WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU DOUBT YOUR SALVATION

Text: Rom. 5:1-5

Intro. The apostle Paul tells us we are justified by faith. As a result of our justification, we have peace with God. The evidence of salvation is the spiritual love instilled in us at the New Birth. This love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost or Spirit. This message is given to those who may doubt if they are saved. It will also give assurance to the ones who know the Lord as Saviour and do not doubt if they are saved. When someone says they were saved and they have professed to be saved in the past, it causes others to wonder if they are saved. Don't let things cause you to doubt your salvation. The Lord has given us evidences that show we do know Him as Saviour.

I. THE FAITH.
A. We are justified by faith.
   1. Faith means trust, depend upon, or rely on.
   2. When we trusted the Lord, He justified us. He showed the real guilty to be accounted without blame.
   3. We stand as if we had never sinned before God, when justified.

B. Faith saves.
   1. Paul said we are saved by grace through faith. Eph. 2:8
   2. Saved means we are delivered from the penalty of sin.
   3. We are saved from sin's penalty, power, and one day very presence.

C. Faith is counted for righteousness.
   1. Faith is counted or ascribed as righteousness before God. Rom. 4:5
   2. When we trusted Christ as our Saviour, God imputed righteousness to us. Rom. 4:6

D. Faith causes us to become the children of God.
   1. Paul said we are all the children of God by faith. Gal. 3:26
   2. The basis or means of our becoming the children of God is faith.

II. THE FACT.
A. You will doubt your salvation at times.
   1. Peter says we can forget we were purged from our sins. II Pet. 1:9
   2. You will doubt when you drift and stray from the Lord.

B. You will doubt because of limited knowledge.
   1. Some who trust the Lord have not studied the Bible for the truth.
2. Without knowledge we will depend on feelings and fears.
3. The fact is the Lord gives us eternal or everlasting life.
   John 3:14,16,36

C. You will doubt because of low morals.
1. The devil will entice you to sin against God.
2. When you sin he will tell you a saved person wouldn’t act like you are acting.
3. Sin does not cause us to lose our salvation. Sin breaks our fellowship with God. He wants us to confess and forsake sin so the fellowship can be restored.
   I John 1:9; Psa. 51:12

D. You will doubt because of lousy living.
1. Lousy living is simply living a selfish life instead of a life of ministering for the Lord.
2. You may live your daily life without giving God the credit or glory.
3. When we do not put the Lord first that sin causes us to feel the guilt and misery and unhappiness in life.

E. You will doubt because of lukewarmness.
1. You are neither hot or cold. You have left your first love.
2. You feel cold, dry, lifeless, and empty spiritually.
3. Lukewarmness makes God sick and it makes us sick too. Notice the words of Jesus. "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."
   Matt. 24:12

III. THE FRUIT.

A. The witness of the Holy Spirit.
1. The Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are saved.
   Rom. 8:16
2. The Holy Spirit abides in us and reminds us that we have repented and believed in the Lord.
3. The Holy Spirit indwells the believer in Jesus.
   I Cor. 6:19,20

B. The love for the Saviour and spiritual things.
1. The love for God and of God is shed abroad in our hearts. Text
2. We have a spiritual God like love that we never knew before.
   I John 3:14
3. We love the Lord and want to obey Him and His word.
   John 14:23

C. The fellowship of the saints.
1. The saved have all things in common.
   Acts 2:44
2. We have fellowship and agreement with the Lord and one another.
3. We now feel comfortable and part of the Lord's people.
4. We fellowship around the Word of God and the things of God.
   I John 1:6,7

D. The joy and happiness in service.
1. Paul delighted in the law of the Lord.
   Rom. 7:22
2. There is joy and gladness in serving the Lord.
   Acts 2:46,47
3. Sin had robbed David of the joy of God's salvation.
   Psa. 51:12

E. The misery of sin.
1. David was very unhappy and wanted to be forgiven by the Lord.
   Psa. 51:1-5
2. He felt the guilt and misery caused by sin.
   Psa. 51:3
3. His heart was torn up over his sin. This bothering about sin is an evidence of salvation.

F. The feasting on the scriptures.
1. The Word of God is special and sweet. It is true soul food.
   I Pet. 2:2
2. We hold it up as the law of the Lord and the final authority on right and wrong.
3. The Bible is a spiritual volume which is understood and loved by those spiritually born.

