

OUR SALVATION: BE ASSURED AND BE EXAMINING

BE ASSURED

BE EXAMINING YOUR FAITH

The Beauty  ^{OF} **PARADOX**

1 John 2:24–25 (ESV)

24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

1 John 5:13 (ESV)

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Romans 8:15–17 (ESV)

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...

Ephesians 1:13 (ESV)

13 In him[Christ] you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 1:14 (ESV)

... the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Romans 8:34 (ESV) 34

Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV)

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

Galatians 5:22–24 (ESV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Hebrews 3:12 (ESV)

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

Haggai 1:4–8 (ESV)

4 "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? 5 Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. 6 You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. 7 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. 8 Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD.

James 1:22–27 (ESV)

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. 26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Our Salvation: Be Assured and Be Examining

November 7, 2021

Open: What has been your experience with assurance of salvation over the years?

Read & Discuss: 1 John 2:21-25; 5:10-13

1. There is a certain simplicity to John's message in these two passages. According to John, what is true of those who have (eternal) life? How then can we be confident in our path of salvation? How would you encourage a fellow believer who is doubting their own salvation?
2. What does John mean when he says in 1 John 2:24, "Let what you have heard from the beginning abide in you?" What should a believer do to obey this exhortation? What impact should this have on our life?
3. In verse 13 John explains that he wants these believers to be assured they have eternal life. How is assurance a critical element of our relationship with God? What should assurance produce in the lives of believers?

Read & Discuss: 2 Corinthians 13:5-10; Hebrews 3:12-19

4. In the book of Corinthians, Paul is correcting errors that were present in the local church. How does this larger context help us understand what Paul is aiming to accomplish in these particular verses? In 2 Corinthians 13:5 Paul calls the Corinthians to examine themselves. How is such self-examination helpful to those who are aiming to follow Christ? How would a believer go about such self-examination?
5. The test Paul seems to have in mind in 2 Corinthians 13 is generally agreed to be repentance (cf. v. 9), in response to Paul's corrections. In what ways is repentance evidence of the Gospel having taken root in our lives?
6. Looking at Hebrews 3:12-19, what specific calls to action do you see? What are practical ways we obey these calls to action? What is the fruit we can expect as a result of such pursuits? What are some potential costs of not pursuing these actions?

Apply: Where do you see need in your own life to work toward greater focus on assurance and/or spiritual self-examination? Is there anything our group can do to help you in that pursuit?

Pray: Pray that the Gospel would take root deeply in our hearts, transforming us into a greater and greater likeness of Christ. Pray that God would give us eyes to see areas where we need to repent. Ask God to remind us day after day of the sufficiency of the cross in granting us life.

1 John 2:21-25

²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. (ESV)

1 John 5:10-13

¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. (ESV)

2 Corinthians 13:5-10

⁵ Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! ⁶ I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. ⁷ But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. ⁸ For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹ For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. ¹⁰ For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. (ESV)

Hebrews 3:12-19

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (ESV)