

## CAN I NOW POSSESS ETERNAL SALVATION AND KNOW IT?

**INTRO:** One of the largest concerns we have is “*Can I be saved eternally and know it?*” Or “*If someone asks me if I’m going to heaven, am in a position to say ‘yes?’*” The questions pertains to an individual’s relationship to God and the result of that, therefore it must be answered accordingly.

The Bible says it clearly, but two things muddy the clear water of life: 1) The many uninspired volumes that have been added to Bible truth, and 2) The faith and behaviour of an individual. Both are “*better felt than told*,” due to an element of subjectivism.

### I) THERE IS CALVINISM

#### A) Calvin’s T.U.L.I.P Appeared in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century

- 1) It impacts our subject today
- 2) Essentially, we cannot be lost, once saved.

#### B) 80 Million People In The Largest Group In Protestantism Hold To This!

### II) THEN THERE IS ARMINIAMISM

#### A) 1610- Joseph Arminius

#### B) Free to choose “*whosoever will may come*”

### III) LET’S REJECT THEM BOTH!

#### A) Hear Jesus, “*John 12:48-50*” **POWERFUL!!!**

#### B) Now Hear John On Our Subject.

### IV) JOHN THE APOSTLE WROTE A SMALL LETTER WITH A PURPOSE

#### A) He Wants Us To Be True Believers Who Have Assurance Of Salvation

- 1) I John 5:11,13
- 2) “*True Believers*” do more than believe in something/someone.

#### B) Each One “*Walks In The Light*”- I John 1:6,7)

- 1) **ILUST:** Enemy Identified
- 2) **This is many sided:**
  - (a) Walking in Jesus- the light of the world- in whom is no darkness
  - (b) Being intellectually and morally true to the Word
  - (c) Walking in the light means to be obedient to God’s Word.
  - (d) It describes one doing his or her best with gifts received.
  - (e) Also to loving other brothers and sisters(2:9-11)
- 3) **Ask, “Does my life affirm the Scriptures from day to day?”**

#### C) **True Believers Confess Their Sins- (1:8-2:3)** \*8 and 10 show a “*non-true*” believer

- 1) “*Confess*” is “*telling*” but more. It is used here “*to agree with God*” about sin.
- 2) This language describes a sinner who hates his sin.
- 3) He or she *lives in a mode of repentance*.
- 4) **ILLUST:** Two Rivers
- 5) Therefore this person has eternal life and is secure
- 6) **Ask yourself, “Is this the way I try to live?”**

#### D) **True Believers Keep His Commandments**(2:3,4) and 5:1-5)

- 1) This is a watchful, observant obedience.
- 2) This Christian desires to obey truth he deems precious in spite of his sin
- 3) **ILLUST:** Obeying God With Good Results
- 4) He will be proactive by studying the Bible in order to understand and obey it.

#### E) **True Believers Love The Brethren** (2:9-11; 3:10,14,15)

- 1) The first Scripture reference surely is a partial explanation of 1:7
- 2) This prompts a real, practical question for us:

3) **“Do I love God’s people and wish to be around them?”**

**F) True Believers Seek Holiness**

- 1) I John 2:29; 3:3-6 and 8,9
- 2) These verses do not describe sinless perfection
- 3) Neither is the duration of time spent sinning under consideration
- 4) This “sin” is about someone who made it practice, way of life.
- 5) The Disciple of Christ cannot live that way and be saved.
- 6) **Here’s your question: “Do I live this way or am I free from that?”**

**CONCLUSION:** A woman put an ad in the local paper: *“Lost 50 pounds! Selling my fat clothes – they’re in good condition, sizes 18-20.”*

She was bombarded with phone calls, but nobody wanted to buy the clothes – they all wanted to know how she had lost the 50 pounds.

You see, the callers wanted to know about something that had changed her life hoping that this something could change their lives too!!!

If your habit is to seek purity or holiness and forsake a sinful life, If you practice love for God’s people, If you try to keep God’s commandments, If you confess your sins and wish to be free of them, and if you continually walk in the light, **then you know you have eternal life**. Here’s that Scripture again, **“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.”** I John 5:13

### ILLUSTRATIONS USED IN THIS LESSON

**IDENTIFIED: THE ENEMY**-The stumbling block for walking in the light is sin.

It is a fact that every form of life has an enemy. Insects have to watch out for birds, birds have to watch out for cats, cats have to watch out for dogs, and humans have to watch out for cars at Walmart... The enemy for the Christian is sin. This is the darkness that keeps us from the light. In chapter 2, John list two sins that are major stumbling blocks for walking in the light.

**TWO RIVERS:** Hercules was called to clean a large barn that had not been cleaned in nearly 30 years. He picked up two mighty rivers and redirected them toward the barn. The rivers flowed through with a great rush and the barn was sparkling when he was finished. When we act (confess) **“He is faithful and righteous and will forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

### OBEYING GOD AND GOOD RESULTS

After hearing a sermon on confession a man approached his pastor with a heavy conscience. He asked the pastor what he should do as he worked for a boat builder and stole expensive brass nails. He thought: If I tell the boat builder: 1)I would lose my job or 2)He will think I am a hypocrite and all of the times I shared my faith with him will go to waste.

Finally guilt got so bad he had to confess. He offered restitution and this was the boss’s response:

“Sir I always did think you were just a hypocrite, but now I begin to feel there’s something in this Christianity after all. Any religion that would make a dishonest workman come back and confess that he had been stealing copper nails and offer to settle for them must be worth having.”

God always blesses humility...

