

How to Know You're Saved

2 Timothy 2:19 HCSB Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, having this inscription: **The Lord knows those who are His**, and Everyone who names the name of the Lord must turn away from unrighteousness.

Let me say this, The Lord absolutely knows whether or not you're saved by His grace. However, you too can know. I want to preach to you this morning on the assurance of salvation. If you don't know Christ today as your personal Savior, you might as well mark it in your books that you're lost and on your way to a devil's Hell. The most important thing in this life is to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you're saved by His grace. Everybody here might be saved and I hope that's the case but I'm only preaching what God said to preach. There might be somebody here missing out. There might be somebody here that thinks they're saved and they're not.

Part One: Message to the Lost

I want to share three things this morning for you that are lost and don't have the assurance of salvation. These three things are sure to those of you that are lost.

I. Sin is sure.

- **Ecclesiastes 7:20 HCSB** There is certainly no righteous man on the earth who does good and never sins.
- **Romans 3:23 HCSB** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

There's no way we can get the glory of God because we've all sinned. If you're here and you're lost without Christ, sin is sure in your life.

- **Numbers 32:23 HCSB** But if you don't do this, you will certainly sin against the LORD; be sure your sin will catch up with you.

We don't have sin in our lives because of things that we've done or because of the lifestyle we chose to live. We don't have sin in our lives because of the color of our skin or our nationality, size or age. Sin came into this world by one man named Adam. But thank God salvation came into the world by one man and that man is Jesus Christ. Read Romans 5 and you'll get a blessing out of it. If you're here without Christ, Sin is sure in your life. The only antidote for sin is Jesus Christ. You know why he was crucified? He was crucified for our sakes, to pay the penalty of our sins. But he was raised again for our justification. We're justified only if we have the blood of Christ applied in our lives.

II. Death is sure.

- **James 1:15 HCSB** Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.
- **Romans 6:23 HCSB** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If sin is sure in your life you can mark it down in your book that death is also sure. You cannot escape death unless you know Christ as your Savior. You're living a miserable life this morning if you're trying to live it without Christ. If you're lost without God, sin is ruling in your life and it will lead you to death one day after a while.

III. Hell is sure.

Gehenna is the place where the unrighteous dead go while they wait for the Great White Throne of Judgment. Sheol is the place of the dead. It used to be divided into two compartments: Paradise (aka Abraham's bosom) and Gehenna (Hebrew) or Hades (Greek) which we commonly

refer to as hell. Hell is different from the Lake of Fire. The Lake of Fire is horrible but we're just going to stick with Sheol's Gehenna.

- [Isaiah 5:14 HCSB](#) Therefore Sheol enlarges its throat and opens wide its enormous jaws, and down go Zion's dignitaries, her masses, her crowds, and those who carouse in her!
- [Isaiah 14:9 HCSB](#) Sheol below is eager to greet your coming. He stirs up the spirits of the departed for you--all the rulers of the earth. He makes all the kings of the nations rise from their thrones.

The Bible says that Sheol's Gehenna must enlarge itself because of the lust of men, the lust of flesh and the lust of the eyes. People are dying every day without Christ and Gehenna is running over with souls and not enough are making it to heaven. There's room in heaven for you today. If you're here today and you're lost I want you to know that Hell is sure in your life.

- [Psalms 9:17 HCSB](#) The wicked will return to Sheol--all the nations that forget God.

We're living in a day and time when people are forgetting about the Lord God. Hey! People! Worldly gain will not get you anywhere!

- [Luke 16:22-23 HCSB](#) **One day the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. (23) And being in torment in Hades (Greek for Gehenna), he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off, with Lazarus at his side.**

The Bible says the rich man died and in Gehenna he "looked up"; he "lifted his eyes". You're heading down the wrong road this morning if you're lost. You're going down instead of up. You cannot make it without Christ.

Are you sure today if you're saved by the grace of God? You can't get saved just by saying the sinner's prayer. Let me tell you what the TRUE sinner's prayer is. When the Holy Spirit of God convicts a sinner's heart and lets him know that he's lost and on his way to hell, then he steps out on faith and repent of his sins and ask God into his heart as Savior and confess it with their mouth, then he shall be saved.

You can't get saved just because somebody tells you how. You have to be convicted by the Holy Spirit of God. I believe there are a whole lot of people in the world today who think they're saved and are not. I believe they have the head knowledge of being a Christian but they don't have the heart knowledge. I believe a lot of them will wake up in hell and say, "God what happened?" You must be born again. We need to know the assurance of our Salvation.

- [Job 19:25-27 HCSB](#) But I know my living Redeemer, and He will stand on the dust at last. (26) Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh. (27) I will see Him myself; my eyes will look at *Him*, and not as a stranger. My heart longs within me.

Brother Job - He didn't say "I think so, no maybe so...." He said I *know*.

- [2 Timothy 1:12 HCSB](#) and that is why I suffer these things. But I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day.

Part Two: Message to the Saved

Now I want to share with you three ways that you can know or prove to yourself that you belong to Christ or to Satan.

I. You'll know that you're saved by His Spirit.

- [1 John 4:13 HCSB](#) This is how we know that we remain in Him and He in us: He has given to us from His Spirit.