G. The answers to prayer.
1. John wrote that those who believe might know they have eternal life.
2. Answers to personal prayer is an evidence of personal salvation.
3. When you know that the Lord has answered even one prayer you have an evidence you are saved.
   I John 5:13,14
4. We feel comfortable talking with our Saviour as saved people.

THE FOLLY.

A. We doubt because we can't remember.
1. No where are we told we will remember the time, place, sermon, preacher, age etc., you may remember, but you may not.
2. Some are saved at a young age. They will not remember as much as those saved at an older age.
3. What we need to remember is we repented of sin and trusted the Lord to save us. Some will remember more than others.

B. We doubt because we didn't say certain things.
1. You are saved by repenting of sin and trusting the Lord as your Saviour. Luke 13:3; Acts 16:31
2. You really do not have to say any words at all. Repentance and faith are matters of the heart.
3. Some think because they didn't say the words, Jesus save me, they are not saved.
4. Some think because they said the words Jesus save me they are saved. As long as you ask with the heart you are saved.

C. We doubt because we don't feel a certain way.
1. Some break down and cry when they are saved.
2. Some express great joy when saved.
3. Some don't cry or express gladness when saved.
4. People are made up differently. They react differently to different things even being saved.

D. We doubt because we don't make a self examination.
1. The devil has power over the mind and can cause us to doubt.
2. Pray to God and study His Word and you will be assured.
3. If you begin to doubt, examine your life in light of God's Word.
4. Do you have any of the fruit of salvation in your life? Do you feel more comfortable around the people of God or the people of the world?
5. Ask yourself some questions? Do not be satisfied to go on your feelings or fears.

E. We doubt because someone else says they were not saved.
1. When someone thinks they are saved and are not and they make I a profession of faith that is genuine, others may begin to doubt if they are saved.
2. Some religious people need to be saved because they are not born again, they are just religious.
3. Salvation is a fact that relates to the truth. Too many people go on their feelings and no more.
4. The Lord's people can doubt their salvation, but they will doubt when they are straying from the Lord. The Lord gives assurance to His children.

GODLINESS

Glen Tropp

SERIES: The Way to Blessedness
Focus: Pursuing the Goals
SUBJECT: GODLINESS
Text: I Tim. 6:11
INTRODUCTION:
A. The SUMMARY.
   1. The way to blessedness.
      a. Submissive to the Lord.
      b. Sensitive to the Spirit.
      c. Settled on some goals.
   2. Establishing the goal of love, peace, righteousness.
   B. The SERIOUS realization - after we identify the goal we are to be obedient and dependent upon the Lord and pursue it relentlessly.
   C. The SUBJECT for our consideration today is godliness.
      1. Godliness comes from the Greek word "Eu Seb'Eia" and means to be confronted with the greatness, wonder, and glory of God and consequently live constantly with a sense of reverence and awe in His presence.
      2. 2-fold understanding.
         a. Recognizing who God is.
         b. Living in the conscience presence of who He is.

SOME INCENTIVES TO GODLINESS.
A. Incentive of political stability.
   I Tim. 2:1-2 "I EXHORT THEREFORE, THAT, FIRST OF ALL, SUPPLICATIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, AND GIVING OF THANKS, BE MADE FOR ALL MEN: FOR KINGS, AND FOR ALL THAT ARE IN AUTHORITY; THAT WE MAY LEAD A QUIET AND PEACEABLE LIFE IN ALL GODLINESS AND HONESTY."
   1. Pray for leaders in authority so that we might enjoy quietness and tranquility.
   2. Peacefulness and prosperity should serve as an incentive for us to live godly and honest lives.
   3. History attests to the fact that people are more interested in God when things go wrong.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
4. When God has been good to us we should seek to develop lives characterized by godliness not greediness.

B. Incentive of theological mystery. I Tim. 3:16 "AND WITHOUT CONTROVERSY GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH, JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT, SEEN OF ANGELS, PREACHED UNTO THE GENTILES, BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD, RECEIVED UP INTO GLORY."

1. Seek to live godly lives because God has chosen to reveal something to us that we would never have known if He hadn't revealed it - this leads to awe and reverence.

