Soteriology

Session 21



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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. <u>Eternal security</u>
VIII. Faulty views of salvation

Soteriology Overview

This Session

VII. Eternal Security





Definition of Eternal Security

"Eternal Security means that those who have been genuinely saved by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone shall never be in danger of God's condemnation or loss of salvation but God's grace and power keep them forever saved and secure."

Dennis Rokser, *Shall Never Perish Forever*, p. 11

Introduction

I. Probation?

II. Wait until the end of his life?

III. Eph. 4:14

IV. The Bible answers this question

V. The Bible cannot contradict itself

VI. Definition

VII. Not all who profess faith in Christ actually have it (John 3:18; 5:39-40)

VIII. It matters: 1. productivity, 2. motive, 3. joy

IX. Preview

Eternal Security Outline

1. Eternal security arguments
2. Response to problem passages



Eternal Security Outline

1. **<u>Eternal security arguments</u>**
2. Response to problem passages



Evidence for Eternal Security

1. Because self-righteousness did not save us it is not a basis upon which salvation can be lost
2. Salvation is not given or maintained by works
3. If a believer can lose eternal life, then how can this life be eternal (John 3:16)?
4. The Bible's promises guarantee security (John 10:28)
5. The assurance of salvation is impossible (1 John 5:14)
6. The believer is predestined for glory (Rom 8:29-30)
7. The Spirit's seal cannot be broken (Eph 4:30)

Evidence for Eternal Security

8. God keeps us from falling (1 Pet 1:4-5)
9. Christ's role as intercessor and advocate (John 17:11-12, 20)
10. Christ's death perfectly dealt with all sins (Titus 2:14)
11. A believer cannot be removed from Christ's body (1 Cor. 12:13)
12. The Bible does not specify which sins remove salvation
13. Believers with unfruitful lives still have salvation although lose rewards at the Bema Seat (1 Cor 3:15)

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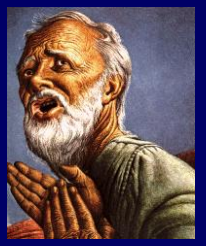
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If a believer can lose eternal life, then how can this life be eternal (John 3:16)?

- John 3:16
- John 5:24
- 1 John 5:13
- “Eternal” (aiōnios) is the same word used to describe God



Eternal Life = Eternal Life



John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

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The Bible's Promises Guarantee Security (John 10:28)

- God's reliability – Num. 23:19; Rom. 3:4a; 2 Cor. 1:20; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18; 10:23
- John 4:14
- John 5:24
- John 6:37-40
- John 10:27-30
- Romans 8:28-38
- Heb. 13:5



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Assurance of Salvation Verses (1 John 5:14)

- Biblical examples of assurance
  - OT – Job 19:25-26; Ps. 23:6
  - Gospels – John 5:24; 6:47
  - Acts – Acts 16:30-31
  - Paul – Rom. 5:2; 8:23-24; Col. 1:27; Titus 2:13; 2 Cor. 5:8; Philip. 1:21-23; 3:20-21; 4:3; Col. 3:4; 2 Tim. 1:12
  - General letters – 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-2; 5:13



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John 5:24

"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." (NASB)



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Biblical Hope

ἐλπίς elpís – Not anxious wishing or uncertainty but rather confident assurance of something yet future.

Not an “I hope so” mentality but rather an “I know so” mindset.



