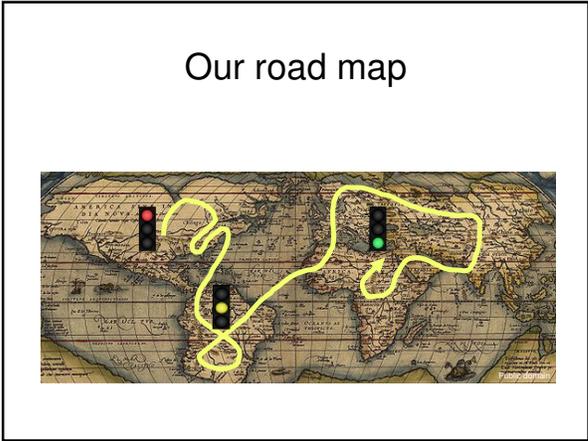


Assurance of Salvation
Part 8
Conviction of sin



Where we started.

1. Things that prove you *aren't* saved.

(Hopefully we've all turned away from these.)

Where we are (almost done).

2. Things that prove *nothing*.

(Hopefully we're not getting sidetracked by such things.)

Where we plan to be. (Coming soon!)

3. Things that prove you *are* saved.

(Hopefully we'll all find ourselves on the "straight and narrow" way.)

Things that prove nothing.

Their **ABSENCE** is a good indicator that you do not know God...

But their **PRESENCE** does not guarantee salvation, for an **UNSAVED** person can do it!

TODAY'S TOPIC:
Conviction of sin
 (includes confessing it to those we've sinned against)



- *All people have an awareness of their sin (unless their consciences have become seared).*
- *Some become convicted with a strong awareness of their guilt.*
- But does that prove they are followers of Jesus?



I'm so-o-o-o-o sorry!
 ... that I got caught.

We're not referring to hypocritical pretension...

... but to genuine conviction – and even sorrow – for sin.

Not referring to what politicians and celebrities often do when they get "caught" in a sin.

(INSERT SHADOWY POLITICIAN'S PICTURE HERE)

- "I'm so terribly sorry. It's all my fault. I failed the public trust. ..."
- P.S. – "Vote for me next year!"

(Some politicians might be a little more *genuine* than this.)

Not referring to what many church-goers do...

ON THE OUTSIDE (WHEN CAUGHT):

"I'm so terribly sorry ... I am such a sinner... Please forgive me!"



BUT ON THE INSIDE:

"I'm so glad I'm a Christian. Now I can sin all I want and still get to heaven!"

God *has* to forgive me!"

= a bunch of theatrics.
 (hypocrisy, putting on a mask, etc.)

By the way, such a lifestyle cannot belong to a genuine follower of Jesus!
 It's just plain impossible!

1 John 3:9 (NIV)
 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.



It doesn't mean you always make a big scene about how sorry you are...

BUT YOU DO HAVE SORROW AND CONVICTION ABOUT YOUR SIN; and it's REAL.

The issue:

**CAN A PERSON HAVE
GENUINE CONVICTION
ABOUT SIN AND STILL BE
UNSAVED?**

Let's look at some Bible examples.

Pharaoh (on several occasions)

Exodus 9:27-28, 34-35 (NET)

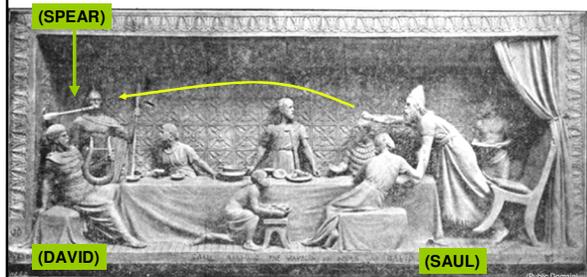
So Pharaoh sent and summoned Moses and Aaron and said to them, "**I have sinned** this time! **The Lord is righteous**, and **I and my people are guilty**. Pray to the Lord, for the mighty thunders and hail are too much! I will release you and you will stay no longer."

When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder ceased, he sinned again: both **he and his servants hardened their hearts**. So **Pharaoh's heart remained hard**, and he did not release the Israelites, as the Lord had predicted through Moses.



King Saul – The "theme" of his life.

(Get the point?)

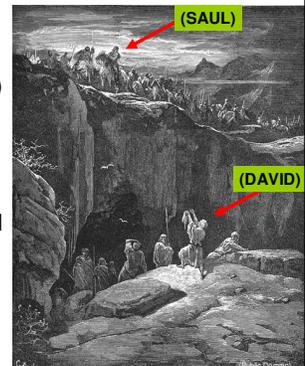


But every now and then...

1 Samuel 24:16b-17 (NET)

... Saul **wept** loudly.

"You are more innocent than I, for you have treated me well, even though I have tried to harm you!"



**Judas – remorse,
but not repentance;
sorrow, but not change.**

Matthew 27:3-5 (NET)

Now when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus had been condemned, he **regretted** what he had done and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "**I have sinned** by betraying innocent blood!"

But they said, "What is that to us? You take care of it yourself!"

So Judas threw the silver coins into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself.



**Conviction of sin normally comes with
an awareness of deserved judgment
(such as death, or the Lake of Fire).**

Romans 1:32 (NET)

... they fully know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, ...

But "Having a fear of hell" is NOT the same as "Being saved"!

Acts 24:25 (NET)

While Paul was discussing righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, **Felix became frightened** and said, "Go away for now, and when I have an opportunity, I will send for you."



Islamic terrorists are afraid of hell... but that doesn't mean they're Christians!



They've been taught that killing the "infidels" (that's what they call us) will land them in heaven.

YOUR MISSION...
Be aware of these things:

- You need to be convicted when you sin. (Pray that it happens. If it doesn't happen, it means your conscience has been seared; and you will die in your sin.)
- Genuine followers of Jesus will want to be convicted when they sin, so they can repent of it.

YOUR MISSION...

- DON'T RELY ON CONVICTION AS EVIDENCE OF SALVATION... because it *isn't* evidence!

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