

Knowing You Are Saved

I John 2:3

Introduction

How can I know that I am a Christian? Some people might have a religious experience; whereas, others will not. Sometimes our religious experience can be false. What is the true knowledge? With the false teachers that had come in and left, the church was confused. So he writes to ease their confusion and assures them of their salvation (**I John 5:13**). John's whole letter is an assurance to us that we examine ourselves to be sure that we are saved...just as Peter says in **2 Peter 1:10** to work out our salvation with all diligence.

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

I. You can know for sure

- By this
 - From **I John 1:5-2:2**—after talking about the reality of sin in everyone and the remission of sins through Christ
- We know Him
 - This is a personal, intimate knowledge of God—not just knowing about God
- We know that we know Him
 - “They (false believers) say that they know Him, but here’s a way to know for sure that we know Him truly.”
 - We know that we have come to know Him (NIV)
 - assurance (certainty) in knowing Him
Note: Assurance is the birthright of every Christian, they should be able to know. This is not because of saying the sinner’s prayer and then forgetting about it. This is not about putting a date on our salvation, but it is based on what God’s word says about our salvation. Once saved always saved.
- What is assurance?
 - We know—absolutely
Note: Assurance is the confidence that God will do what He says He will do and John says this in the previous points (**1:5-2:2**)
- Assurance is by the Holy Spirit
 - **Ephesians 1:13-14**
Note: we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and we are guided by Him to do what He wills. This is evident in our life, when we come across people who we introduce them to Christ. He also gives us His fruits that we can know (**Galatians 5:22-23**).
- Assurance is by faith
 - **Hebrews 11:1**—assurance of things hoped for...Abraham (as an example)
 - **Hebrews 10:22**—Drawing near with confidence (to the throne of Grace of our High Priest)

Transition: What is our assurance? John explains that it is by keeping His commandments. John is not saying that we have salvation by obedience, nor is he saying that we have assurance by obedience. However he is saying that salvation is evidenced by obedience, and, in turn, that obedience contributes to our assurance.

Keeping His commandments is the same as obeying His commandments. The Bible contrasts the children of disobedience (**Ephesians 2:2**) with the children of obedience (**1 Peter 1:14**) by stating as children of obedience we no longer walk in the ways of the world but by obeying His commandments.

II. Keep His Commandments

- If we keep His commandments
 - By knowing God, we obey Him and by obeying Him, we know Him
 - Keep
 - Greek word meaning guarding, watchful, observant
 - True and deep love and devotion to God’s commandments
Note: not a marginal or minimal standard of righteousness, but a continual watch of keeping His word in our life
 - His commandments
 - His = Jesus’

Note: it is also the whole counsel of God's words since His commandments are always consistent with it.

- What does our obedience look like?
 - Not a legalistic obedience
 - Legalistic obedience = perfect obedience to the Law
 - Breaking one law = death
 - A gracious obedience
 - We who are in Christ—God does not expect perfect obedience, but to keep His commandments to His satisfaction
 - God accepts our obedience (even though it is full of mistakes) because of Christ (**Romans 7:21-25**)
 - Our gracious obedience starts with our love to Him (**I John 5:2**)
 - **Jeremiah 31:31-34**
 - New Covenant
 - Law written in our hearts (**Proverbs 23:7**)

Note: Why do we come to church? Why are we here? We are here because His law is written into our hearts that we want to obey him, and thus we come to church because it is His work in us that enables us to hear about sin and be convicted and not be offended and stay and repent.

Conclusion

There may be other Christians here today that are wrestling with a lack of assurance because of imperfections in their lives. And John is saying, "I'm not asking for perfect obedience to God's word; I'm asking you to look at your heart and answer this question: Do you long to obey God's word? If you answer that question 'yes,'" John says, "well, then I have some help for you here." He's going to give that help to you in the rest of this book. But, my friends, in that way this message is for all of us today. May God grant us to answer rightly John's questions.