

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Be Saved and Know It

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 5:11-13

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1726

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) 1 John 5:11-13

i) Not wonder, not hope, not guess, but we can know that we have eternal life.

(1) We ought to be shouting Christians, not doubting Christians.

(2) We ought not to have a hope-so salvation but a know-so salvation.

ii) These verses also tell us that it is possible to doubt.

(1) If we couldn't doubt, then why would John have written this?

(2) John is writing so that those who might doubt will not doubt.

b) You can be saved and have doubts.

i) Doubt is to your spirit what pain is to your body.

(1) It doesn't mean that you're dead (or not saved, necessarily), but it means that something is wrong.

ii) Doubt can be a backward affirmation of faith.

(1) We only doubt that which we believe.

c) The assurance of our salvation is extremely important.

i) God created you a living soul.

ii) Your soul will never cease to exist.

(1) You will go on endless, timeless, and measureless either in Heaven or in Hell.

d) Today's message will focus on two things:

i) First of all, how we are saved.

ii) Secondly, the results (the evidences) that we have been saved.

(1) The traits of the twice-born

(2) The birthmarks of the believer

2) HOW WE ARE SAVED (1 JOHN 5:1)

a) "To be born of God" is another way of saying being saved.

i) It's being born again.

b) We are saved by believing that Jesus is the Christ; that Jesus is the Messiah.

i) The name "Jesus" means "Jehovah saves."

ii) It is gloriously simple and simply glorious.

iii) Acts 16:31

iv) We are saved by trusting in the Lord Jesus.

c) The word "believe" doesn't mean intellectual belief.

i) Intellectual belief is how the demons believe.

ii) It means trust and commitment.

d) Ephesians 2:8-9

i) What does not save us:

(1) Self

(2) Works

ii) What does save us:

(1) Grace

(2) Faith

- e) When asked if they are saved and on their way to Heaven, the average person will say that they think so because they are doing the best that they can.
 - i) We can't trust the best fifteen minutes we've ever lived to get us into Heaven.
 - ii) Some people think that if their good works outweigh their bad, then they will make it into Heaven.
 - f) Grace is the unmerited favor and love that God shows to sinners such as we.
 - i) It is what made God love us when we were unlovely.
 - (1) God doesn't love us because we're valuable; we're valuable because He loves us.
 - ii) It is what sent Jesus to die for us.
 - (1) Romans 5:8
 - iii) Ephesians 2:8
 - g) If we were to do an acrostic, G-R-A-C-E would stand for "God's Riches at Christ's Expense," and F-A-I-T-H would stand for "Forsaking All I Trust Him."
 - i) Faith is not mere intellectual belief.
 - (1) It is trust and commitment.
 - ii) Grace is the hand of God reaching down out of Heaven.
 - iii) Faith is our hand reaching up to God.
 - (1) God puts down the hand of grace, while we put up the hand of faith.
 - iv) When we put our hand of faith in God's hand of grace, that's salvation.
 - (1) The devil doesn't want us to understand this.
 - (a) He wants us to believe that salvation is part of what we do and part of what God does.
 - (b) But if any part of salvation depended upon what we do, we would never have assurance.
 - (i) When salvation all depends upon God, then we can have assurance.
 - h) Romans 11:6
 - i) It is impossible for salvation to be part grace and part works.
 - ii) It is all of grace.
 - i) When you confess to God that you are a sinner, that you're lost and cannot save yourself, that you are clinging to the cross of Christ and trusting in Jesus to save you, then you will be saved.
 - i) 1 John 5:1
- 3) WHAT ARE THE BIRTHMARKS OF THE BELIEVER?
- a) These are the results of salvation.
 - b) 1 John was written to give us assurance.
 - i) The word "know" is mentioned almost forty times in this epistle.
 - ii) John mentions ways that we can know that we have been born again.
 - (1) All of these ways can be reduced to three basic things.
 - (a) These three things will form the basis of our assurance test to help you know the birthmarks of the believer.

