

with divine nature, we will love sin. Satan is the author of sin and sin is always against God. Anyone who loves sin is against God. And following Paul's conversion, he hated sin and he resisted it with all of the determination of his soul. Sin dims our eyes, causes suffering and disease and unhappiness.

3. Paul's conversion gave him a passion for lost people.

He had a great desire to see others saved after he was saved himself. Next to the joy of his own salvation, there was the happiness of seeing his friends converted. You will remember that when Andrew found Jesus, his first desire was to go and bring his brother Peter to Jesus. Peter accepted Christ and became a real servant of the Lord, used in many revivals and at Pentecost. Philip, when converted, was possessed with the great desire to bring Nathanael to Jesus. When the Samaritan woman at the well was saved the first desire of her heart was to go back to the city and invite her friends and neighbors to come and meet a man who was able to reveal the secrets of hearts. Therefore, Paul's longing was for his brothers in the flesh. Rom 10:1. He says, my hearts desire is that they might be saved. In Rom 9:3, I could wish myself accursed from God for my brethren's sake.

To be converted for the entire lost world, people must be saved. And the more Christian we are, the more we are concerned for those who are on their way to hell. Men today have passion for God, power, and fame. Jesus said follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. When Zaccaheus was saved, he said, The son of man has come to seek and save that which was lost. So, when we are genuinely converted, it is our desire to bring long people into the shadow of the cross. John Knox cried out in his prayer, Give me Scotland or I die.

4. Paul's conversion caused him to love God.

I Cor. 8:3 I John 4:19. Paul says, if a man has been saved, he will love God. (You know you love your children, your country, or your friends, and you ought to be absolutely sure as to whether or not you love God.)

5. Paul's conversion caused him to love other Christians

John 13:35 After Paul's conversion, instead of persecuting other Christians, as had been his policy, he completely reversed his course, and now he had deep love for these people I John 3:14.

Introd.

Learning an experience are very assuring that there is nothing that compares with the joy of Christian experience concerning his relationship with God. In order to know him in whom we believe, we must know about a person. And this person, is Jesus Christ. So the question is, do I know Jesus? For John says, if we know him, we have eternal life. (Were you ever on a road) and not being sure that you were going in the right direction? And you asked someone who lived in that section and his directions were specific. You went on your way assured that you could not miss your destination.

You may ask many people if they are Christians and you will receive a multitude of answers. I hope so. I am trying to be. I belong to a church. And, I am not just certain of it. But you ask a man if he is a democrat or a republican, or if he is married, and he will be able to tell you immediately. Yes, or no. Now, if a man can be real sure about these temporal relations why shouldn't he also have some certainty concerning his relationship with God. For he tells us how to become his children. And, can we not be sure of our sonship? I read the story of Bishop Thoburn. Who was crossing the Indian Ocean by ship. There were two English women, avowed athetists. They discussed their veivs in his presence for two weeks. At the end of the journey, one of the women said, Bishop, you have listened to our discussions and we wonder wheter or not you have been convinced of our reasonable position. He said, Madam, I have listened to your conversation, I have never heard the case more brilliantly put. I am sorry that the journey is nearly over. But, for me, it has been in intellectual exercies. But, he says, to me, there is not likelihood of convincing me of the non-existence of God than of the non-existence of myself. For I have known God for 40 years and he is real to me. There are some who say that we cannot be sure and know that we are saved until we come to the end of the way. If one's hope of salvation is based on works, then I would grant that he could not be sure because he could never be certain that he had achieved a sufficient amount of success to give him a guarantee of eteral life.

## I. How may we know

This is a good question, how may we know? How is knowledge attained? of this certainty.

### 1. the testimony of our senses

Well, in the natural world, we have five senses. Hearing, we can be assured of rhythm, music, By seeing, we can be certain of colors. By smell, we judge flowers. By taste, we sample steak. By touch, we know whether it is hot or cold. And so, I think that there is some reasonableness to believe that our natural senses give a testimony to this question.

### 2. the testimony of others

much of the knowledge we have today comes to us from others. For ex., in history, we have never seen George Washington but there is not doubt but what he lived. I have been to his home, saw the carriage he used to ride in, the bed that he slept in, and all through his home where they say, George Washington lived. Now, I have never been to France or to Germany, but they tell us that there are cities, named Paris and Berlin. We have never seen Jesus, we have never heard his voice, but Paul says, he met him and that this Jesus wrought miracles and that he was raised from the dead.

### 3. we know our by our consciousness.

If someone asked you if you have confidence in your mother, you would immediately answer, yes. Your conscience tells you whether you love or hate, you trust or you distrust people. How do we know that we are saved. By ~~our~~ our conscience? It says, yes. The soul that is saved is aware of the change within. You realize that you had had an experience. The devil may come and say, you are not saved. But you can answer with Romans 8:16 *little girl - I'm very sure about this. How do you know you are a Christian? - "I just feel like in my heart."*

### 4. we know by the testimony of God's word

Our scripture text tonight tells us, John 5:24 There is nothing that silences the devil like being able to say to him, I am saved and I know it. *Sunday, from little child with her father - Dad you better hold my hand - I'll try to hold on to it now - so off with her father - Dad you better hold my hand - he folded his hand over the child's as they went step by step - "I can't drop it now, can I, Daddy?" So the Believer John 10:28-29*

## II. What this certainty does for us.

It is imp't that we shall know and be sure and if we know Christ and if we believe the Bible, we can be sure.