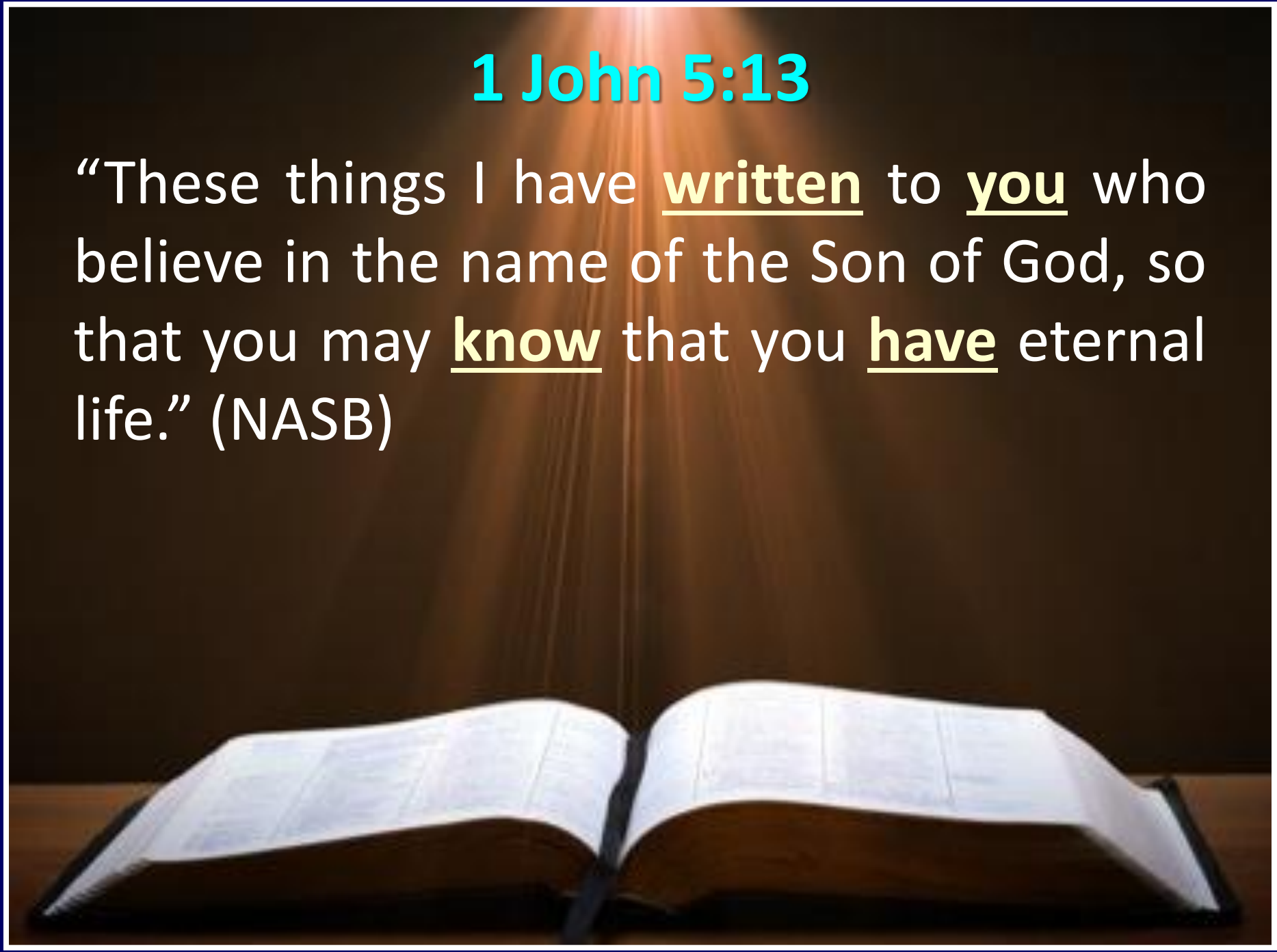
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  - **General letters – 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-2; 5:13**



1 John 5:13

“These things I have **written** to **you** who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may **know** that you **have** eternal life.” (NASB)





Hannah Whitall Smith

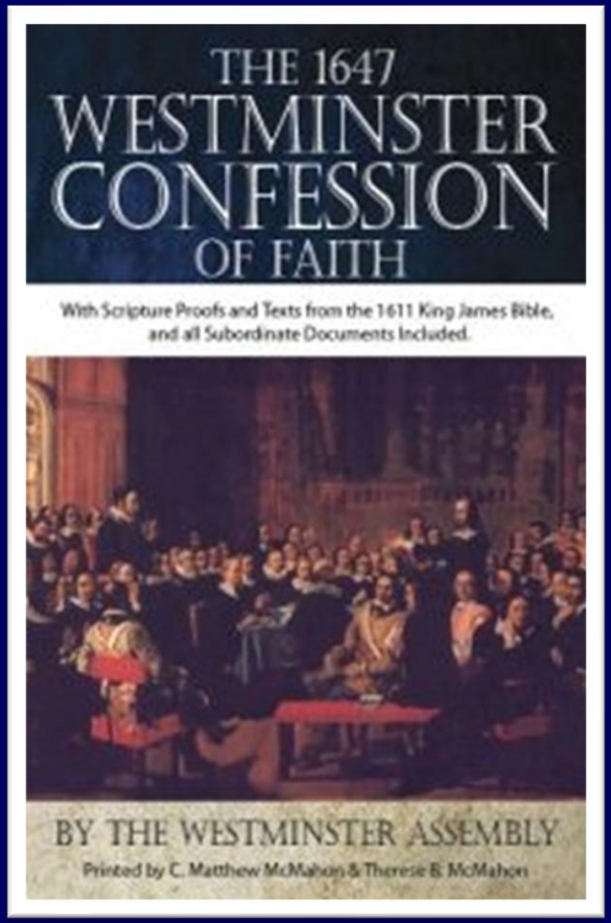
Every-Day Religion: The Common Sense Teaching of the Bible (1893), p. 5.

