



“Four Evidences of Salvation” (1 John 2:18-3:10) 2014

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Intro: I'd like to once again call our attention to 1 John 5:13. Our text today gives us four sure fire evidences of genuine salvation.

PERSEVERANCE (2:19)

- The parable of the seed and sower (Luke 8:4-15)

1. Seed on the path

- These are people who are hardened over time. The devil is able to immediately steal the Word from their hearts. But he is able to do this only because they have allowed their hearts to become hardened.
- The only hope for this type of soil is for it to be plowed, become “broken.” Otherwise, it will become even more hardened.

2. Seed on the rocky place

- Not an area with rocks on the surface, but rather a thin layer of soil covering a solid ledge of limestone a few inches below the surface. The heat from the sun makes this type of soil a hotbed that produces rapid germination, then a furnace that soon scorches and withers the tender plant.
- These people start off with a bang. They may testify, lead people to the Lord, inspire others as a result of their own contagious zeal. But they last only “a while.” Why? Because they have no root. There is no depth. Plenty of emotion, but no real depth. So in the time of testing, they fall away.
- See I Peter 1:6-7; James 1:2-4; Deut.8:2-3

3. The seed among thorns

- It is amazing how quickly weeds appear in a garden. If not constantly cared for, weeds will take over and destroy the fruitfulness of the garden. I couldn't help but think of my yard, and the St. Augustine grass that is taken over so quickly by other weeds,

especially “crab grass.” I hate crab grass. And it’s a pain to “weed it out.” But if I don’t, it will take over the whole yard!

- Life’s worries. Legitimate issues, but issues that are not submitted to the Lord. Priorities are lost as the focus now becomes worrying over all the cares of this life. DISTRACTION (Matt.6:25-33).
- Life’s riches. DECEPTION (I Timothy 6:9-10)
- Life’s DESIRES/PLEASURES; Fishing, football, baseball, hot dogs and apple pie...The American Dream...See Luke 14: 16-20.

4. The seed on good soil

- The very things that are lacking in the first three types of soil are the things needed for good soil...a “noble and good” heart, not hard but humble, not shallow but deep, not choked by the weeds of life, fruitful, persevering.

Hebrews 10:36,39 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised...we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

PURITY OF DOCTRINE REGARDING THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST (2:18-27).

The Antichrist is coming. He is referred to in several prophetic passages: Daniel 7:8, 11, 24-25; Rev.13:1-8.

Many antichrists have already come. Antichrists are not just those who are against the Jesus of the Bible, but those who put something in the place of the Jesus of the Bible. What better to put in the place of the real Jesus, but a false Jesus?

Matthew 24: 24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible.

When the antichrist comes, counterfeit miracles will accompany him (II Thess.2:9; Rev.13:13-14a).

II Cor.11: 4...if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

Gal.1:8-9

The Jesus that John believed in:

- John 1:1, 14

- John 5:17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." 18 For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.
- John 10: 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" 33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

PURITY OF LIFE (2:28-3:3)

I Cor.6: 9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Gal.5: 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Mormons have some of the most appealing family commercials I've ever seen. And they have high standards of morality in many areas of life. The JW's are the same way. So we might commend them on their commitment to "purity" regarding their faith, but we clearly believe in a different Jesus than they do.

The Pharisees had the outside of the cup really clean; The apostle Paul was faultless in regard to legalistic righteousness.

First of all, purity of life must be linked with purity of doctrine (the right Jesus). Secondly, purity of life for the one truly saved is not motivated to become righteous, but rather in response to already being made righteous.

"Holiness is not something we are called upon to do in order that we may become something; it is something we are to do because of what we already are...that we are to discipline ourselves in order that we may become Christian is a denial of the doctrine of justification by faith...I am not to live a good and holy life in order that I may become a Christian; I am to live the holy life because I am a Christian. I am not to live this holy life in order that I may enter heaven; it is because I know I am going to enter heaven that I must live this holy life." (Lloyd Jones, p.41)

Purity of life is also motivated by the hope of one day seeing Jesus. It's why the prophets endured such harsh treatment, why Joseph refused the repeated attempts by Potiphar's wife to seduce him, why the apostles persevered through extreme persecution; They all had a future hope. That hope became mine almost 38 years ago! It is a certain hope, a hope that is an anchor for my soul.

II Cor.5:8-10

See II Timothy 2:20-26.

- Sexual temptation
- Pride
- Foolish and stupid arguments
 - “foolish” = 3474. moros, mo-ros'; prob. from the base of G3466; dull or stupid (as if shut up), i.e. heedless, (mor.) blockhead, (appar.) absurd:--fool (-ish, X -ishness).
 - “stupid” = 521. apaideutos, ap-ah'ee-dyoo-tos; from G1 (as a neg. particle) and a der. of G3811; uninstructed, i.e. (fig.) stupid:--unlearned.
 - The things kids argue over...
 - If you want to see adults act like kids in this regard, just watch TV news talk shows, etc.
 - I do not get upset over little things that used to really bother me.
- Always wanting to play, be entertained
 - My 2 favorite classes in school were lunch and recess (later P.E.).
 - A youthful temptation is to shirk responsibility in order to play, have fun...
 - Illus: In my first year of Christian college I missed an important track meet at the end of track season to go to Myrtle Beach with some of my college buddies. Right after I got back was the sports award banquet for our school. I was shocked to be awarded “Most Valuable” on the track team. Boy was I convicted!
- Freedom from authority
 - All the things you want to do but are “not old enough” (Jairus and Audra not tall enough to ride go-karts by themselves)...
 - Don't want to be told what you can and can't do.
- Lust of the eyes
 - Can I have? (in the store from the time they are little)
 - Prov.30: 15 "The leech has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry. "There are three things that are never satisfied, four that never say, 'Enough!': 16 the grave, the barren womb, land, which is never satisfied with water, and fire, which never says, 'Enough!' (And parents could add a fifth – our kids!).

Purity of life begins with purity of heart.

Matt.5: 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

See James 4:1-8.

- 48. hagnizo, hag-nid'-zo; from G53; to make clean, i.e. (fig.) sanctify (cer. or mor.)--purity (self).
- Same word used in I John 3:3.

Prov.4:23; Matthew 15:18-19

See II Cor.7:1 (context).

THE INABILITY TO CONTINUE IN SIN (3:4-10)

- Conviction
 - Acts 24:15-16...I have the same hope in God as these men (the Law and Prophets), that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. So I strive always to keep my **conscience** clear before God and man.
 - Romans 13:5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of **conscience**.
 - Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.
 - Luke 22: 60 Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." 62 And he went outside and wept bitterly.
 - Psalm 51:2-4 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and **my sin is always before me**. Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight...
 - II Cor.7:8-11a
- Correction
 - Correction happens when a true child of God allows sin to linger in their life.
 - Psalm 32:3-5 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night **your hand was heavy upon me**; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" – and you forgave the **guilt** of my sin.

CONCLUSION

- * In these few verses, John gives us four crucial marks of a genuine Christian: They persevere in faith and fellowship, believe in the right Jesus, purify themselves from the things of the world, and they cannot live in sin.