C. Incentive of practical maturity. I Tim. 4:7,8 "BUT REFUSE PROPHANE AND OLD WIVES' FABLES, AND EXERCISE THYSELF RATHER UNTO GODLINESS, FOR BODILY EXERCISE PROFITETH LITTLE: BUT GODLINESS IS PROFITABLE UNTO ALL THINGS, HAVING PROMISE OF THE LIFE THAT NOW IS, AND OF THAT WHICH IS TO COME."

1. Physical beings - maintain physical fitness.
2. Spiritual beings - exercise yourself spirually unto godliness.


1. The destruction of the old - don't live exclusively for things that are going up in smoke.
2. The construction of the new - recognize where the important things lie.

II. SOME DIRECTIVES CONCERNING GODLINESS.

A. Athletic approach to godliness. I Tim. 4:8 - exercise yourself to godliness.

1. The necessity of correct diet. Hebs. 5:12-14 (Solid meat of who God is.)
2. The necessity of coping with stress. Hebs. 12:10,11 (Come out stronger)

B. Dynamic approach to godliness. II Tim. 3:5 "HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS, BUT DENYING THE POWER THEREOF: FROM SUCH TURN AWAY."

1. Recognize that godliness is not some pietly that you stick on the outside.
2. It is a dynamic relationship with God.
4. Become so excited about what God is doing that you don't have to put on a front or a voice that projects godliness.
5. Concentrate on that dynamic relationship of the Lord in your life and godliness will begin to flow naturally.

III. SOME PERSPECTIVES ON GODLINESS.

(What to do to establish godliness as a goal and pursue it relentlessly)

A. Develop a daily devotional life.

1. Refresh your mind and spirit with the reality of God.
2. Bible reading and prayer.
3. This is necessary because the atmosphere we live in would soon rob us of the consciousness of the presence of God.

B. Build in a disciplined worship time.

1. This ought to be top priority.
2. Go to church on the Lord's day.

TITHING, GOD'S WAY

ABRAHAM COMMENCED IT. Hebs. 7:1,2
JACOB CONTINUED IT. Gen. 28:22
MOSES CONFIRMED IT. Lev. 27:30
MALACHI COMMANDED IT. Mal. 3:8-10
JESUS COMMENDED IT. Matt. 23:23
WHO AM I TO CANCEL IT?

Tithing is God's way of financing His churches and the work they seek to do for Him. Tithing is the only way to a true equality in supporting the Lord's work.
THE DEVIL’S BEST SERMON
By George Crawford

Text: Gen. 3:1-13

Intro. You did know there is a Devil, didn’t you? And that he is a preaching Devil? He is one preacher who never stops or lets up in his diabolical preaching. For six thousand years he has been preaching to the hurt of men and women. Every hour he erects his pulpit in the hearts of individuals and preaches his message to them. HELL IS BEING FILLED and is still receiving those who believe his preaching. The best sermon he ever preached is recorded in our text. Let us consider what he preaches.

I. THAT GOD’S WORD IS NOT TRUE. V1

A. The Devil preaches that what God says about the New Birth is not true. John 3:3
1. The Devil says be honest, sincere, upright, keep the ten commandments, live by sermon on the Mount and you will be all right.
2. Jesus says, "Ye must be born from above."
3. Which shall you believe? I believe God.

B. The Devil preaches that what God says about having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness is not true. Eph. 5:11
1. The Devil says join the church and live with the world, have a high heel time, and enjoy life (as though you cannot enjoy life if you are saved.)
2. God says, "Reprove (speak out against) the works of darkness."
3. Which preacher is telling the truth? God is!

C. The Devil preaches that what God says about souls going to hell is not true. Psa. 9:17
1. The Devil says God is too good to let anyone go to hell.
2. But God says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God."
3. Better believe God on this one too!

II. THAT INDIVIDUALS WOULD NOT DIE IF THEY SIN. V4

A. The Devil preaches that individuals may go ahead in sin, live any life they wish, commit all the sins that they like, and they will never have to pay for them.
1. God says Gal. 6:7,8. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth...

B. Many a person has believed the message of the Devil only to find out, like Eve, that they have been deceived. Gen. 3:16; Prov. 13:15 "...the way of the transgressors is hard."