If you don't have His spirit, you don't have His Salvation. There are a lot of people in this world that get the Spirit of God mixed up with earthly emotions. Just because you can stand up and shed a tear, it does not mean that you are saved. I used to shed tears when Daddy spanked me

but that didn't mean I was saved. The Spirit can bring tears when it's good and when it's right but that is not what the Spirit of God is. The Spirit of God starts on the inside.

I had a woman tell me that she liked those old preachers who got fired up and jump around. I could get fired up and I could get to jumping around but I must be sure to stay in the word of God. If I just got up here and did that and never opened my Bible and shared the word of God, there would be no edification. If you have Jesus Christ in your life, you'll have to get under the control and influence of the Spirit every once in a while.

And the Spirit doesn't just make you feel good. The Spirit shows you how to live well. There are a lot of people who can feel good but I have to wonder; I have to ask, "Are you living well?" Even in the valley you'll still feel the Spirit of God. You'll still live like a Christian and you'll know you're saved. There are a lot of people who turn their Christianity on and off like a light bulb. Then they go around talking about everybody. The Spirit of God will not lead you to do that.

- **John 3:6 HCSB** Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- **James 3:14-16 HCSB** But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don't brag and lie in defiance of the truth. (15) Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. (16) For where envy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every kind of evil.
- **Galatians 5:19-23 HCSB** Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, (21) envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar, about which I tell you in advance--as I told you before--that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

I've seen people come to the house of God on Sunday and live like the devil the rest of the week and then come back in the house of God Praising God and act like their full of the Spirit. They're not full of the Spirit, their full of the devil. God's not going to let you live like the devil and then worship him.

- **Romans 8:9 HCSB** You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

If you don't have his Spirit, you're not saved.

- **Romans 8:14 HCSB** All those led by God's Spirit are God's sons.

We need to be led by the Spirit of God. If we're children of God, we ought to know His Spirit. It's not just emotions. It's not just feeling good. I found that being a good Christian, you will usually suffer in the flesh. The Bible says that he that has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. People don't like to suffer. They like to have everything they want. They like to go where they want to and say the thing they want to say. The spirit of God is not like that.

II. You'll know that you're saved by His commandments.

- **1 John 2:3-6 HCSB** This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him: by keeping His commands. (4) The one who says, "I have come to know Him," without keeping His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (5) But whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God is perfected. This is how we know we are in Him: (6) the one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.

That passage tells me that if you're truly born again, you'll live like a member of God's family. You'll not be birthed into the family of God and live like the devil. There's a lot of dead Christians in the all the churches today; they're all over. Why do you think the Bible talks about false

prophets and false doctrines and “you’ll know a tree by the fruit it bears?” Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation. The flesh is weak. If the devil can get up there where the Lord was at, he can get to you too.

- **1 John 3:24 HCSB** The one who keeps His commands remains in Him, and He in him. And the way we know that He remains in us is from the Spirit He has given us.

A lot of people don’t study the Lord’s word enough to even know what His commandments are. You can’t live any old way you want and expect to get by with it.

- **Hebrews 12:8 HCSB** But if you are without discipline--which all receive--then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

The Bible says if you don’t have chastisement from Him then you’re a bastard and not a son. When I don’t live right the Lord convicts me and chastises me. I turn around and head in the right direction. There are a lot of people who don’t even know what the right direction is.

- **Revelation 1:3 HCSB** Blessed is the one who reads and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it, because the time is near!

You’d be surprised at how many people don’t even know who John the Baptist was. They’re not able to tell you why believing in the virgin birth is so critical to Christian doctrine. Now I’m not saying you have to be a Bible Scholar but you ought to know enough to be able to at least tell somebody how to get saved.

III. You’ll know you’re saved by His Love.

- **1 John 3:14 HCSB** We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death.

It’s terrible when a Christian tries to live a Godly life without loving his brothers and sisters in Christ. A person like that is either lost or so far backslid that he doesn’t which way up is. There are people out there that will only love you if you gain their approval. If you do something they’re pleased with and proud of they’ll love you. If I have to do something to you or for you to gain your love I don’t want it. I didn’t have to anything to gain it from God. I was a sinner and God loved me.

- **1 John 4:21 HCSB** And we have this command from Him: the one who loves God must also love his brother.

We’re not always going to agree, we’re going to have differences of opinion, but we still have to love one another. Don’t just love in word or deed but also in truth.

- **John 13:35 HCSB** **By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

If you don’t have his Spirit, His commandments or His love, you can be sure you’re lost and on your way to Gehenna – and eventually the Lake of Fire. You say Preacher, I’m lost. How can I be saved?

- **Romans 10:13 HCSB** For **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**
- **1 John 5:1 HCSB** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent also loves his child.

Call on the name of the Lord. Humble yourself under His mighty hand. Admit your need and dependence upon Him and He will save you.

- **Hebrews 6:19 HCSB** We have this *hope*--like a sure and firm anchor of the soul--that enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.

Conclusion: Is your soul anchored in the rock of ages? Is your soul anchored in heaven so that when you pass away, God will just pull you on home? Examine the evidence of your spiritual life and make your decision.