Soteriology

Session 37



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Soteriology Overview

I. Definition
II. Election
III. Atonement
IV. Salvation words
V. God's one condition of salvation
VI. Results of salvation
VII. Eternal security
VIII. Faulty views of salvation

5. Passages From Paul

a. Gal. 5:4

b. Gal. 5:19-21

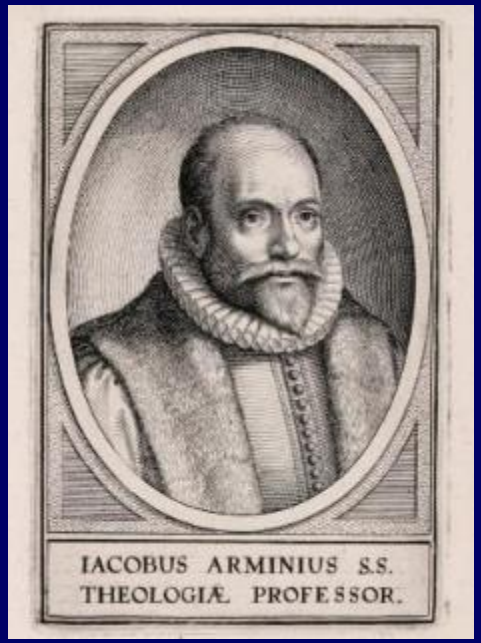
c. Rom. 8:13

d. 1 Cor. 8:11

e. 1 Cor. 9:24-27

f. 1 Cor. 11:28-30, 32

g. 1 Cor. 15:2



h. <u>2 Cor. 13:5</u>

i. Philip. 2:12

j. Col. 1:23

k. 1 Tim. 5:15

l. 2 Tim. 2:12

m. 2 Tim. 4:10

2 Corinthians 13:5 - Must We Examine Ourselves to See if We are Saved?



2 Cor. 13:5 (NASB)

“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?”





James Oliver Buswell, Jr.,

A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion, 2 vols., vol. 2 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1962), 147.

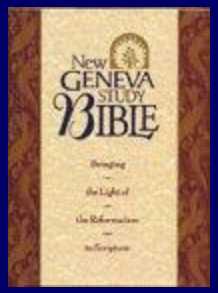
"But my point is that so long as a professing Christian is in the state of carnality, no pastor, no Christian friend, has the slightest ground for holding that this carnal person has ever been regenerated...it is a pastor's **duty** to counsel such a person. "You do not give evidence of being in a regenerate state. You must remember Paul's warning, 'Examine yourselves whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? You are not reprobate, are you?' (2 Corinthians 13:5)."



John F. MacArthur,

The Gospel According to Jesus: What Does Jesus Mean When He Says, "Follow Me"? (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988), 190.

“Doubts about one’s salvation are not wrong...Scripture encourages self-examination...In 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul wrote, ‘Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?’ That admonition is largely ignored—and often explained away—in the contemporary church.”



The New Geneva Study Bible:

Bringing the Light of the Reformation to Scripture

"Paul's words help clarify the doctrine of assurance of faith. Paul asks the Corinthians to examine their own lives for evidence of salvation. Such evidence would include trust in Christ (Heb. 3:6), obedience to God (Matt. 7:21), growth in holiness (Heb. 12:14; 1 John 3:3), the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23), love for other Christians (1 John 3:14), positive influence on others (Matt. 5:16), adhering to the apostolic teaching (1 John 4:2), and the testimony of the Holy Spirit within them (Rom. 8:15, 16)."

Luder Whitlock and Bruce Waltke R.C. Sproul, Moises Silva, et al, eds., *The New Geneva Study Bible: Bringing the Light of the Reformation to Scripture* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 1844.



Warren W. Wiersbe

The Wiersbe Bible Commentary (Colorado Springs, CO: David Cook, 2007), 542.

