

Ricardo Scheffer: Can you be sure of your Salvation? (23/6/18)

Introduction:

I would like to begin the message today by posing a question - Are you Saved?

Many members of the church find it challenging to talk about this. But the Bible is clear

- Isaiah 32:17 - This verse says that God's work should bring assurance.
- Hebrews 6:11 - We can have 'full assurance of hope.'
- Hebrews 10:22 - We can draw near with a 'full assurance of faith.'

So, should we be assured? Or should we doubt?

The doubts that we have can rob us of that assurance which the bible promises.

- Philippians 1:6 - This verse talks about confidence in God's work of Salvation
- *"We are never to rest in a satisfied condition, and cease to make advancement, saying, 'I am saved.' When this idea is entertained, the motives for watchfulness, for prayers, for earnest endeavour to press onward to higher attainments, cease to exist. No sanctified tongue will be found uttering these words till Christ shall come, and we enter in through the gates into the city of God. Then, with the utmost propriety, we may give glory to God and to the Lamb for eternal deliverance. As long as man is full of weakness - for of himself he cannot save his soul - he should never dare to say, 'I am saved.'"* Ellen White, Selected Messages, Book 1, pg 314
- Matthew 10:22 - This verse talks about the need for endurance. This is not 'once saved always saved.' That is 'cheap grace.' But the Bible does show clearly that we can have confidence in God's saving act on our behalf today.
- Luke 9:23 - This work of endurance is a daily work.

Ricardo shared a story about when he was driving along a misty road in Peru and he fell asleep at the wheel and the car went off the road and rolled many times. He was safe, and somehow miraculously ended up sitting on the boot of the car when it stopped. The drivers side of the front of the car was collapsed. When the police arrived on the scene they asked where the driver was. Ricardo told them that he was the driver and they couldn't believe it. They had him taken to hospital to be checked over and found that he was fine. It was a miracle.

When Ricardo almost died he started to wonder if he was saved. He asked 'how can I be sure that I have a saving relationship with God from now on?'

- Philippians 2:12 - There is a work for us to do to ensure that the Salvation God provides has been received each day.

I cannot tell my eternal destiny, but I can be assured of my condition today. It is a big difference between saying 'I will be saved when Jesus comes,' and 'I know that I have a saving relationship with God today!'

Here are some of the things that he has learned since that day that can give us confidence that we are in a saving relationship with God today.

8 Ways to know that you are Saved Now:

1. New Birth (John 3:3, Romans 12:2)
2. Jesus is the centre and main focus of our life (1 John 5:12, John 17:3)
3. Deep Interest in the Word of God (This is the result of the New Birth)
4. Meaningful Prayer Life (Knowing = Loving = Communication)
5. A Daily Personal Experience with Christ (Taking the Cross Daily)
6. Without the power of the Holy Spirit we feel helpless against sin (Isaiah 6:5)
7. We have internal peace (This is the First symptom of the New Birth, Romans 5:1, Galatians 5:22, Job 22:21)
8. Fervent Desire to Witness to Others (Steps to Christ, pg 78)

Conclusion:

Can we be sure of our present condition of Salvation?

- Hebrews 10:22,23 - These verses talk about having 'full assurance of faith' and 'holding fast the profession of our faith.'

Relationship with God today, trusting His goodness today, these are the greatest evidences of our present Salvation!