

Assurance of Salvation Part 20

Love for God (#1)

The **#1** proof of salvation is:

**LOVE FOR
GOD!!!**



It guarantees
you are saved!

Today's focus:

- The reason it is
proof of salvation.



Some of these issues
also apply to the *other* proofs of salvation.

(We won't be repeating them each time.)

PROBLEM: Just about anyone can
say they love God!



SOLUTION:

These "proofs of salvation" are
guarantees ONLY if we accept the
way *SCRIPTURE* defines them!



**(Otherwise,
we are fooling
ourselves.)**

**Modern-day
false religions**
don't always look
obvious.



- **Most of them don't tell you to bow
down to a worthless statue.**

- **WHY?** Since Jesus' resurrection, the
devil has *changed* his methods.

Modern-day false religions



- Contain truth (**half truth**).
- Look "spiritual" (**counterfeit**).
- Tell you what you want to hear (**not what you need to hear**).
- Often use "Bible words" (**different meanings**).

ACTS 17:11 – The pattern we must follow

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

(Acts 17:11 NIV)

Check list

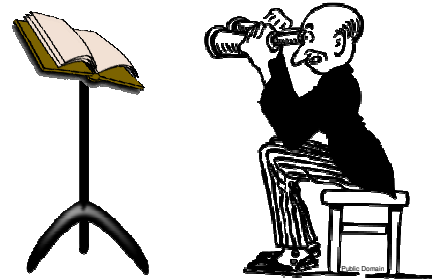
(Compare what WE say to what GOD says.)

- ✓ What are we saying?
- ✓ What does the Bible say?
(Include the things we like to hear, as well as those that may disturb us. In other words, include it ALL.)

- ✓ Did we ADD to Scripture?
(then remove what we added)
- ✓ Did we SUBTRACT from Scripture?
(then include what we subtracted)

What does the Bible say about this
"love for God"?

Why is it PROOF of salvation?



• **FIRST:**

It's our
#1
OBLIGATION
in life.

This love for God is the greatest
obligation a human being has.

Mark 12:30 (NIV)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

- In other words,
"Love him with all your everything"!

In comparison, everything else must take second-place.

"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

(Matthew 10:37-38 NIV)

THIS INCLUDES (_____).

INSERT YOUR FAVORITE PEOPLE, THINGS, ACTIVITIES, INTERESTS HERE

SEE ALSO:

"No one can serve two masters. He will hate the first master and love the second, or he will be devoted to the first and despise the second. You cannot serve God and wealth."

(Matthew 6:24 GW)

NOBODY IS EXEMPT

- Even **atheists** have this obligation to love God, and will be judged for NOT doing so.

NOT ME. I'M AN ATHEIST.

YES, IT INCLUDES YOU!

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who **suppress the truth by their wickedness.**

since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them."

(Romans 1:18-19 NIV)

• SECOND:

WE HAVE
NO ABILITY TO
FULFIL THIS
OBLIGATION.

Before sin entered the world:

- Love for God was a natural part of human nature.

Note: Scripture seems to indicate that God appeared to them in a visible form (perhaps human, like Jesus Christ).

Now that we have sinned

(the whole human race in Adam)

- We are controlled by the **sinful nature** (also called the "flesh") and have become **enemies of God.**

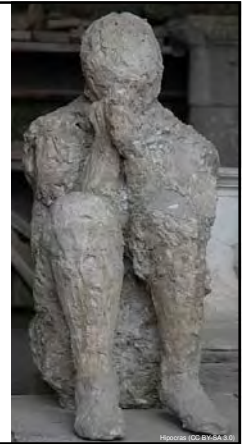
Now:



- We are spiritually blind.
- **We can no longer see things correctly**
- Love for God has become totally foreign to us.

Spiritually, we are already DEAD.

(And our bodies are working on it.)



• THIRD:

GOD ALONE
CAN SOLVE OUR
PROBLEM.

On our own:

- We will **NEVER love God** the way we must.
- We will **SUPPRESS the truth** about God, and will replace or distort it to our own liking.

If God makes us alive: *

- We **WILL love God** the way we must.
- We **WILL NOT suppress the truth** about God, and WILL NOT replace or distort it to our own liking.

* (This corresponds to the time we repent / trust / obey.)

PROBLEM: The love we must have for God does NOT naturally exist in us.

- Any "love" we may have is a counterfeit, a distortion of the genuine.
- Consider this: How can a person love God when he is hostile to God ?!?!?

For the sinful nature [= which controls the unsaved person] **is always hostile to God** [i.e., the God of the Bible].
(Romans 8:7a NLT)

SOLUTION: God puts this love in the hearts of those he has saved.

God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:5b NIV)

• **FINALLY:**

The Bible leaves us with only ONE CONCLUSION.

Genuine love for God will:

- NEVER exist in an unsaved person.
- ALWAYS exist in a saved person.

This is why it can be called "proof."



NEXT TIME:

- We plan to look at the nature of GENUINE love for God.
- But here's a "sneak preview":



There are 3 ASPECTS to this genuine love for God

- Delight in who God is and what he does
- A desire for God to be glorified in all things
- Gratitude for what he has done for us

YOUR MISSION:

Self-evaluation: **Changed life?**

You were *born* an enemy of God. Has anything happened that would now indicate love for him?

- Have you surrendered to him?
- Has there been any change in your values and actions – especially in your attitude toward God?

YOUR MISSION:

Self-evaluation: Revised priorities?

Has "love for God" become an important factor in your daily decisions?

- Does it take first place in your life?
- Or do other things get more emphasis?

YOUR MISSION:

Pray for us ALL (as a group)

IF change has begun to take place:

- Pray that we will grow in our salvation.

IF change has NOT taken place:

- Pray that we will be willing to change.

Credits (1)

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