

VIRAL WEEK 1 – CAN I BE SURE I AM GOING TO HEAVEN WHEN I DIE?

GETTING STARTED

- Do you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you will go to Heaven when you die?

God wants you to be sure! The Bible says: “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).

If someone is standing before God and He asked, “Why should I let you into Heaven?” what are the range of answers that you might hear? What is the only acceptable response?

- Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6). For those who say that they will try to get to heaven by keeping the Law and being a good person, how might they answer these questions?
 - How good is good enough?
 - What happens if you don’t measure up?
 - If there is some other way to get to heaven other than through Jesus, why did He have to suffer and die the way He did?

DISCUSSION

- As you reflect on these verses (John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:37, 39; 10:28-29), discuss how they provide answers to these questions.
 - When does eternal life begin?
 - Why does the Christian not have to be fearful about facing God’s judgment?
 - Would Jesus ever turn away from one of His followers?
 - Is there anything or anyone who can take Jesus’ God-given gift of salvation away from you.
- It has been said that the difference between Christianity and every other religion is just *two letters* ... “Do” vs. “Done”. Explain.

Many followers of Jesus Christ look for the assurance of salvation in the wrong places. We tend to seek assurance of salvation in the things God is doing in our lives, in our spiritual growth, in the good works and obedience to God’s Word that is evident in our Christian walk. While these things can be evidence of salvation, they are not what we should base the assurance of our salvation. Rather, we should find the assurance of our salvation in the objective truth of God’s Word. We should have confident trust that we are saved based on the promises God has declared, not because of our subjective experiences.

- What Scriptures can we rely on to know that we can be assured of our salvation? (Here are a few to get started, add some more ... John 10:28-29; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 8:29-30, 38-39; Ephesians 4:30; Philippians 1:3-6; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 1 Peter 1:3-9; 1 John 5:11-13; Jude 24-25...)

- Pastor Lee said that when someone asks, “*Can I lose my salvation?*”, ask the question, “*Who saved you?*”. Explain how this summarizes the key points that Pastor Lee was trying to emphasize in this message.

PRAYER

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.” (Ephesians 1:18-19) Take time to thank God for the following blessings that are enumerated in Ephesians 1:3-14. Write out a short prayer of thanks for each of these blessings that assure us of the security of our relationship with Him because of the work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in our lives.

I am accepted in Christ:

I am adopted into God's family:

I am redeemed from slavery to sin:

I am forgiven of all my sins:

God has lavished His grace in me:

God has revealed to me the mystery of His will:

I have been given an inheritance:

I am sealed by the Holy Spirit:

I have been given the Holy Spirit as a Deposit/Pledge/Down Payment: