

Assurances Of Salvation

1 John 3:14-24

Introduction: John said, **“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”**

John wrote about things necessary for Christians to know that they have eternal life. In the section of this study there are some things mentioned that are assurances of salvation. This falls into line with the main theme. Four times in this section we find **“We know” (vv. 14, 16, 19, 24)**. This is not an exercise in arrogance, but is a demonstration of assurance. There are three areas in which we can find our assurance of salvation and know we have it.

I. When We Love the Brethren.

- A. **Verse 14** refers back to things said in **verses 10-11**.
 - 1. A child of God loves his brethren.
 - 2. Commanded to do so (**Jn. 13:34-35; Heb. 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22**).
 - 3. Murder is a manifestation of the heart (**v. 15**).
 - a. Reminds us of Cain (**v. 12**).
 - b. Hatred and/or murder causes separation from God (**Gal. 5:20; Rev. 21:8**).
- B. Love is exemplified in Jesus' death for us (**v. 16**).
 - 1. Dying for the ungodly (**Rom. 5:6-8**).
 - 2. **“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (Jn. 15:13)**.
 - 3. This is a tremendous challenge.
 - a. Many would claim to be willing to die for the Lord.
 - b. However, dying for the brethren might be another story.
- C. Well, we may not be called upon to go to death.
 - 1. Have we been willing even to help?
 - 2. This is how **verse 17** is used—in contrast.
- D. Let’s not just say we love one another (**v. 18**). Let’s show it (**Jn. 13:35**).

II. When Our Heart Does Not Condemn Us.

- A. Christians are encouraged to be introspective (**v. 19; 2 Cor. 13:5**).
 - 1. Likely this is referring to the conscience.
 - 2. The conscience is not a 100% accurate guide.
 - 3. We will not be judged by our conscience, but by God who is **“greater than our hearts and knows all things.”**
 - 4. Nevertheless, the conscience does say something about us.

“That You May Know”

- B. Verse 20** has been a challenge for commentators.
1. If our heart condemns us, what is that compared to the condemnation of God which, unlike our conscience, is 100%?
 - a. How many Christians are there who find themselves plagued with doubt about their salvation?
 - b. If this is the case, then something ought to be done to bring about a sense of security.
 2. Doubt, guilt and failure are never far from any of us.
 - a. Some of it maybe the result of our actions or inactions.
 - b. God has provided a way for us to receive cleansing (**1 Jn. 1:9**).
- C.** Confidence toward God that is not arrogantly assumed.
1. Proven by test (**Rom. 8:16**).
 2. God’s word has a two-fold purpose in instruction.
 - a. What to do to be saved.
 - b. What to do to stay saved.
 3. While it is true that God will be the ultimate arbiter, we are told that **“we can know we are of the truth.”**

III. When We Keep His Commandments.

- A.** John is continuing with the thought of confidence in connection with **“keeping His commandments and doing those things that are pleasing in His sight” (v. 22)**.
1. We must not ask amiss (**James 4:3**).
 2. We must believe in what we ask (**Matt. 21:22**).
 3. We must ask according to His will (**1 Jn. 5:14-15**).
- B.** A simple explanation of the life of a disciple (**v. 23**).
1. Believe in Jesus.
 2. Love one another.
 3. The one is as surely commanded as the other.
- C.** A mutual abiding is only available to those who keep His commandments (**v. 24**).
- D.** The evidence of the Spirit in one’s life is not by “something better felt than told.” It is evidenced by action, by the fruit born in a life given to God.

Conclusion: Do you love God? Are you keeping His commandments? Do you need to obey the gospel?