1. peace - Doubts and fears always disturb the joy of a Christian. And a fearful Christian is a useless Christian. If a husband doubts his wife, then he is miserable. The devil knows that if he

can produce doubt in the heart of a Christian about his salvation, he will destroy his influence for Christ.

2. influence - If a person is sure of his salvation, then his witness for Christ will be most effective. As you approach lost people about their soul's lost welfare, in an atmosphere of doubt, then there is little chance of your winning them to Christ.

3. the right disposition - Of course we are hindered in our Christian work by our doubts and fears and so will our disposition. A man can be much more helpful in saving a drowning man, if his feet are on a rock foundation. This book, First John, helps us to be sure. And, if you will read through this book, and take a pencil, you will be able to underscore the word know, at least 38 times within five brief chapters. Yes, John had assurance that he was able to put it into words and over and over again he repeated.

## III. Conversion brings the assurance needed.

Paul in telling his Christian experience stated that he had passed from death to life. Step by step on the road to Damascus, he explains his doubts, his hatred of Christ. But, when the voice said, why persecutest thou me? He was convinced and he was a great champion of this doctrine until he was put to death at Rome. He said, I know in whom I have believed. He said, I know that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him. Before becoming a Christian, Paul felt the burden and the power of sin. He was separated from God. And, the following things helped to bring assurance during his (conversion experience)

### 1. it let him know Christ.

Paul no longer trusted the flesh but he looked with confidence unto Jesus. And so, he had a personal friendship. Paul's testimony about his experience with Jesus did more to impress those to whom he spoke, than all the arguments he could have made in a lifetime. In Mark 5:19, Jesus told the demonic, Go home and tell thy friends what great things the Lord hath done for thee. One cannot tell another what he was not experienced. If one has not experienced the new birth in his life, then he cannot impart that knowledge to others. This was the testimony of the blind man, whose eyes Jesus opened. One thing I know, where as I was blind, now I see.

### 2. Conversion led Paul to hate sin.

I think that this helps us to get assurance Because God hates sin, and if we are out of harmony

We would perhaps, naturally, love friends or a few people. But, when we are converted, we have great love for Christian people, regardless of their color, or social or financial standing. Many wear badges or pins to designate their relationship to clubs or societies. Men in the army or navy wear uniforms to designate the country to which they belong. Christians should wear the badge of love for other members of the body of Christ

#### IV. The spirit bears testimony I John 4:13

Rom 5:5 Romans 8:14 The assurance of our salvation then, does not depend upon feeling, emotions, and the like but upon faith. Rom. 8:16.

##### 1. the desire of obedience

We may know that we are children of God if we desire to keep his commandments. It is not likely that one who loves God will continue in sin. Rom. 7:22. I John 2:3, 5.

##### 2. to desire to pray.

Ps. 34:6 we read that there was a great desire on the part of David for prayer. And when Jonah was in trouble, he had the spirit of prayer. And when Peter was in church preaching the word of God and carried to the prison for this, the church prayed for him. The fact that God hears and answers prayer for us in an indication that we are his. The scripture says, the gates of hell shall not prevail against the heirs of heaven. If we believe God's word we may be sure of heaven. And the spirit bears witness with our witness indicating that we are his. As cattle in the West are branded with a brand which gives the indication of ownership, and so we have been stamped with God's spirit indicating to us, God's ownership.

Dr. J.O. Williams - old lady - 92 - born in old country -  
Accepted X early age - married & lived in our country. This -  
got weaker, Dr. told not long - visited her A.M. - talk of  
days gone by, her chief interest in happy days to come.  
Serip - began "What a time we have in years" prayed together  
Grandmother, do you know you will not be here much longer?  
Smile & said "you do know it, & I am just waiting."  
for the time to come for me to go to a better home."  
she then remarked "all the way is perfectly clear,  
isn't it?" & she quoted 2Tim 1:12 "I know whom I  
have behind & am thoroughly convinced that he is

So. Norf. Sept. 13. 59, A.M. -

S. Norfolk - Dec. 2. 1956 - P.M.

able to keep that which I have committed unto  
him against that day."

That afternoon 6 o'clock, The master came  
into this house & called for Susanna. She  
went to peaceful sleep here, to awake in  
the land of perfect peace, joy & happiness.

The religion of the Lord Jesus had more  
meaning to me after that morning & it  
has been a great joy for me to witness  
for him & his power to ~~save~~ save  
& satisfy the human soul.

It satisfies the longing of the  
human heart -

M.A. 12.01.48