"Paul told the Corinthians that they should examine their hearts to see if they were really born again and members of the family of God. Do you have the witness of the Holy Spirit in your heart? (Ro 8:9, 16) Do you love the brethren? (1Jn 3:14) Do you practice righteousness? (1John 2:29; 3:9) Have you overcome the world so that you are living a life of godly separation? (1John 5:4) These are just a few of the tests we can apply to our own lives to be certain that we are the children of God. In one of the churches I pastored, we had a teenager who was the center of every problem in the youth group…"



Warren W. Wiersbe

The Wiersbe Bible Commentary (Colorado Springs, CO: David Cook, 2007), 542.

"One summer when he went off to our church youth camp...At one of the meetings, he got up and announced that he had been saved that week! His Christian profession up to that time had been counterfeit. He experienced a dramatic change in his life, and today he is serving the Lord faithfully. No doubt many of the problems in the church at Corinth were caused by people who professed to be saved, but who had never repented and trusted Jesus Christ. Our churches are filled with such people today. Paul called such people reprobate, which means 'counterfeit, discredited after a test.'"



William Hendriksen

"Many trusted in his name; i.e., because of the manner in which his power was displayed they accepted him as a great prophet and perhaps even as the Messiah. This, however, is not the same as saying that they surrendered their hearts to him. **Not all faith is saving faith**..."

William Hendriksen, *A Commentary on the Gospel of John, 3d ed. (London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1964), p. 127.* (1978). Bibliotheca Sacra, 135. (1978). *Bibliotheca Sacra*, *135*.

Three Tenses of Salvation

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	Power	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	Philip 2:12	Rom 5:10

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9 Reasons Favoring the Progressive Sanctification View

I. The Corinthians' Assumed Believing Status

II. Proving Oneself Applies to the Believer

III. Disqualification Applies to the Believer

IV. In the Faith Refers to Experience Rather than Position

V. Christ in You Relates to Progressive Sanctification



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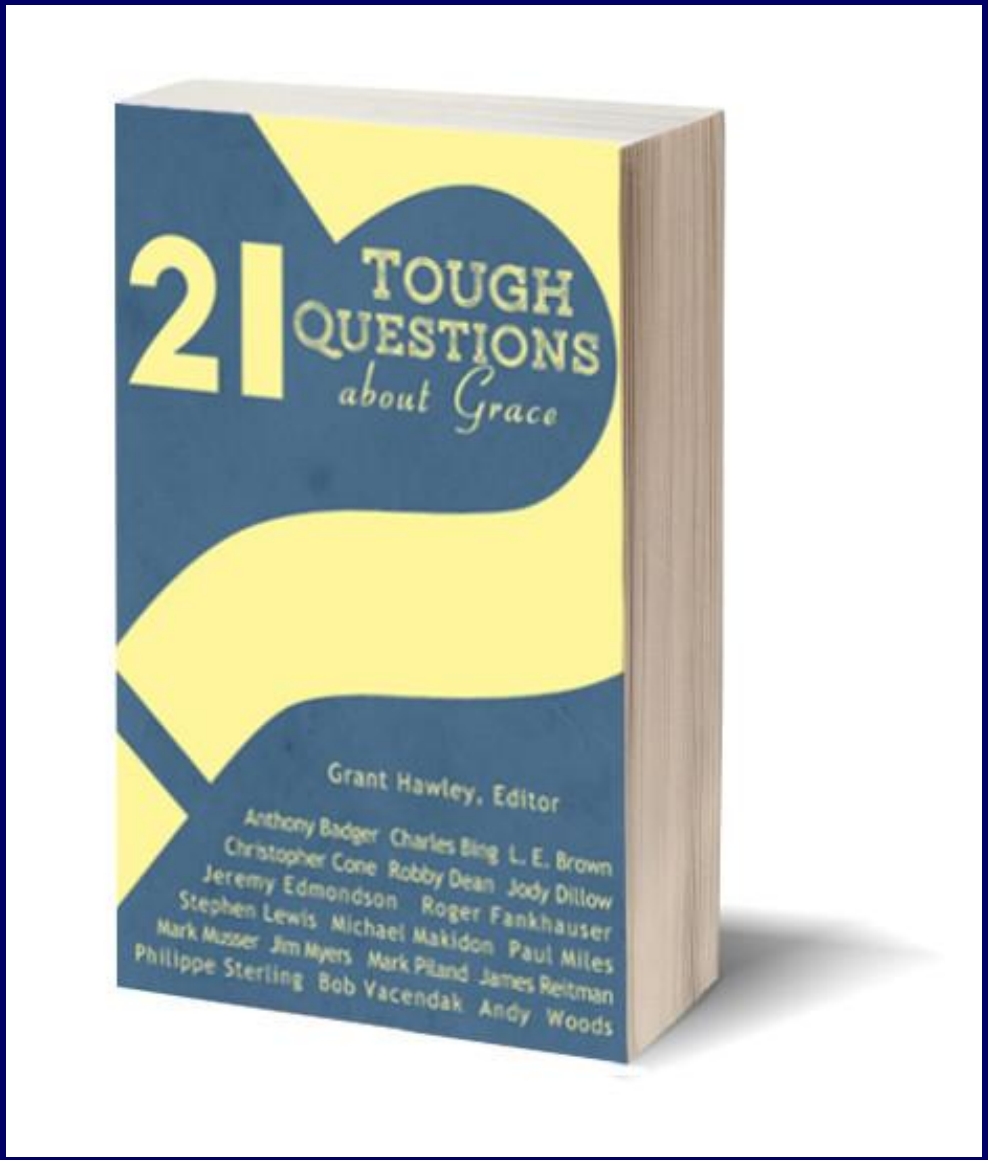
VI. Reform View Destroys the Passage's Symmetry