III. THAT INDIVIDUALS CAN SAVE THEMSELVES. V5

A. He preaches to souls that they can within themselves become "as gods".
1. "I’m just as good as any church member - even the preacher and deacons.
2. May be – but God says, "Marvel not that I say unto thee, ye must be born again." John 3:7
3. We could remind you that God says, "Except your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (church members and preachers) you cannot enter the kingdom of God."

B. Satan told Eve that all she needed to do to become righteous and to lift herself up to God’s level by her own bootstraps was to eat of the forbidden fruit. Isa. 64:6
1. But God says, "We are all as unclean things, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."
2. You do not become righteous by disobeying God.
3. But you sure do become UNRIGHTEOUS by obeying the Devil.

IV. I BELIEVE GENESIS 3:1-13 IS THE DEVIL’S BEST SERMON.

A. He has brought blight - wrecked right - wrought ruin to thousands of lives by this sermon.
1. Thank the Lord for those in this service who have already turned his sermon down.
2. And for those who will turn their back on him now.

B. God’s best sermon was preached by His Son, Jesus Christ, and is summed up in John 3:16.
1. Both sermons are before you. Choose the message of Christ and reject the Devil’s message.
2. His message will save eternally.

BIBLE CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 20, 21, 1991
THE BLESSED SERVANT

Text: Matt. 24:42-47
By D. B. Wright

I. THE BLESSED SERVANT IS A BIBLE STUDENT. Psa. 1:1-3

A. The Bible is IMPORTANT.
1. The Bible is the Book that informs us as to ORIGIN, PURPOSE, AND DESTINY of mankind.
2. The Bible is designed to CONVICT, CONVERT, HELP one CONFORM to the image of Jesus, and COMFORTS in all circumstances.

B. The Bible is INSTRUCTIVE. II Tim. 3:15-17
1. God's Word should be RECEIVED, RESPECTED, REVIEWED time and time again, and RELAYED to others.
2. Acts 17:11; II Tim. 2:25; II Tim. 2:2

II. THE BLESSED SERVANT IS A BUSY SERVANT. V46

A. Busy Waiting for Jesus. Living as Jesus lived, in submission to the will of the Father, In the interest of others.
B. Busy WALKING as Jesus walked. I Pet. 1:21; I John 2:6
C. Busy WORKING the good works we were saved to do. Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:8

D. Busy WITNESSING of Jesus. Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8; Mark 5:19,20; II Tim. 2:15

III. THE BLESSED SERVANT IS A BENEVOLENT SERVANT.

A. The PREACHING of IT. John 13:34; I John 4:11
B. The POSSESSION of it. Rom. 5:8
C. The PRACTICE of it. Acts 9:39
D. The PROOF it gives.
1. To the individual. I John 3:14
2. To others. John 13:35
3. I John 4:7,8
4. I John 4:12,13
5. SELF-SACRIFICE is the greatest evidence of love. John 15:13; I Cor. 13:5 LOVE...SEEKETH NOT HER OWN.

E. There is POWER in love. II Cor. 5:14 THE LOVE THAT SENT JESUS TO CALVARY IS THE WORLD'S STRONGEST MAGNET!!
1. Love like this has sent MISSIONARIES AROUND THE WORLD!
2. Love like this has enabled men of God to ENDURE, ENDEAVOR, and ENJOY their work inspite of circumstances.
3. Love like this has manifested itself from the soul of MEMBERS of God's churches in MAINTAINING the home church, MINISTERING to the needs of pastors, evangelists, missionaries, one-another, and others about them!!

THE BLESSED SERVANT "BUILDS-UP OTHER SAVED and THE SANCTUARY." (Church)

A. Comforting others.
1. I Thess. 5:11
2. Hebs. 3:13;10:25
B. Challenging one another. Hebs. 10:24; Matt. 5:16; II Cor. 8
C. Constructing one another. No talent is required to be in the wrecking gang, but the building or construction crew is made up of people of ability and talent.
1. Rom. 15:2
2. Rom. 14:19
3. Example: Aquila and wife Priscilla took young and zealous Apollos... and EXPOUNDED UNTO HIM THE WAY OF GOD MORE PERFECTLY. Acts 18:26
   a. After this we read, "FOR HE MIGHTILY CONVINCED THE JEWS, AND THAT PUBLICLY, SHewing BY THE SCRIPTURES THAT JESUS WAS CHRIST."
   b. Is not this what Jesus had in mind in Matt. 28:20. "TEACHING THEM (believers) TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU?"
THE QUESTION OF STEWARDSHIP
By L. H. Owens

