

Doctrine of Salvation

Four Kinds of Salvation

1. There are four kinds of people in the world.
 - There is the person who is unsaved, and who knows it.
 - There is the person who is unsaved, and who does not know it, because they truly believe they are saved.
 - There is the person who knows he is saved, and is in a state of grace.
 - There is the person who is saved, but does not know it. There is no assurance.
2. There are people who know they are living a godless life, and who know the consequences of living a godless life. On his deathbed W. C. Fields was found leafing through a Bible. When asked what he was doing he replied, "I am looking for a loophole."
 - *Romans 1:13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.*
 - *Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.*
3. There are people who are converted but do not know the day, or hour, the grace of God came to them. Others know exactly the day and hour of their conversion.
4. Because this is true, a distinction must be made between conversion, and a conversion experience. Care must be taken not to make one's own personal experience the normative, or the ultimate standard of conversion. Experiences can be misleading.
5. Theology is not to be determined by experiences, but by the objective standard of the Word of God. Only Scripture can give an authentic knowledge of salvation.
 - *2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*
6. The most difficult person to deal with is that individual who believes he is saved, but is not. There are a number of reasons for this false assurance of salvation.
 - The natural pride of the human heart misleads people into thinking they are better than they are.
 - The false assumptions about God, what He will, and will not do, can mislead people. Some believe that God is so loving that He will not send anyone to hell.

- Heretical teaching will lead individuals to feel safe. Some believe there is no hell. Others believe in Universalism.
7. So, how can a person be assured of their assurance? The biblical answer is twofold.
- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. *Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*
 - Live a godly life that produces good works. *James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*