it's a cry and shame, that people that claim, that they know the word of God, don't spend any time in it.

If a person said, I don't believe the Bible is true, we would gasp, because we understand how important it is. Amen. But what about people, that claim to be Bible believers, that aren't Bible

practicers?

What about that? I'm going to tell you, how the world looks at that. The world looks at people, that claim to be Christians, and don't conduct themselves as Christians, as hypocrites. And one of the biggest things, that keep people from Christ, and the Lord, I mean the devil, he works that thing, but people talk about hypocrites.

[14:36] Amen. I told my Bible teacher one time, I got bummed out about something, and I said, man, I said, I feel like such a hypocrite. He said, well, you are.

Just admit it. Just admit it, ask God to forgive you, and go on. And I thought, wow, there's a freedom in that right there. Amen. I'm not pretending to be something I'm not.

I am worshiping the one that is perfect. He said, these things have I written unto you, and you do well to value the importance, of the word of God. 1 John chapter 2 and verse 23.

John said, these things have I written. And so he wrote this. He said, whosoever, verse 23, 1 John 2, whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father, but he that acknowledgeth the Son, hath the Father also.

Now, let me just say, you know this to be true, believing in God, is not salvation. Amen. If you do any personal work, if you talk to people, you'll get this response.

[15:45] People say, I believe in God. Amen. And I mean, every religion in the world has a God, has a name for him, and could rightfully say, we believe in God.

But the Bible says, in James chapter 2 and verse 19, thou believest that there is one God, thou doest well. The devils also believe and tremble.

So, believing in God, it just makes you smarter than an atheist. It don't make you smarter than a devil, but it makes you smarter than an atheist.

It said, whoever denieth the Son. Jesus Christ himself said, John 14 and verse 1, let your heart not be troubled. Let not your heart be troubled.

You believe in God, believe also in me. It says in Romans chapter 10 and verse 11, we quote verse 10, 9 and 10, and then jump right to 13, but verse 11 is significant.

[16:47] It says, for the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. I'm trying to tell you that it is a key, it is key to knowing that you have eternal life in that you're not ashamed of Jesus Christ.

I gave an invitation in a maximum security juvenile detention facility one time. Had a group, about 18 guys in there and preaching away at them.

And they're serious offenders. There's killers in there, teenagers. And went through the gospel and then head bowed, eyes closed, gave an invitation, gave them an opportunity to call on the Lord, pray to the Lord, trust in the Lord, ask for forgiveness.

And then I said this, and they couldn't move, they're in a jail situation, they can't get up and come. And I said, how many of you prayed that prayer for the first time?

Raise your hand. About 12 of them raised their hand. And I reemphasized, listen, this is the first time. And about 12 of them raised their hand.

[17:58] And they're sitting there with their heads bowed and their eyes closed. And I said, all right, look up. And they look up. And I said, now if you prayed that prayer, you prayed and asked the Lord, you believed on the Lord, amen, and you meant it, stand up.

And now with everybody looking up, it's a whole different story. Amen. Some guys are kind of looking out of the corner of their eye and one finally stood up and we had about eight make it.

And I looked at the rest of them, I said, let me tell you something, you claim to pray that prayer and ask Jesus Christ to forgive you, if you won't stand up and profess that in this room, I wouldn't give you a plug nickel for that little prayer you just prayed.

Paul said, I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God and the salvation. To everyone, I believe it, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. And I'm going to tell you something, one of the things that you can know that you're saved, that you know, these things that I've written that you may know, it is key this morning that you're not ashamed of Jesus Christ.

These days, we see many that this verse in Titus seems to apply to. Titus chapter 1 and 16 says, they profess that they know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable and disobedient and unto every good work reprobate.

[19:33] Shouldn't be that way. Shouldn't be that way. Amen? You start denying Jesus Christ, you'll start doubting whether you're saved or not. The devil will have a heyday with you. You're going for a rude awakening at the judgment seat and you're going to find out that though you denied Him, He won't deny you.

You sure won't have the confidence that we have and that God wants you to have by knowing that you have eternal life. Amen. 1 John chapter 2 and verse 29.

1 John chapter 2 and verse 29.

Moving pretty fast here. You might get out there and get some lasagna before church. I finally said something to get a rise out of them. Especially Russ.

Amen. 1 John chapter 2 and verse 29. And the Bible says this, if we know that He is righteous, we're talking about things you can know.

[20:39] If we know that He is righteous, if ye know that He is righteous, ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him.

Amen. If you're saved in there this morning, there's something inside of you that wants to do right. I guarantee your flesh is not interested in wanting to do right all the time.

Now, some people, we got a wide spectrum. There's people that if they see an opportunity where they think they can get away with something, their flesh just goes into gear and then if you're saved, you're supposed to say, whoa, whoa, whoa, let him that stole steel no more.

And then there's a lot of people that are just pretty decent and moral and wouldn't even consider doing some things they shouldn't do. And praise the Lord for that. But I just want to say we got a flesh.