Text: Luke 19:12-26

I. STEWARDS ARE SERVANTS WHO TAKE CARE OF THE BUSINESS OF OTHERS.

A. Ten servants are committed the care of the nobleman's business. 19:12-26
B. A man travelling left his business in the care of his servants. Matt. 25:14
C. These servants are obligated to apply themselves to the work of their master. Luke 19:13
1. However, some hated him. Luke 19:14
2. Some rebelled against his rule.

II. ABILITIES THAT ONE POSSESSES SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO GOD.

A. Make progress by the application of business techniques.
B. Apply laws of finance to the Kingdom work. God's money is spent foolishly many times.
C. Do whatever you can in the Lord's work. I Cor. 12:21-24

III. STEWARDSHIP INVOLVES USING A PORTION OF THE MONEY THAT GOD GIVES US TO FINANCE THE LORD'S WORK.

A. It all belongs to God. Psa. 24:1
Psa. 50:10; Haggai 2:8
B. The rent is due. Matt. 21:33-39
C. Look at the question in another way.
1. God has given us many things to use.
2. He allows us to keep up to 90%.
3. A 90% dividend is unheard of in the business world.
D. A proportionate giving is clearly taught in the Word. II Cor. 8:11-15
1. The only portion mentioned in the Bible is 10%.
2. It is simple and easy to calculate.
3. God even promises to bless when we do it. Prov. 3:9,10; Mal.3:10

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JOY
By Sammy Eldredge

Text: Psalms 9:1-11
Intro. What we all seek after.
  A. Some look to riches.
  B. Some look to drink or food.
  C. Some look for achievement or greatness in position.
  D. Ask yourself what these have brought you?

I. WHAT IS REAL JOY?
  A. The emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune, or by the prospect of possessing what one desires. Webster
  B. The real question is, WHAT IS TRUE JOY?
    1. Good health, for you and your family.
    2. Having assurance of the needs of life now.
    3. Assurance of eternal security (spiritually).

II. HOW DO YOU OBTAIN REAL JOY?
  A. Trust the Lord.
  1. Not just for salvation.
  2. But that He knows what is best for you.
  B. Look deep into your life and see how fortunate you really are.
  1. Do you have family? Love?
  2. Do you have the necessities of life? Home, food, and clothing, and transportation?
  3. Do you know the Lord as Saviour?
  4. Are your children saved?
  5. Are you content with the above?
  C. If you can say yes then you have reason to rejoice.
  D. If you must say no, to any one, ask yourself why?
  1. Is it my fault?
  2. Do I blame God?
  3. Do I blame someone else?

E. Believe God by getting your heart right.

III. TELL AGAIN HOW PAUL LEARNED REAL JOY.
  A. Read Phil. 1:12-26
  B. Continue to read 2:5-18.

Conclusion. Real joy is hard for us to reach because we are self-centered human beings.

The Miracle at Cana

Text: John 2:1-11

I. THE WEDDING. V:1-3
   A. THE PLACE INTENDED. V:1a
   B. THE PEOPLE INVITED. V:2
   C. THE PROBLEM IMPOSED. V:3a

II. THE WOMAN. V:3-5
   A. THE APPEAL MADE. V:3c
   B. THE ANSWER TO MARY. V:4
   C. THE AUTHORITY OF THE MESSIAH. V:5

III. THE WATERPOTS. V:6-9
   A. THEIR COUNT. V:6a
   B. THEIR CUSTOM. V:6b
   C. THEIR CAPACITY. V:6c
   D. THEIR CONTENTS. V:7
   E. THEIR CHANGE. V:9a

IV. THE WONDER. V:9-11
   A. THE GOVERNOR PUZZLED. V:9b
   B. THE GIVEN PROOF. V:9c
   C. THE GRATITUDE FOR PROVISION. V:10
   D. THE GLORIOUS POWER OF JESUS. V:11

By Wesley Waldrum

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