- (i) You can say with assurance that you're saved if you have these birthmarks of the believer.
- c) The Lordship test:
 - i) Is Jesus Christ the Lord of your life?
 - ii) 1 John 2:3-4
 - (1) We are not saved by keeping His commandments; salvation is a gift of God.
 - (2) We know that we know Him if we keep His commandments.
 - (3) If you say that you know God but you're not keeping His commandments, then you are a liar.
 - (a) This does not mean that if you've ever broken any of God's commandments that you are not saved.
 - (b) 1 John 1:10
 - (c) 1 John 2:1
 - (d) 1 John 2:3
 - (i) The word "keep" here is the word that a sailor of that day would use when navigating by the stars at nighttime.
 - 1. The sailor would keep his course by keeping the stars.
 - a. He would keep his hand on the wheel and sail by the stars.
 - (ii) As a child of God, we are to steer our lives by the commandments of God.
 - 1. That is the guide, the goal of our lives.
 - (iii) Things might happen and we might get blown off course; but when we recognize this, we get right back on course.
 - 1. It's not the desire of our lives to get off course.
 - (4) John is saying that if the desire to keep God's commandments is not in your life, then you need to be saved.
 - (a) One of the birthmarks that a person has been saved is that he has this desire to live according to God's commandments.
 - iii) Luke 6:46
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - (1) There is no such thing as saying that we want Christ as Savior but not as Lord.
 - (2) Jesus is already Lord, but you make Him your Lord; receive Him as Lord.
 - v) As Christians, we still sin.
 - (1) But now, instead of running to sin, we run from sin.
 - (2) If you can sin willfully, consciously, and continually without any remorse, regret, or repentance, then you are not saved.
 - (a) 1 John 2:3
 - (i) Is that the burning desire of your heart?
 - d) The fellowship test:
 - i) 1 John 3:14

- ii) 1 John 4:20-21
- iii) 1 John 5:1
 - (1) When you love the heavenly Father, you also love His children.
- iv) We love our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- v) When we are saved, we want to be with the children of God.
 - (1) And we want to be right with the children of God.
- vi) Some people say that they can worship God all by themselves and do not need to go to church.
 - (1) Hebrews 10:25
 - (a) God tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.
- vii) Why is fellowship a test of our salvation?
 - (1) It is the nature of the Christian.
 - (a) We are made partakers of the divine nature.
 - (i) 2 Peter 1:4
 - (b) The nature of God is love.
 - (i) 1 John 4:7-8
 - (c) When we are born again, the Holy Spirit comes into us, and we are made partakers of the divine nature.
 - (i) Since the divine nature of God is love, then we will have love in us.
 - (ii) If we do not have love in us, then we have not become partakers of the divine nature.
 - (d) We are not saved because we love the brethren; we are saved because Jesus died for us on the cross.
 - (i) We love the brethren because we're saved.
 - (e) Love is the nature of the Christian because it's the nature of God.
 - (2) It is the nature of the church.
 - (a) The church is the body of Christ, and the church is the bride of Christ.
 - (b) The Bible teaches that the church is like a body with Christ as the head, and we are members of that body.
 - (i) We can't just love the head without loving the body.
 - (c) Not only is the church Jesus' body, but it is also His bride.
 - (i) If we love Jesus, then we will love what Jesus loves.
 - (d) Christ and the church are not identical, but they are inseparable.
- e) The relationship test:
 - i) Salvation is a vital relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii) 1 John 5:11-13
 - iii) Romans 8:16
 - (1) This is the inner witness.
 - iv) 1 John 5:13
 - (1) This verse does not say "believed" past tense, but this is present tense.
 - (a) Some say that if you cannot name the time and place where you were saved, then you were never saved.

- (i) But this is not in the Bible.
- (ii) The Bible never tells us to look back to a past experience for proof of our salvation.
- (2) It does not say “he who believed has eternal life,” but he who believes.
 - (a) No matter what you’ve done in the past, if you are not believing on Jesus, then you are not saved.
 - (b) If you are not believing on Jesus now, no matter what you call the time and the place, then there is something wrong.
- v) The big question is not, “Did you believe in Jesus?” The big question is, “Are you believing in Jesus?”
 - (1) Do you have a relationship with the Son of God right now?
 - (2) If you can’t remember the time or the place, that doesn’t mean that you’re not saved.
- vi) Salvation is not some distant experience that you had; it is a present reality.
 - (1) It is a relationship.
 - (2) It is not theology.
 - (a) We are not saved by knowing the plan of salvation but by the Man of salvation; His name is Jesus.
- vii) 1 John 5:1
 - (1) The proof that we are born of God is that we are believing right now in Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord.

4) CONCLUSION

- a) It is possible to be saved and not have that full assurance.
 - i) If this is you today, then get it settled now.
 - ii) If you’ve had those serious doubts or maybe tried to mix in some works for salvation, get it settled today once and for all.
 - iii) Perhaps you have some unconfessed, undealt with sin in your life that is causing your lack of assurance.
 - (1) Get it settled today.
- b) Give everything to Jesus.
- c) Ask Him to save you.
- 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