BEST TO BE SURE "NAILING DOWN YOUR SALVATION"

PART 2: THE TEST

Part 1: Taking the test Part 2: The test Part 3: Failing the test and losing your salvation

"The Best Inoculation against the Gospel IS the Gospel – heard but not heeded!" Greg Laurie

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Charles Templeton





My reasons for rejecting the Christian faith

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"A time is coming for all men when they will either be born again, or wish they had never been born at all."

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified [fail the test].

Scripture offers multiple "tests" to authenticate salvation,

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Cow dog Mt 7:16-20 "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

1. The "fellowship/walking" test

1 Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

2. The "downplay sin" test

1 Jn 1:8,10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ... ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

3. The "obedience" test

1 Jn 2:4, 5:2-3 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ... ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

4. The "hate your brother" test

1 Jn 2:11;4:20 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. ... ²⁰If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

5. The "love the world" test

1 Jn 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

6. The "confession that Jesus is the Christ" test

1 Jn 2:22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

1 Jn 4:3,15 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. ... ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

7. The "sin is a lifestyle" test

1 Jn 3:8-9 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

1 Jn 5:18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

8. The "characterized by love" test

1 Jn 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

9. The "active faith" test

1 Jn 3:17-18 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

10. The "heeding Scripture" test

1 Jn 4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

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