

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** How to Be Absolutely Sure

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 1 John 5:5-13

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2119

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We do not live by explanations; we live by promises.
- b) One of the great promises is that we can know that we know that we are saved and Heaven-bound.
  - i) If you are not saved, you need to be saved.
  - ii) If you are saved, you ought to know that you're saved.
- c) The world divides people by upper class, middle class and lower class; but God doesn't do that.
  - i) There are really only two classes of people:
    - (1) The saved and the lost.
      - (a) You are either in one category or the other.
- d) Some may claim that they are not entirely saved, but nobody is half-saved.
  - i) To be half-saved is to be altogether entirely lost.
  - ii) You are either saved, or you are lost.
- e) 1 John 5:5-13
  - i) The Gospel of John was written to tell us how to be saved.
  - ii) First John (the Epistle of John) was written to tell us how to know that we are saved.
    - (1) The word "know" is used over forty times in the Epistle of 1 John.
    - (2) 1 John is the gospel of certainty.
      - (a) Our salvation is not a hope so or maybe so salvation, but it's a know-so salvation.
  - iii) In these verses in 1 John, there is another key word (in addition to the word "know") that is used ten times.
    - (1) This Greek word is translated as "witness," "record," "testimony" and "testify."
    - (2) God is giving us a witness and a testimony so that we can know.
- f) In today's message, we will learn the source of our certainty and the basis of our belief.
  - i) We will look at three ways that we can be absolutely sure that we are saved and on our way to Heaven.
    - (1) Ecclesiastes 4:12
      - (a) A three-fold cord is not easily broken.

2) THE ATONING WORK OF CHRIST (1 JOHN 5:6)

- a) This passage in 1 John speaks of water and blood.
- b) What is the meaning of the water and the blood?
  - i) John 19:33-34
    - (1) Out of the wounded side of the Lord Jesus during the crucifixion flowed both blood and water.
      - (a) The pericardial fluid that encases the heart is a watery substance.
        - (i) Sometimes under great duress, this substance will separate.
    - (2) This tells us something of the agony that Jesus had.

- (3) Jesus died before the two thieves died because He died of a broken heart.
  - (a) There was no agony like that of the Lord Jesus.
- ii) We cannot understand the pressure that was upon the Lord Jesus.
  - (1) We see the beginning of it when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane.
    - (a) His perspiration became as blood.
      - (i) Luke 22:44
    - (2) The eternities were compressed upon the Lord Jesus.
    - (3) The sins of the world were distilled upon the Lord Jesus.
- iii) The water and the blood speak of the agony of the Lord Jesus.
- c) What is the message of the water and the blood?
  - i) It is the blood that cleanses from sin.
    - (1) The blood removes the penalty of sin.
      - (a) Romans 6:23
      - (b) Hebrews 9:22
    - (2) Jesus took our sins to the cross and paid sin's penalty with His blood.
  - ii) The water speaks of that which continues to cleanse.
    - (1) It speaks not only of salvation but also of sanctification.
    - (2) John 1:14
      - (a) The word "dwelt" means "tabernacled."
        - (i) Jesus tabernacled among us.
          - 1. In the Old Testament, the tabernacle was a prophecy of Jesus.
          - 2. Upon the brazen altar in the tabernacle was where the blood was shed.
            - a. This speaks of the blood of Jesus.
          - 3. Past the altar was a great basin called a laver.
            - a. The blood was at the altar; at the laver was water.
          - 4. The priests would come through the blood to the water.
            - a. The blood deals with the penalty of sin; the water deals with the pollution of sin.
  - d) It is significant that when the Roman soldier put the spear into the side of Jesus, out came both blood and water.
    - i) Jesus saves us from wrath, and He makes us pure.
- 3) THE ABIDING WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT (1 JOHN 5:6-10)
  - a) The word "if" in verse 9 of this passage can be translated "since."
  - b) The Holy Spirit of God witnesses to us.
    - i) Before we are even saved, the Holy Spirit is telling us about Jesus.
    - ii) 1 John 5:6
      - (1) Preachers and teachers do not persuade us of something.
        - (a) It is the Holy Spirit of God who tells us that the Gospel is true.
    - iii) The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to take the things of the Lord Jesus and show them to us.

