

Doctrine of Assurance of Salvation

Part 3

False Assurance of Salvation

1. There are people who believe they are saved, but are not. They have a false assurance of salvation.
 - *Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*
2. Many people have a false sense of salvation because they do not know the correct requirements for salvation. This error may be based on bad theology, such as Universalism.
3. The doctrine of Universalism leads to a person believing that they, as an individual, are saved.
4. There is also the Doctrine of Justification by death. This doctrine challenges the Doctrine of Justification by faith.

Special Note.

The question is asked, "If you were to die today, would you go to heaven?" This question is followed up by asking, "If you died today, and you stood before God and was asked why you should be allowed into heaven, what would be your answer?" The most common response is a work's righteousness answer. All a person has to do is die, and it is assumed they will go to heaven. Between the morgue and the funeral service a person becomes the paragon of virtue in the eyes of the world. Jesus taught about a great division between the righteous and the unrighteous. Nevertheless, Universalism is longed for.

5. In addition to Universalism, is the view of Legalism based on works of righteousness. The popular idea that by obeying God's law, salvation will follow. It is believed that good deeds will merit eternal life and heaven. However, the Bible is clear that works of righteousness cannot save. The Story of the Rich Young Ruler confirms that good works do not save.
 - *Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*
6. The Biblical standard of righteousness is the holiness of God. Individuals are judged by behavioral conformity to the known will of God, and by the internal motivation, or desire to obey the Law of God.

- *Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

Special Note.

People who are morally inclined, can, and will perform acts of “civic virtue” by donating time and money to help others. They obey the law. They give their lives for others. But their motive is not to please God. Their motive is to please men, or to merit heaven based on their own good deeds. They have an enlightened self-interest in goodness. They have splendid vices. Those who judge themselves, by themselves, are not wise.

- *2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*

7. In addition to Universalism, and Works-Righteousness as the basis for believing one is saved, another concept embraced is Sacerdotalism, which refers to salvation based on receiving the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, as well as doing penance.

Special Note.

In Sacerdotalism, salvation comes through the priesthood, or through the church. The sacraments save me. This was the error of the Pharisees who were circumcised, and is the error of the Roman Catholic Church today. This is a false assumption of salvation. But membership in a church does not save anyone. Nor does raising a hand at an evangelistic service, saying a sinner’s prayer, going to an altar, or making a decision for Jesus saves. These are techniques for calling people to Christ, but are not to be trusted in for salvation. Only Jesus saves.

8. Some people have a false sense of salvation, because, despite a correct theology, they have not met the qualifications for salvation, which is to believe in Christ alone, by faith alone, in order to receive the grace of God.