

EVIDENCE OF PARDON

HOW CAN WE KNOW IF WE ARE SAVED?

Introduction: Isaiah 55:6-11

1. Often, we wonder about the salvation of our souls.
2. We recognize our sins and mistakes and wonder if we are truly forgiven.
3. How can we know for certain that we will make it to Heaven?
4. Thankfully, God supplies us with evidence of our pardon.

I. Insufficient Indications

- A. Many base their salvation on things that are faulty and flawed.
- B. Many rely on feelings (cf. Prov. 16:25; Acts 26:9; Rom. 10:2).
- C. Some trust in a dream or vision (cf. Ecc. 5:3; Jer. 23:25; Ac. 10:3-6, 30; 11:13-14).
- D. Some depend on human wisdom (cf. Jer. 10:23; 1 Cor. 1:19-21).
- E. Some follow the doctrines of men (cf. Mark 7:6-13).

II. Fundamental Facts

- A. Christianity is a taught religion (Matt. 28:18-19; Acts 1:2; 5:42; 1 Tim. 4:11).
- B. Thus, Salvation is a matter of knowledge (John 6:44-45; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 1:3).
 1. Knowledge leads to obedience (Mark 16:15-16; Heb. 5:9; Rom. 6:17-18).
 2. Obedience is essential (Rev. 22:14; 2 Cor. 5:20; 1 John 5:13).
- C. Forgiveness takes place in the mind of the forgiver (Luke 17:3; Jer. 31:34).
 1. It cannot be felt, only understood by knowledge.
 2. Feelings are not evidence of forgiveness.
 3. Moral change alone is not evidence of forgiveness.
- D. The Gospel is God's power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16; 8:2; Psalm 19:7).
 1. Feelings are a result of evidence.
 2. Thus, they are as true or as false as the evidence on which they are based.

III. Positive Proof

- A. Romans 8:13-17 – *The Testimony of the Spirit*
 1. The Holy Spirit bears witness through the revealed Word (Jn. 14:26; 16:13).
 2. My spirit bears witness that I have obeyed the Word.
 3. Thus, my salvation is confirmed with positive proof.
- B. 1 John 3:18-22 – *The Assurance of Truth*
 1. Our obedience assures us that we are of the Truth.
 2. Even when we feel "condemned," God's Truth still stands.
 3. Thus, salvation is based upon Truth, not feelings.
- C. 1 John 3:7 – *The Demonstration of Righteousness*