The Bible says for the flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh and they're contrary one to the other so that you cannot do the things you would. Your flesh, my flesh, nobody's flesh wants to do right all the time.

[21:47] But if you're saved, there's a spirit of God inside of you that does. Easy. It is never right. Amen. I think Bob Jones Sr. said a couple times it is never right to do wrong.

The end does not justify the means. We live in a society where the end justifies the means and that's a mantra that people live by and I'm sad to say that that's infected Christianity to a degree and it's not the case.

The Bible says in 1 Samuel 15 that obedience is better than sacrifice and God's more interested and whether you have the faith to do it his way than to make things happen and say well at least they got saved or at least they...

No, God wants to know if you're willing to do it his way. Amen. So we're supposed to do right. Now before I got saved I was in bike gangs and everything. My motivation for doing right was either personal benefit or fear of getting caught.

but that's not the case anymore. Now as a child of God I know I'm saved because I look at things and the old man whispers and sometimes yells and the voice that I'm used to and then there's something else that's still small voice and I'm going what was that?

[23:07] Amen. And that's something inside of me wasn't in there before. I came through I came through a line at a store I hadn't been saved very long and I was going to give the girl at the checkout a track I hand out tracks I think you ought to hand out tracks I do and I went to get a track and I didn't have one.

I was out I had given it away the last one away and I felt bad about that and I started walking toward the door and it was like a big Kmart did you guys have them here?

It was a pretty big store big parking lot my car's out in the middle of the lot and I had to fight with that idea I was like you got tracks in the car you know this voice you know you can go get her one and I said I thought to myself yep bless God I'm going to do it and I'm going to go out there and this building had this metal roof and by the time I got from the catch right to the door I mean a thunderstorm broke out I know you don't know what that is in California but that's when it like rains

torrential right like you're praying for it it happened and it starts raining it's deafening inside this this door it's so loud and by the time I get to the door there are people waiting because they're not going out to their car and women are waiting and they're making their husband go get the car and bring it up and I have already told the Lord yes I will go out and get a track and now it's pouring and I don't want to go out there and come back and I stood there for a minute and I mean the Holy Spirit said so you don't have to get wet she can just okay if she just dies go to hell and I don't like that I couldn't take it I said I would rather get soaking wet than have the Holy Spirit going hey I thought we had an agreement and I walked out there and I mean I got rain poured when I got back to that that cash register soaking wet and I had covered the track and I said ma'am I just I didn't have one I apologize I wanted to give you that I wanted to invite you to church and she was like she couldn't believe somebody just went out there and got wet and came all the way back and she was sincerely thankful and the Holy Spirit said good job and that was good enough for me I didn't I want what do you mean saying I want to do right by God now I fail I fail sometimes I fail less than I did 10 years ago and less than I did 20 years ago as a child of God but boy I'll tell you what I know I'm saved because something inside me wants to do right by God and it isn't because of how I'm going to look or it isn't because of what people are going to think

I never was that interested in that before I'm not that interested now I want to do right by God because he put something in me when he saved me that's how I know alright so let me ask you this what motivates you to do right there's countless chapters in the Bible of folks that are referred to as Pharisees and they've got all the stuff the physical stuff down pat but their motivation is how it makes them look and they make sure they're seen too that Pharisee Luke 18 he's standing up there man he made sure everybody could see him everybody could hear him and the publican is off to the side he won't even look up amen and let me ask you again what makes you do right if it's how you look that's not the right reason if it's fear of getting caught well that's not the right reason either I mentioned it last night to the men the Bible says the eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding evil and the good you're already caught amen you ought to do right because the

[26:57] Holy Spirit inside you wants you to do right and if you want to do right because it's the right thing to do you just might be saved he said these things have I written unto you that you may know John 16 verse 8 says when he is come that's Holy Spirit the comforter when he is come he will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment and before I got saved there was no reproof of any of that stuff the words that I live by the code that I live by is if you can get away with it more power to you and if you get caught once in a while well at least you tried amen that's why the crowds that I got saved out of in and out of prison all the time in and out of trouble all the time many of them went to an early grave you know if you can get away with it it's okay and sometimes you don't and sometimes it kills you but that ain't my motivation anymore and it shouldn't be yours either the bible said everyone that doeth righteousness is born of god and an innate desire within your spirit to do right because it's right might be an indication holy spirit's in there because it isn't it doesn't come it's not standard equipment with the flesh

I guarantee you that so let me say this all Christians struggle with the flesh so quit pretending you don't get honest with yourself when you mess up get the thing right get the thing right and but if you never want to seem to do right for the right reasons I'd be very concerned about eternity religion won't give you that kind of conviction but the spirit of god will and you don't get the spirit of god until you get saved and when you get saved bless god we got a book that tells us we can know that we have eternal life that's a great motivator amen all right last of all first john chapter three and verse 14 now paul john wrote some things he said these things have i written and there's some little nuggets within this epistle that john wrote that refer to us knowing we have the relationship that we have with our father the relationship that we sing about the relationship that we quote verses on but I find it interesting that that within that epistle several of these things I'm pointing out one more first john 3 and 14 says this we know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren he that loveth not his brother abideth in death amen listen I just want to say I would have never pictured myself fitting in with this crowd I got same jail because a preacher came in and told

me that the ways of sin is death and he preached on hell and I had heard it as a kid and I knew in my heart that if the Bible is true that's where I was going and I deserved it I didn't have any reservations about that I worked real hard at being a sinner I was working on my doctorate degree and just number of years in prison that was all factored in early on however foolish that may sound but