"In the first chapter of Numbers we are told that only those Israelites who could 'declare their pedigree' might be numbered among the men of war; and in the second chapter of Ezra no one who could not 'find his register' and 'reckon his genealogy,' was allowed to exercise the office of priest. Any doubts and uncertainties on these points made them 'as polluted,' and consequently unfit to serve (see Num. 1:2, 17, 18; 2:2; Ezra 2:62, 63). I believe the same thing is also true of Christians now. We can neither be numbered among the Lord's soldiers, nor enter into priestly relations with Him, until we also can 'declare our pedigree' as children of God, and 'reckon our genealogy' as being born of Him."

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..."

Westminster Confession Chapter XVII, Article III – Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation

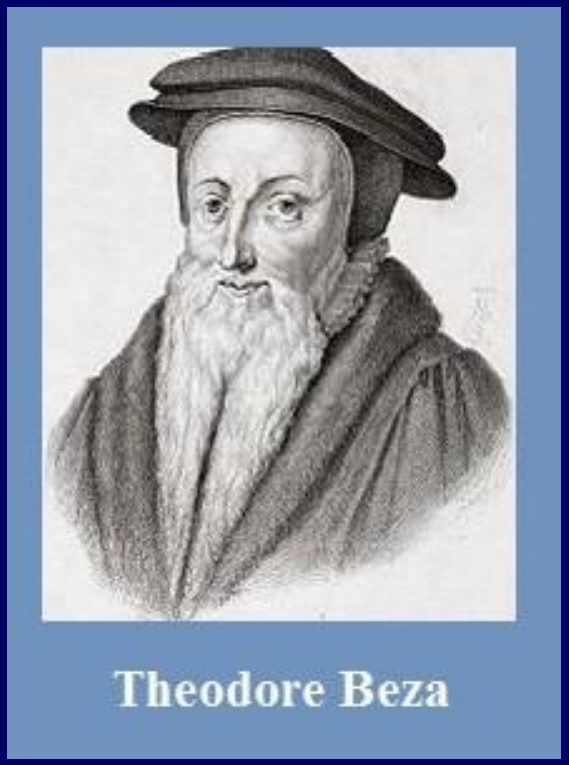


"This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer will wait long, and conflict with many difficulties before he be a partaker of it."

Theodore Beza

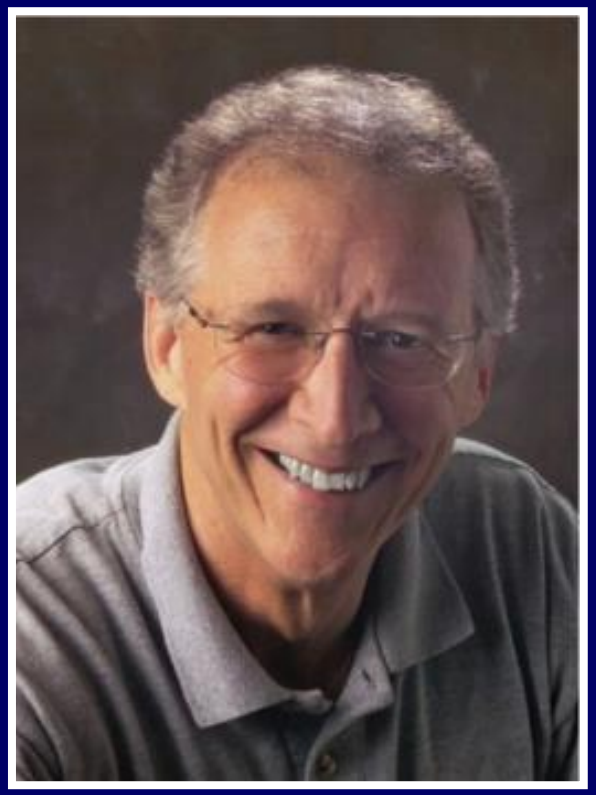
(1519–1605)

A Little Book of Christian Questions and Responses, pp. 96-97



"Therefore, I am elect, is first perceived from sanctification begun in me, that is, by my hating of sin and my loving of righteousness."

