Are You Sure You Are Saved?

Intro: Have you ever been asked if you are saved? Then asked if you are sure? To some this is a very personal question, even too personal. It shocks some and surprises others. Others do not expect such questions and some are embarrassed by it. To some, they consider such a question as not having any meaning.

Notice some replies to this question:
1. It is none of your business
2. That is between God and me.
3. I hope.
4. I don't know.
5. I won’t know till the judgment.
6. No one knows but God.
7. Why do you want to know?

I. ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE SAVED?
   A. The Bible says that we can know:
      1. 1 John 5:13 “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, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”
      2. John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 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.”
      3. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

   B. 1 John is a test on the assurance of eternal life.
      1. Let us notice why we know we have eternal life.
      2. Let us take John’s test.

II. WE KNOW BECAUSE JESUS HAS COME.
   A. He was seen by witnesses:
      1. 1 John 1:1-3 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us:) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”
      2. 2 Pet. 1:16-18 “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.”
      3. 1 Cor. 15:5-9 “And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”
B. He came:

1. As the Lamb of God
   a. John 1:29 “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”
   b. 1 Pet. 1:19 “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

2. To give His life
   a. Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
   b. Mat. 26:28 “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
   c. John 10:11, 15, 17-18 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep…. 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep…. 17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”

3. To be the propitiation for our sins:
   a. Rom. 3:24-25 “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”
   b. 1 John 2:2 “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

4. To shed His blood for us:
   a. 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
   b. Rev. 1:5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”
   c. Mat. 26:28 “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
   d. Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

C. He was proven to be the Son of God by the resurrection.

1. Rom. 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”
2. Our assurance is based upon the Son of God and what He has done for us.

III. We know because we keep the commandments.

A. The motive: because we love Him

1. John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
2. 1 John 2:3 “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”
3. 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”
B. We obey God’s plan for man’s salvation

1. Obedience is necessary:
   a. Heb. 5:8-9 “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 8And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”
   b. Rom. 6:17-18 “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

2. We believe:
   a. In God; Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
   b. In Jesus as God; John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
   c. The Jesus died for our sins; Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

3. We repent; Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

4. We confess Christ; Rom. 10:9-10 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

5. We have been baptized into Christ:
   a. Rom. 6:3 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
   b. Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

C. We continue to live in obedience.

1. Remaining faithful to God
   a. Mat. 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”
   b. Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

2. Studying the Scriptures and applying them to our life.
   a. Psa. 1:2 “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”
   b. Mat. 4:4 “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
   c. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
   d. 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
   e. 1 John 2:14 “I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.”

3. Continuing to confess our sins; 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
IV. WE KNOW BECAUSE WE ARE SEPARATED FROM THE WORLD.

A. Love of the world is spiritual adultery.
   1. 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
   2. Jam. 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
   3. We are married to Christ; Rom. 7:1-5 “Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? 2For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. 4Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. 5For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.”

B. We must overcome the world.
   1. The world lies in wickedness; 1 John 5:19 “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.”
   2. 1 John 5:5 “Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”
   3. We are called out of the world
      a. Col. 1:12-13 “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”
      b. 1 Pet. 2:9 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”
      c. Called by the Gospel; 2 The. 2:14 “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

C. The world no longer sets the standard for the Christian.
   1. In the way we dress
   2. In our entertainment
   3. In our speech
   4. In our morality
   5. In every aspect of our lives

D. We are to live pure lives.
   1. 1 John 3:3 “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”
   2. Mat. 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”
   3. 2 Cor. 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

E. Our mission in the world is to preach Christ.
   1. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   2. 1 Cor. 1:21, 23; 2:2 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe…. 2But we preach Christ
crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;… 2:2For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

3. 1 Cor. 9:16 “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”

4. 2 Tim. 4:2 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

V. WE KNOW BECAUSE WE LOVE

A. We love God.
   1. 1 John 4:7-10 “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
   2. He first loved us
      a. 1 John 4:10 “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
      b. 1 John 4:19 “We love him, because he first loved us.”
   3. True love of God means we keep His commandments; 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

B. We love one another.
   1. 1 John 4:11 “Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”
   2. 1 John 3:14 “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”
      a. We passed from death to life.
      b. If we want to go to heaven, we must love our brethren.
      c. 1 John 4:20-21 “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”

VI. SOME OTHER REASONS WE KNOW

A. We continue to walk in the faith:
   1. 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
   2. 1 John 2:6 “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

B. We do not practice sin:
   1. 1 John 3:9 “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”
      a. This has given brethren difficulty through the years.
      b. “He cannot sin” is in the present tense showing continuous action—he cannot continue in sin.
      c. Reason is the new birth; John 3:3, 5 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God…. 7Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
2. Instead of practicing sin, we practice righteousness; 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

C. We have a clear conscience:
   1. 1 John 3:21 “Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.”
   2. This is not teaching that we can allow our conscience to be our guide.
      a. Paul; Acts 23:1 “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”
      b. Cornelius even though a good man still needed to obey.
   3. The conscience:
      a. It must be educated according to God’s Word between good and evil.
      b. Contrast regarding the Gospel (same message preached):
         (1) Acts 2
            (a) Jews consciences were pricked; Acts 2:37 “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
            (b) This lead to their obedience; Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”
         (2) Acts 7
            (a) The Sanhedrin were cut to the heart; Acts 7:54 “When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.”
            (b) This lead to their stoning Stephen; Acts 7:58-59 “And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”
         (3) The conscience led to their reaction.
            (a) The Jews’ conscience yielded to the truth.
            (b) The Sanhedrin’s conscience was hardened by pride and ignorance.
            (c) The Gospel was not right or wrong because the Jews obeyed it; they obeyed it because it was right.

D. We stand for the Truth:
   1. 1 John 4:1-4 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”
   2. The truth makes us free.
      a. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
      b. John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
   3. John addresses a specific error.
      a. John is writing in opposition to gnostic doctrine.
      b. The docetics denied the humanity of Christ.
4. We face false doctrines today also.
   a. Mat. 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
   b. 2 Pet. 2:1-2 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”

5. We must be strong and grounded.
   a. Col. 1:23 “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”
   b. Not as children: Eph. 4:14 “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”
   c. Eph. 6:10-11 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

6. Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

E. We are in Christ:
   1. 1 John 5:11 “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”
   2. In Christ:
      a. We have access to God’s grace; 2 Tim. 2:1 “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”
      b. We have salvation; 2 Tim. 2:10 “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”
      c. We are no longer under condemnation; Rom. 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
   3. How do we get into Christ?
      a. Rom. 6:3 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
      b. Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Conclusion: Are you sure you are saved? You can be if you will obey the Gospel of Christ and live a faithful life. When we do so, we know we have eternal life; 1 John 5:13 “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, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” The Christian does not have to live in doubt and fear of his salvation.