VII. Only Believers Experience Discipline

VIII. Scripture Nowhere Tells Believers to Test the Authenticity of Their Faith

IX. The Reformed View Damages Assurance of Salvation





http://boldgrace.org/article/152/21-Tough-Questions-Pre-Order

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1 Corinthians 1:2.

"To the **church** of God that is in Corinth, to those **sanctified in Christ Jesus**, called to be **saints** together with all those who in every place **call upon the name of our Lord Jesus** Christ, both **their Lord and ours**."



2 Corinthians 1:1.

"To the **church of God** that is at Corinth, with all the **saints** who are in the whole of Achaia."



I. The Corinthians' Assumed Believing Status

A. **1 Corinthians** 1:2; 3:1, 5, 6:11, 19-20

B. **2 Corinthians** 1:1, 21-22, 24; 3:2-3; 6:14-16; 8:9; 10:15



Zane C. Hodges

Absolutely Free! A Biblical Reply to Lordship Salvation
(Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989), 200.

"Regrettably...these forceful words have been sadly misconstrued. They have been read by some interpreters as though they were a challenge to the Corinthians to find out whether they were really saved or not! This is unthinkable. After twelve chapters in which Paul takes their Christianity for granted, can he only now be asking them to make sure they are born again?...Let the readers of this book examine 2 Corinthians on their own. They will see clearly how often the apostle affirms in one way or another his conviction that his readers are genuinely Christian."

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2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)

"Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; **examine** yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?"



2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB)

"Be diligent to present yourself **approved** to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."



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1 Corinthians 9:27 (NASB)

"but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be **disqualified**."





Joseph Dillow

Final Destiny: The Future Reign of the Servant Kings
(Monument, CO: Panyim, 2012), 449.

if *adokimos* or disqualified here means that "...the apostle Paul was not certain that he would go to heaven...**one wonders...how any Christian** in the history of the church could ever know for certain that God was his Father!"