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 MacArthur

Saved Without A Doubt, p. 177



"If a person fails to love and obey the Lord through the trials of life, then there is no evidence that he possesses saving faith. How many people do you know who came to church for a while, had a little trouble in their lives, and left? Although they may have made a profession of faith in Christ, they cannot be identified as those who love Him because their lives are not characterized by enduring obedience."

John MacArthur

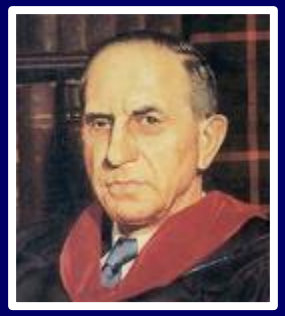
The Gospel According to Jesus, p. 23



"Genuine assurance comes from seeing the Holy Spirit's transforming work in one's life."

John Murray

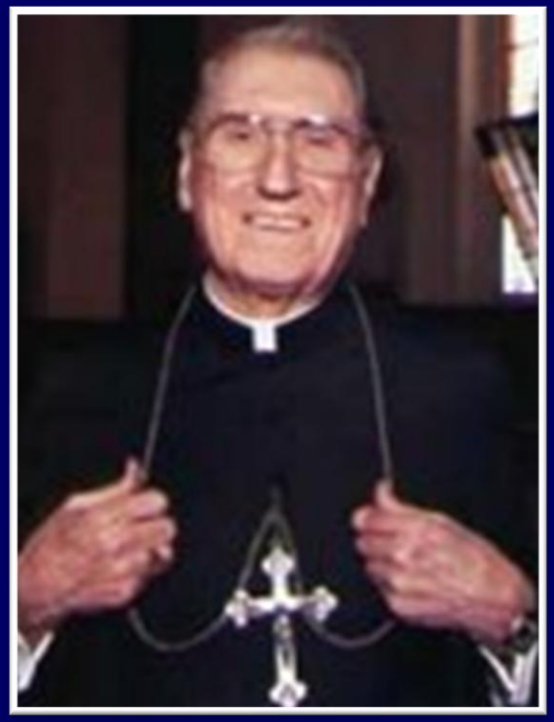
Redemption Accomplished and Applied, pp. 152, 154-55.



"The crucial test of true faith is endurance to the end, abiding in Christ, and continuance in the Word…He cannot abandon himself to sin; he cannot come under the domination of sin; he cannot be guilty of certain kinds of unfaithfulness…Let us appreciate the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints and recognize that we may entertain the faith of our security in Christ only as we persevere in faith and holiness to the end."

