

The Real Deal

Christian, are you the real deal? Are you genuine, or fake? Today, we are offered fake merchandise and fake TV. Often the line between fake and real is blurred and it is hard to know the difference.

God doesn't want fake or phony Christians. Hypocrisy brings attention to self (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16; 23:14). It makes us look good with others (Acts 5:1ff). It is a way to cover inward sin (Matthew 7:5; 15:7-8; 23:25, 28). It is a way to live by a double standard (Luke 13:15). It is a way to hurt others (Philippians 2:15-18). It courts the favor of others for personal gain (Proverbs 29:5; 1 Thessalonians 2:5).

But, we need to be real. We need to be like Samuel who was without fault (1 Samuel 12:5). We need to be like Nathanael who was without guile (John 1:47). We need to be like Paul who had a pure conscience (Acts 23:1; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

Christians are to have a good conscience (1 Timothy 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:3; 1 Peter 3:16). They are to live without hypocrisy (Romans 12:9). They are to have a faith unfeigned (1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Peter 1:22). They are to have no cloak - pretext, pretence (1 Thessalonians 2:5) - or guile (1 Peter 2:1-2, 22; 3:10).

God sees us for who we really are (John 2:25; Hebrews 4:13), so let's be genuine and authentic. Be the real deal!
- Chris Reeves -

News & Notes

Please mark your calendar with the following important dates...

March 18: Song practice; 5 pm; church building

March 24: Ladies' Bible class; 11 am; church building; Lesson 5: "Helping the Needy"

April 5-8: Gospel meeting with John Gentry

June 4-8: VBS

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

March 18, 2018



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Are You Sure You Are Saved?

Here is a simple question for you: Are you sure you are saved? We sing in our songbooks, “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, oh, what a foretaste of glory divine.” But, many people today do not have this blessed assurance.

Many people today are uncertain about their soul’s salvation from sin because there are conflicting voices in religion. Different religious groups preach different plans of salvation and many are confused about the whole matter. Others are uncertain about their soul’s salvation because of their feelings of fear, doubt, worry, perfection, etc.

God wants us to be fully assured about our salvation (Hebrews 10:22-23). The book of First John is a book of assurance (1 John 2:28; 3:19; 4:17). Let us consider three truths that John says will give us, not pride or arrogance, but true assurance and confidence of salvation.

First, assurance and confidence comes from what is written in God’s word, not from what is felt in our heart. John writes: “These things I have written to you, that you may know that you have eternal life...” (1 John 5:13).

Don’t look at your sin and salvation logically (what you think or feel), but theologically (what God’s word says)! John wrote and recorded a message so that his readers (and us today) may know that they

are saved (1 John 1:1-4; 5:20). The word “know” is found 26 times in 1 John and the word “write” (“written”) is found 11 times.

Humans are emotional beings because we are made in God’s image (Genesis 1:26). However, emotion or feelings alone can be misleading (Jeremiah 10:23; 2 Kings 5:10-11). Feelings can be uncertain, but God’s word is certain and sure (1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19). Feelings can produce false concern (Genesis 37:34), but God’s word is accurate (Acts 27:25; 1 John 3:20). Feelings can also produce false confidence (Proverbs 14:12; Acts 23:1; 26:9), but God’s word is truth (Psalm 119:105; John 8:32).

Second, assurance and confidence comes from the Spirit’s testimony, not from man’s assurances (1 John 2:18-29; 4:1-6). John warned about false prophets who were misleading others and he wanted his readers to test what was said by man with what was said by the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:24; 4:13; 5:7-9).

Investigation and testing using God’s word is important (Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20). We must ask, “What does the Holy Spirit say about salvation?” (Romans 8:16).

The Holy Spirit guided the Apostles to tell all people how to be saved (Jn. 16:8-13; Acts 1:8; 2:4). So, what does the Holy Spirit say is required to be saved? The Holy Spirit, speaking through Peter, said to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit, speaking through Philip, said to confess Jesus and be

baptized (Acts 8:37-38). The Holy Spirit, speaking through Paul, said to hear the gospel, believe it, and be baptized (Acts 18:8). Friend, have you done these things?

Third, assurance and confidence comes from present “walking in the light”, not from past accomplishments (1 John 1:5 – 2:17). If you want to know that you are saved, you must continue to live faithfully each day and walk by God’s word.

The New Testament does not teach “once saved always saved”. The assurance of salvation is conditional. The condition is that a Christian must continue to “walk in the light as he (God) is in the light”. The condition is a present condition – “if” (1 John 1:7, 9; 2:3, 24; 4:12).

Christians need to live a life apart from sin and not make a habit of daily sinning (1 John 2:1; 3:6-9; 5:18). But, what if a Christian sins? Christians can and must confess their sin (1 John 1:7 – 2:2), pray for forgiveness (1 John 5:14-16), and return to doing God’s commandments (1 John 2:3).

Remember, God is not out to get us, he is out to help us. He is not against us, he is for us. He does not want us to fail and be defeated, he wants us to succeed and be victorious. He does not want us to be lost, but saved. He does not want us to doubt, he wants us to be assured. Are you sure you are saved? - *Chris Reeves*