Scripture's Five Crowns

(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

Scripture	Crown	Purpose
1 Cor. 9:24-27	Incorruptible	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	Rejoicing	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	Life	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	Glory	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	Righteousness	Longing for His appearing

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1 Corinthians 16:13-15 (NASB)

"Be on the alert, stand firm **in the faith**, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now I urge you, **brethren**…"



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Galatians 4:19 (NASB)

"My **children**, with whom I am again in labor **until Christ is formed in you**—"



Galatians 3:3 (NASB)

"Are you so foolish? Having **begun by the Spirit**, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"



Galatians 4:6 (NASB)

"Because **you are sons**, God has sent forth **the Spirit of His Son into our hearts**, crying, "Abba! Father!"



Galatians 5:16 (NASB)

"But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."



John 15:4 (NASB)

"**Abide** in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me."



John 8:31 (NASB)

“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had **believed Him**, “If you **continue** in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine."



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VI. **Reform View Destroys the Passage's Symmetry**

VII. Only Believers Experience Discipline

VIII. Scripture Nowhere Tells Believers to Test the Authenticity of Their Faith

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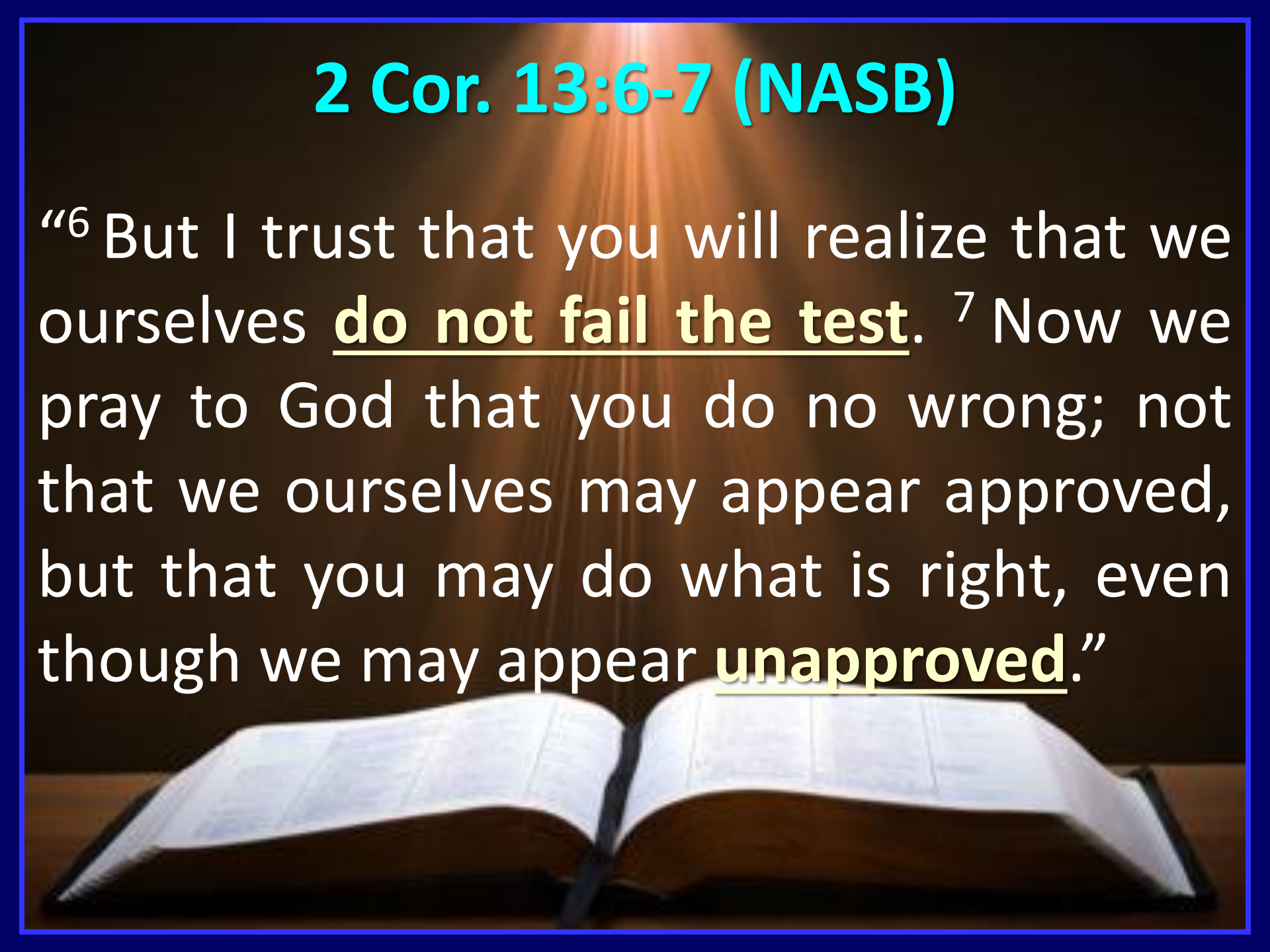
2 Cor. 13:3 (NASB)

