



SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”

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Scripture: Colossians 1:23

TITLE: Can You Be Sure of Your Salvation?

How do you know if you’re actually saved? I get many e-mails from people who ask this. They want to know about the assurance of Salvation. I can totally understand that: Because we all struggle with sin, but we profess to know and love Christ.

So can you be sure of your Salvation? What are the signs of it? Paul gives us the answers in Colossians 1:23 (NLT):

“But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don’t drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God’s servant to proclaim it.”

One of the most sobering realities of the Bible is that not all who profess to be Christians are actually saved. That’s why Paul says, “But you must continue.” A better translation is, “If you continue.” Jesus’ words in Matthew 7 are some of the most frightening in the Bible. Jesus said, “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.” (Matt. 7:21).

A frightening study of the people who attended the Billy Graham Crusades discovered that only 1 out of 13 people who professed faith in Christ actually got saved. They didn’t “drift away”, as Paul puts it. So how can you be sure of your Salvation? Paul gives us a significant answer here in verse 23. People give evidence of being truly reconciled when they “continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it.”

Jesus said, “...If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine” (John 8:1, NASB).

So does this mean you have to earn or work to keep your Salvation? Absolutely not. Paul fought hard against the teaching of legalism. Paul says in Eph. 2:8-10 that we are saved by grace through faith and not through works. He saved us for good works, so we might walk in them.

But there are other pieces of evidence that Paul doesn’t cover here. We will have a conviction of sin when we are tempted. We will desire to not sin. We will have remorse when we do sin. We repent and confess out of loving regret, not to get our way, or avoid punishment. So there are many pieces of evidence, but none greater than a life being changed by our loving Savior.

So, in summary, Salvation is permanent. You can be sure. But don't think asking Jesus into your heart or believing in your head the truth of Scripture saves you. It's a soul-saving and life-changing trust in Jesus Christ for Salvation. That's the ticket to Salvation and reconciliation.

So here's my challenge for you today: reject easy-believism and legalism. Salvation isn't a cheap one-way ticket to Heaven void of a life pleasing to God. Salvation is not a series of do's and don'ts that keep you on a high wire for Salvation.

God's grace is sufficient to turn you from sin and to Christ. So rest in God's grace. Enjoy the new life in Christ. And when you do, you will win the day.