

Biblical assurance is not as easy as driving a stake into the ground, or writing the date that you “prayed the prayer” inside your Bible. Biblical assurance requires an apprehension of truth and an honest searching of your heart before the Lord. Assurance can be hard work, but God uses our doubts to drive us to Himself and create an appetite for His Word. When we find ourselves regularly before the Lord in prayer, and frequently searching the pages of His Word with keen interest and new understanding, we have one of the best evidences of salvation, for such desires are absent from unregenerate men. Do you know that you have been born from above? How do you know? Finding Bible answers to these questions is worth whatever it takes to achieve a solid, not superficial assurance of salvation.

Services:

Morning worship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	10:30 a.m.
Evening worship	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:15 p.m.
Wednesday AWANAS	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Teens	7:15 p.m.

Driving West from Mebane area on I-40

Take exit 143/NC 62 toward Alamance. Turn left on Rt. 62 and go 2 miles (You will pass the airport on your left, crest a hill and drive nearly to the bottom of a long slope). Turn right on Kirkpatrick Road and go 3/10 of a mile. Beacon Baptist Church is on your right.

Driving East from Greensboro area on I-40

Drive East on I-40 to Exit 140, University Drive. Turn right on University Drive and go 1.1 miles. (You will cross Huffman Mill Road.) Turn Right onto Kirkpatrick Road and go 1.0 miles. Beacon Baptist Church is on your left.

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Beacon Fax: (336) 227-3665

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www.beaconbaptist.com

Radio Broadcasts:

WBAG 1150 AM 12:15 p.m. Monday–Friday

WTRU 830 AM 2:00 p.m. Monday–Friday

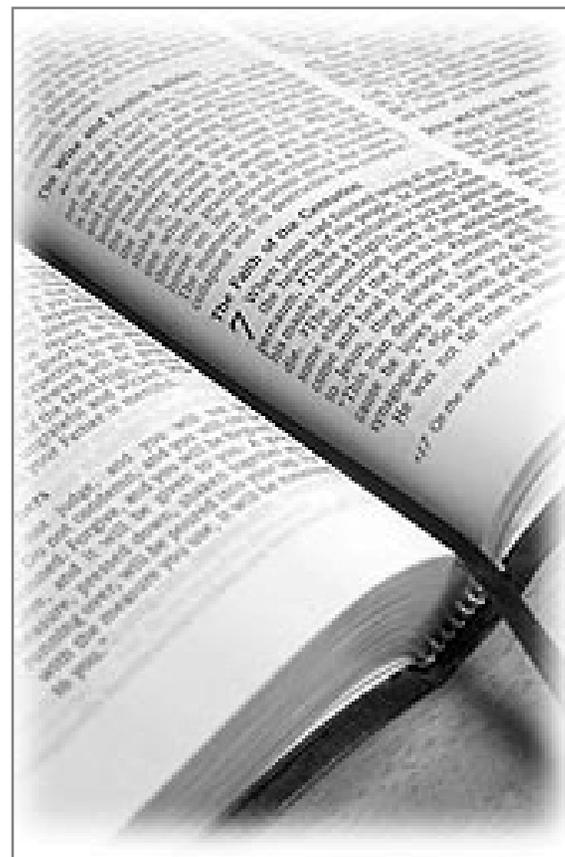
WPCM 920 AM 9:00 a.m. Sunday

WSML 1200 AM 8:30 p.m. Sunday

Beacon Pulpit: SermonAudio.com/bb

Beacon Baptist Church

Assurance of Salvation



“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalms 119:105

Where the Sufficiency of the Word is Declared

Assurance of Salvation

By Gregory N. Barkman

Salvation, and assurance of salvation are two different matters. Salvation depends upon our union with Christ, and our righteous standing before the Judgment Bar of God in Heaven. It is completely objective. We are either in Christ or we are not. Assurance depends upon our sense of pardon and our confidence that we have been born from above. It is more subjective, and may come and go, increase and decrease depending upon a number of circumstances. Some treat assurance as if it is simply a matter of being sure that you have asked Christ to save you. If you have, you should be certain of salvation, and if not, simply ask Jesus to be your savior, and settle your doubts once and for all. But isn't that assurance in what we did, rather than in what God has done for us and in us? We need assurance that God has done a saving work, not that we have prayed a particular prayer, raised a hand, walked an aisle, knelt beside our bed with our mother, etc. The question is not what have I done, but what has God done? Salvation is of the Lord. Assurance must be based upon evidence of God's work, not mine.

There are really four possible conditions regarding salvation and assurance:

First, I may be lost and know it. This is usually the condition of someone who has been exposed to the Gospel, and knows that he

has not become a follower of Christ. He has no false assurance. He knows he is outside of Christ.

The second possibility is to be lost, and not know it. This is true of those who are unfamiliar with the Gospel, and therefore have no sense of their condition. Or, it can also describe those who have heard the Gospel, and are deceived. Because of a previous experience when they made a profession of faith, they believe they are saved, but are mistaken. They have no experience of Holy Spirit regeneration.

The third possibility is to be saved but not sure. Some of Christ's sheep have not come

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to a settled assurance. Often they are confused because of improper teaching. Sometimes they have sin in their life that has not been forsaken and it bothers them, as well it should. Sometimes they are discouraged because they want so much to please the Lord, and know they fall short. They fail to understand that only true believers can have holy desires, and that no Christian, no matter how mature, comes close to the Christ-likeness that God's work of salvation gives believers a desire to achieve.

The last condition is to be saved and know it. To have a proper knowledge of what salvation entails, and to be able to detect Biblical evidence that God has done a saving work in

your life. Such people are the happiest of all creatures. But even this condition can change during periods of discouragement and doubt. There's a fine line between assurance and presumption. True Biblical assurance is willing to be examined, and to recognize that though it is impossible for anyone to lose salvation, it is entirely possible to lose assurance of salvation. Sometimes God leads us through periods of doubt to drive us to our knees and into His Word in order that our faith be renewed and assurance made strong.

Assurance is a fruit of faith. Faith comes first, and it takes some time before the fruit develops. Assurance is a deep, settled conviction that I am God's child. Assurance is faith full grown, faith that rests upon the objective truth of God's Word. One of the most commonly quoted verses regarding assurance is I John 5:13. "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." The only truth some Christians find in this text is that it is possible to know for certain that you possess eternal life. "If it is possible to know, you ought to know, so stop doubting" is about all some get from this text. But upon what does assurance rest? An understanding of "these things" that John wrote prior to chapter five. John didn't open his Epistle with this statement, but placed it near the end. You can't have Biblical assurance until you understand the first four chapters, and are certain that the "Birthmarks of a Believer" apply to you. You must study God's Word, and examine your heart and life. You must see evidence that God has done a saving work within you. You must understand what Biblical evidence consists of and be able to trace it in your own life.