- iv) 1 John 5:9
    - (1) We receive the witness of men all the time.
      - (a) We go to restaurants, and we trust the cooks and servers with the food we eat.
      - (b) We sit in a building, and we trust the engineers who designed and built the roof that it will not fall in.
      - (c) We trust the doctors and pharmacists who prescribe and mix together medications that we take.
    - (2) We live by faith every day, and we put faith in men.
      - (a) Men can lie; the Holy Spirit is truth.
  - v) Anyone who says that he or she cannot believe is a liar.
    - (1) If you want to believe, the Holy Spirit will enable you to believe.
    - (2) Jesus did not say that we “cannot” come to Him, but that we “will not” come to Him.
  - vi) When the Word of God is preached, the Holy Spirit witnesses with the Word to us.
  - c) The Holy Spirit of God witnesses in us.
    - i) 1 John 5:10
    - ii) When the Holy Spirit witnesses to us and we receive Christ, then He comes into us and we have the witness in us.
    - iii) A Christian with an experience is never at the mercy of a non-believer with an argument.
    - iv) Psalm 34:8
    - v) What is the witness of the Spirit?
      - (1) The witness of the Holy Spirit is not an emotional feeling.
        - (a) The witness of the Spirit is far deeper than emotions.
          - (i) If you live by emotions, then you will be on a roller coaster ride.
          - (ii) The assurance of your salvation can show up in your emotions, but that is not the witness of the Spirit.
      - (2) You cannot explain the witness of the Spirit; you receive it.
        - (a) God speaks to you that you belong to Him.
          - (i) 1 John 5:10
          - (b) The witness of the Spirit is not an emotional experience; it is a certainty.
  - d) The Holy Spirit of God witnesses through us.
    - i) Acts 1:8
    - ii) When we have the assurance of our salvation, then it is much easier to be a witness.
      - (1) Acts 5:32
    - iii) We are not dependent upon eloquence or even logic in order to persuade someone to receive Jesus; it is the Holy Spirit of God.
- 4) THE AFFIRMING WORD OF THE FATHER (1 JOHN 5:10-13)

- a) The three-fold cord in the assurance of our salvation is the Father, Son and Holy Ghost coming together to bring this certainty.
- b) God gave us a record; He gave us the Bible.
  - i) We learn about the water and the blood from the Word of God.
  - ii) We learn about the witness of the Spirit from the Word of God.
- c) The Word of God has one central message from Genesis to Revelation: Jesus saves.
- d) God gave us His Word that we might be absolutely sure of our salvation.
- e) If we do not believe the Bible, then we are calling God a liar.
  - i) 1 John 5:10
  - ii) If we say that we are trying to believe someone, then we are saying that that person is not trustworthy.
  - iii) God is no liar.
- f) The Bible is the divine, inspired Word of God, and it is settled in Heaven.
  - i) Psalm 119:89
- g) What does the Word tell us about life?
  - i) Jesus is the source of your life.
    - (1) 1 John 5:11
    - (2) We do not have eternal life if we don't have the Lord Jesus.
    - (3) We have only existence apart from Jesus, but we do not have life.
      - (a) John 10:10
  - ii) Jesus is the substance of your life.
    - (1) 1 John 5:12
    - (2) Christianity is Christ.
      - (a) It is not a creed.
      - (b) It is not a code.
      - (c) It is not a cause.
      - (d) It is Christ.
    - (3) Jesus Christ is to your spirit what blood is to your body.
    - (4) Christianity is not a religion about Him, it is simply following His precepts, but it is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
    - (5) Other teachers may point to life; Jesus is the life.
      - (a) John 14:6
  - iii) Jesus is the surety of your life.
    - (1) 1 John 5:13
      - (a) These things were written that we might know.
    - (2) God has given to us a record, which is His Word.
      - (a) This goes beyond emotion.
    - (3) John 5:24
      - (a) When the devil tries to make you doubt, don't argue with him.
        - (i) Just point him to the Word of God and step out of the argument.
        - (ii) Let him argue with God Himself.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) Do you have Jesus?
  - i) The Holy Spirit of God is here today, telling you that there is one who came by water and blood and who died for you and rose again.
- b) You can receive the witness of God today.
  - i) 1 John 5:9
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16