I was ready to do the time but then when he started talking about this hell that's going to last forever and ever I all thanks for cheering me up amen but thank God he didn't stop there and thank God he went on and told me from the word of God what Jesus Christ did to make a way for sin to be forgiven and I called upon the name of the Lord no strings attached never planned on getting a haircut never planned on shaving never planned on getting in church never planned on putting a suit on unless I was going before a federal judge amen I don't dress like this because I like to believe me I been out to breakfast with your pastor a couple days I'm a t-shirt and jean guy too amen but I never thought

I'd make bond I'd been no body twice I never planned on coming to a church when I made bond I came to a church and it seemed right to me to thank people the preacher came back and said they're praying praying I didn't understand that but they're praying for you and I went to the church and the way I was received and the preacher said this and it's significant I came in hair down the middle of my back on my way to prison been in the newspapers for week or two all this bad stuff it's all true they're saying I've been on the news you know a high profile gang member you know busted and I came to that church the way a lot of lost people come to church they're apprehensive they think that churches are just full of a bunch of goody two shoes that don't know what sin is like they feel like a fish out of water they come in a place people in spite of all that were friendly they were more concerned about what

[32:31] I had done with Jesus Christ than all the things that I had done in my past and of course as I came that impressed me enough that I came back that night and that was over 32 years ago or just that 32 years ago I mean that like I say that blindsided me the Bible says a man that had friends must show himself friendly I been in the ministry a few years now I been to places that I pull up and nobody smiled nobody was nice nobody was friendly until they found out I was the preacher it ought not be that way people that visit your church ought to be greeted friendly treated friendly I commended Gary as he opened the door for that nice smile okay yeah that but I'm just saying I would have never I never expected to be part of this crowd even after I got saved I didn't see it coming but I got in and

I got in because God put me around a bunch of people that believe that book I really believed I said man this is what I been looking for all my life something real amen I say this if I ever doubted my salvation you know what I would do I would look around because I'm going to tell you the truth there is no crowd that I would rather be with amen and amen so I'm glad to be saved I'm glad for the brethren I don't get along with all of them I disagree with some of some of disagree with me that's just part of human nature amen but I'm going to tell you what if you're born again child of God I love you I'm glad to be part of the family and you ought to feel the same way even when you're mad right I mean okay well it's what the Bible says we know we pass from death unto life because we love the brethren amen I wonder about people that claim to be saved but then never go to church or never claim never or go to church and if they do they're just putting a check mark on the box they're gone five minutes after three minutes after you know

Harold Leake sang a song 40 years ago the 1205 dash you know don't be careful in the parking lot because people are trying to get out of there it looks like the Indy 500 I'm glad that's not what we've got I'll tell you what the sign of a healthy church is people hang around fellowship you guys are pretty healthy amen we've had a good time this week couple different times we had a great time last night I did amen so listen there's nobody I'd rather be no place I'd rather be than at church there's nobody I'd rather be around than other Christians and I look for opportunities to witness and talk to people I I brethren so there's a lot of people out there

I'll wrap it up that believe you can lose your salvation and I'd be the first one to admit that there are times when we probably deserve to but the bottom line is if you're saved you've got eternal life and that book says you can know it these things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the

Son of God have you done that it says that ye may know that ye have eternal life so I'll recap it 1 John 1 1 John 2 and verse 3 it says and hereby do we know that we know him if we keep his commandments 1 John 2 23 you can't have eternal life without Jesus Christ friend 1 John 2 29 if we know that he is righteous we know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him and 1 John 3 and 14 we know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren he that loveth not his brother abideth in death I want to say it again there's a lot of things I don't know and I just tell you what at almost 70 years old I'm happy there's a lot of things I don't even have a burden to know I don't even care I am going to finish this thing out rejoicing in what I do know and I know this I know I'm going to heaven and that makes that book sweeter than ever and when I open that book I know and personally knowing who the author is it just fascinates me more and more every year and you got to get past getting hung up on the cares and the affairs of this life before that book will ever be as precious to you as you hear us tell you it should be amen but listen if there's anything that ought to draw you back to center in spite of all the distraction it's just the confidence in knowing you're a child of

[37:52] God heaven bound that no matter what it's going to get better no matter what the condition is in this life health financial family it's going to get better that makes it easy I'm not waiting on Fox News or any of other people to tell me what kind of day to have I can tell them what kind of day to have Father thank you for this hour blessed I pray in Jesus name amen all right