

Knowing You are Saved

(I John 5:9-13)

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Sunday Morning, September 11, 2016

John is one of the chosen men that the Lord used to give us His words. And he, in particular, was used to give us some of the greatest verses and statements in the word of God regarding salvation. The Apostle Paul was the great theologian of the New Testament. If you want to know exactly what it is that saves a man, Paul will explain it to you. If you want to know all of the intricacies that take place when you get saved, Paul can tell you about them. But, if you want to encourage a man to BE saved— John is your man!

In the Gospel of John, he wrote, *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name”*. He said that the very purpose of his gospel was so that a man would believe on Jesus Christ and be saved! But here in our text he gives the purpose of 1 John. He says in v. 13, *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life...”*.

For a religious man (by religious, I mean those who are lost in the religions of this world) that must be a pretty stinging statement— *“that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life”*. You see, he doesn't know. For all his hail-maries, and pilgrimages, and confessions, and good works, he is still left with that awful and uncertain question— Where will I go when I die?

If you are trying to work your way to heaven, you have good reason to doubt. You are making your salvation dependent upon you. If heaven is determined by your goodness and your faithfulness, then you can't really know anything. You change from day to day and even on your best day, you know deep down that you're a sinner who can't earn his salvation.

However, if you have trusted Jesus Christ to save you, then that's another thing altogether. You see, He is the unchanging God! Jesus is the very righteousness of God! And if that Bible is true, then you, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, can KNOW that you are saved! You can KNOW that you have eternal life!

Well, this morning, that is exactly what I want to preach to you about. I'm going to title my message “Knowing You are Saved”.

There are several things the Lord has given you as a believer in order to give you assurance of your salvation and, very quickly, I would like to show them to you.

1. The first reason you ought to know your saved is The Promises of God's Word.

That is really what John is getting at in this passage. In verse 9 he says, *“If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater”*. Then he continues in verse 10 by saying, *“...he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son”*.

The idea is that you would believe most men if they, as a witness, testified of an event. You believe the weather man. You believe the guy on the radio calling the football game. Why don't you believe the Lord?

If I told you that I was going to meet you here tomorrow morning at 9 a.m., would you believe me?... Why? I could forget. I could get lost. My car could break down and I wouldn't be able to keep my word to you. But you can't say that about the Lord. He never forgets! He never fails! He never even struggles! He has never once broken His word! He has never once failed to keep his promises! So, if you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, you can know you're saved today, because God has promised to save you and to keep you saved!

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He promised it right here in the text. Look at verse 13. He said, *“These things have a written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God”*. Is that you? Have you believed on Him? Then look at what else the Lord has to say— *“...that ye may know that ye have ETERNAL life”*. Do you know what “eternal” means? It means never ending. It means you’ll live forever and ever and ever and ever! And you’re not waiting to get eternal life or hoping to get eternal life. If you’ve got Christ, then you HAVE eternal life right now! Glory to God!

But, that’s not all. The Lord has given us all kinda of promises. Jesus said, *“...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out”* (John 6:37). That means if you came to him to get saved, then He didn’t turn you down and He’ll never turn you out! Friend, the Lord said, *“I’ll never leave thee, nor forsake thee”* (Heb.13:5).

In John 10, Jesus said again, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand”*. Now get ahold of that this morning! Through Jesus Christ, the Lord has saved you and is keeping you saved! You ought to know your saved, because of His promises.

2. Then, you ought to know you’re saved by The Presence of the Spirit.

Notice another phrase up there in verse 10— *“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness IN HIMSELF”*. Now that is speaking of the Holy Spirit that comes to dwell inside a man the moment he believes on Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God would often come on men temporarily, to empower them. This was the case with men like Samson and Ezekiel. But, when Christ was on the earth, He said, *“...I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you FOR EVER; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you”* (John 14:16-17).

In other words, when you get saved, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in you forever! The Bible says that this indwelling of the Spirit is like a seal being placed on a very important treasure. In Ephesians 4:30, the Bible says, *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”*.

During Bible times, a king would often store his finest treasure in a crypt or a box much like a safe today. In order to secure the treasure inside, the crypt would be sealed with the symbol of the king. The seal made it extremely difficult for anyone other than the king to open. But the symbol of the king deterred anyone from even trying... That is how secure you are in Christ. The Holy Spirit is in you to signify that you are the Lords and to keep you secure!

The Bible says, *“The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”*. If you are saved, then you have the Holy Spirit to let you know you are saved!

3. Then, last of all, you ought to know your saved because of The Position of the Believer.

Verse 11 says, *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is IN HIS SON”*. Do you know what that means?! As a believer you are in Jesus Christ. You are in the place where eternal life is found! You’re position is that you are IN CHRIST JESUS!

But, not only that, you are a son of God, too! John 1:12 says, *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”*. When you got saved, you were born again into the Lord’s household. You are a relative by blood—the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son!

Now I’m the son of Kreis Lester as well. You know how I know that. Well, there is a record down at the Knox County Courthouse that says I’m his son. My last name— Lester— signifies that I’m his son. And, worst case scenario, you could test my blood and it would show that I’m his son.

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What if I started to doubt it, though? I went down to the courthouse and got a copy of my birth certificate and right there it said Kreis Lester is my father, but I still doubted it. So I went to a geneticist and gave them a sample of DNA and sure enough it came back a perfect match—I am Kreis Lester's son. How foolish would it be for me to still question it.

Yet, that is exactly what some of you are doing with the Lord. You're worried every day... Did I believe right? Was it head knowledge or heart knowledge? Did I pray the right prayer? But what if I lose it?

Listen! God has given you a record—a birth certificate of sorts—right here in this Bible. Have you checked the record lately. The Lord said, if you would trust His Son, He'd birth you into His family and give you His name. Have you trusted Him?

The Bible says, if you are saved, "*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ*" (Rom. 8:16-17). You can KNOW that you're saved, this morning!