Cardinal John O'Connor of NY

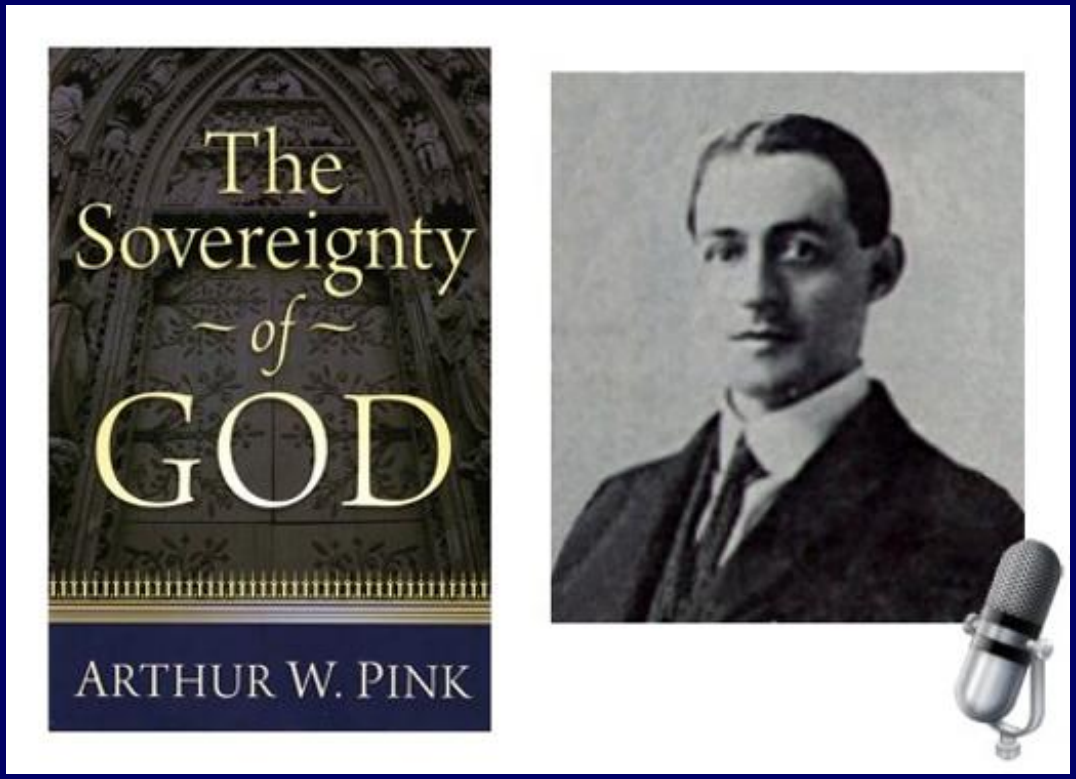
quoted in Samuel Howe Verhovek, *Cardinal Defends a Jailed Bishop Who Warned Cuomo on Abortion,* New York Times, February 1, 1990.



"Church teaching is that I don't know, at any given moment, what my eternal future will be…I can hope, pray, do my very best – but I still don't know. Pope John II doesn't absolutely know that he will go to heaven, nor does mother Theresa of Calcutta, unless either has had a special divine revelation."

A. W. Pink

Practical Christianity, p. 16.



"Readers, if there is a reserve in your obedience, you are on your way to hell."

Lewis Sperry Chafer



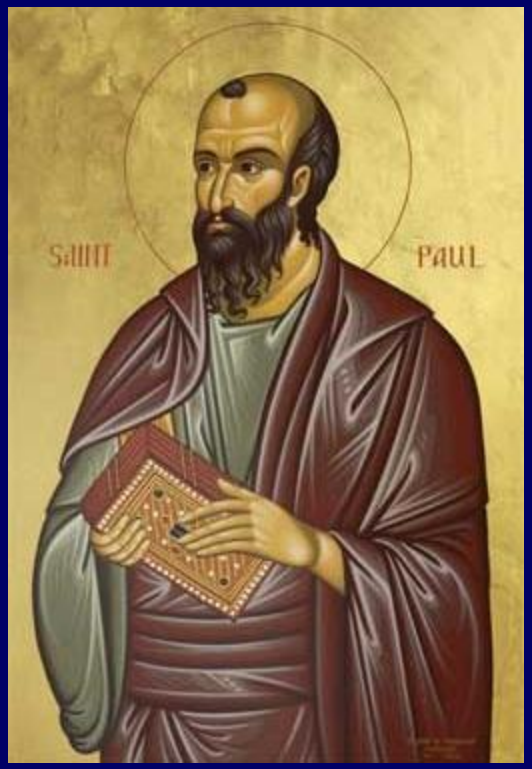
"There is a normal Christian experience. There are new and blessed emotions and desires. Old things do pass away; and behold all things do become new; but ***all such experiences are but secondary evidences***, as to the fact of salvation, in that they grow out of that positive repose of faith which is the primary evidence."

Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Salvation: A Clear Doctrinal Analysis* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977), 60. Italics added

4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



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[1] And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** *people* but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ. [2] I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it,* and even now you are still not able; [3] for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* **men**? (NKJV)

Joseph Dillow



"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."

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

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Romans 8:29–30

[29]For those whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; [30] and these whom He predestined, He also **called**; and these whom He called, He also **justified**; and these whom He justified, He also **glorified**. (NASB95)



CONCLUSION

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