"Since you are seeking for **proof** of the Christ who speaks **in me**, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you."



2 Cor. 13:6-7 (NASB)

“6 But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves **do not fail the test**. 7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear **unapproved**.”



2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)

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2 Cor. 13:1 (NASB)

"This is the third time I am coming to you. EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES."



Matt. 18:15-17 (NASB)

15 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”



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Matt. 7:15-20 (NASB)

15 “**Beware of the false prophets**, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they? 17 So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 So then, you will know them by their fruits.





Joseph Dillow

Final Destiny: The Future Reign of the Servant Kings (Monument, CO: Panyim, 2012), 454.

"Nowhere in the Bible is a Christian asked to examine either his faith or his life to find out if he is a Christian. He is told only to **look outside of himself to Christ alone for his assurance** that he is a Christian. The Christian is, however, often told to examine his *walk of faith* and life to see if he is walking in fellowship and in conformity to God's commands."

1 John 4:1-3 (NASB)

“[1] Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. [2] By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; [3] and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.”



Revelation 2:2 (NASB)

"2 I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the **test** those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false."



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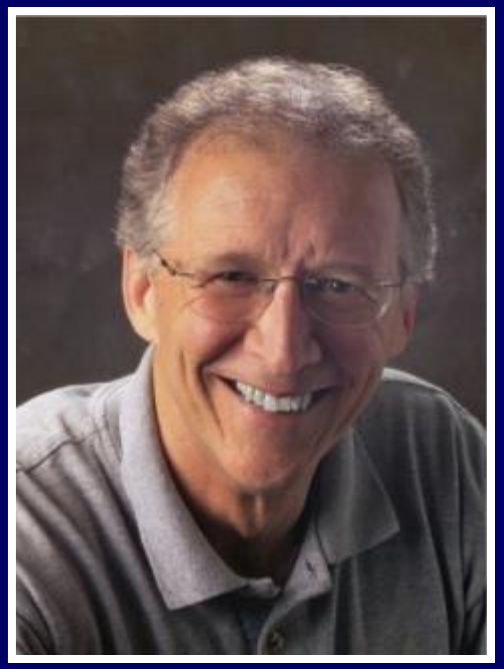
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John Piper



"No Christian can be sure that he is a true believer. Hence, there is an ongoing need to be dedicated to the Lord and to deny ourselves so that we might make it."

John Piper and Pastoral Staff, TULIP: What We Believe about the Five Points of Calvinism: Position Paper of the Pastoral Staff (Desiring God Ministries, 1997), 25, cited in Dave Hunt, *What Love is This?*, 379.

John 5:24 (NASB)

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and **believes Him** who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but **has passed out** of death into life."



DTS Doctrinal Statement

Article XI—Assurance

"We believe it is the privilege, not only of some, but of **all** by the Spirit through faith who are born again in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, to be **assured** of their salvation from the **very day** they take Him to be their Savior and that this assurance is **not** founded upon any fancied discovery of their own **worthiness** or fitness, but wholly upon the testimony of God in His **written Word**, exciting within His children filial love..."

Conclusion

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