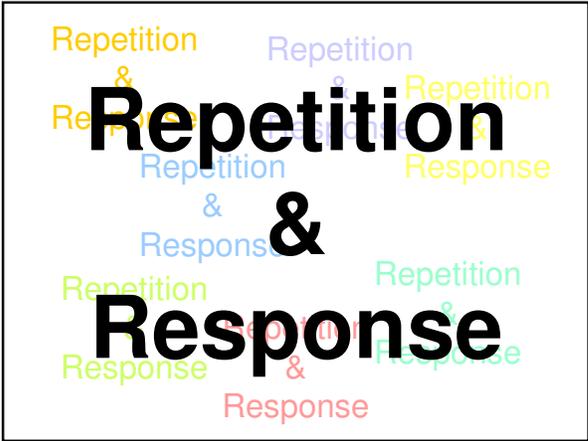


Assurance of Salvation  
Part 23  
  
Love for God  
(#4)



**The value of repetition**  
(The value of repetition)  
**(According to the apostle Peter)**



I plan to keep on **reminding** you of these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth.

Yes, I believe I should keep on **reminding** you of these things as long as I live. ...

So I will work hard to make these things clear to you. I want you to **remember** them long after I am gone.

(2 Peter 1:12-13, 15 NLT)

Sometimes truth needs to hit us on the head a few times, before we will remember it.



Disclaimer: This was drawn by trained professionals. **Children, do not try hitting someone on the head at home or anywhere else.**

Three aspects of 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

**We have been focusing on "who God is," because this is the most critical issue – the foundation for every other aspect of assurance of salvation.**

**"Who God is" – If we get this wrong, we've got *EVERYTHING* about salvation wrong.**

- We'll be worshipping / trusting / obeying / loving the *wrong* god and not even know it.



When we finally have to face reality, it will be **TOO LATE**.



HELP!!! My views don't hold water!

Actually, his views are all wet!

At this point, all that others can do is sadly wave goodbye.

**Jesus suffered and died**  
(and came back to life)

So that we might have the opportunity to **know** and **love** the God who created us.



My God, why have YOU forsaken me? \*

\* (Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1)

Jesus did NOT die so that people could "pick & choose" what they wanted to believe about God.



My God, why have **THEY** forsaken me?

**WHY must we STRONGLY emphasize this?**  
(AND REPEAT IT)

**Love for God is a PROOF of salvation.**

• But **ONLY** when it is love for the "100% God." (= God as revealed in Scripture.)

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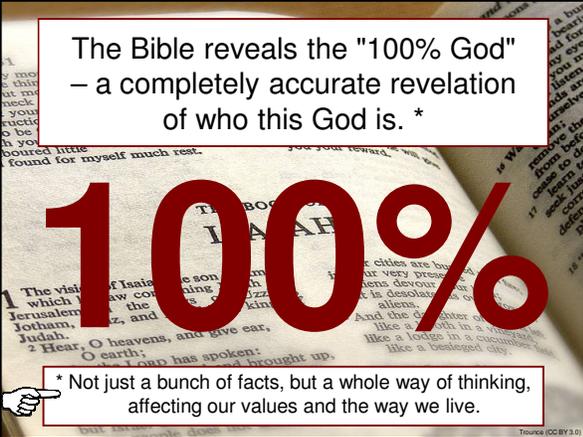
• Any other "God concept" is **NOT** the God of the Bible.

• Love for such a "god" is **NOT** proof of salvation.  
(Such love may be *sincere*, but it is *misdirected* and *worthless*.)

PROOF

NO PROOF

The Bible reveals the "100% God" – a completely accurate revelation of who this God is. \*



**100%**

\* Not just a bunch of facts, but a whole way of thinking, affecting our values and the way we live.

**ONLY** people who have become **followers of Jesus** will be **WILLING** to accept 100% of what the Bible has revealed about God.  
(This is why it is PROOF.)

**No one has ever seen God. God's only Son, the one who is closest to the Father's heart, has made him known.**  
(John 1:18 GW)

**ONLY** people who are **controlled by the Spirit** will be WILLING to accept 100% of what the Bible has revealed about God. (This is why it is PROOF.)

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor. 2:14 (NIV)

We don't have power on our own to have this kind of love.

- But as we surrender our thoughts and actions to God, this love "somehow" grows within us.

We know that this "somehow" is the work of God. (It sure didn't come from us!)

... so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. (1 Cor. 2:5 NIV)

... this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Cor. 4:7b NIV)

None of us have reached the point of accepting **exactly 100%** of "who God is."

- But it is our active goal. - (IF we are following Jesus & are controlled by the Spirit)

Why we keep emphasizing this:

**THIS IS A CRITICAL ISSUE!!!**

The eternal destiny of every person is at stake in this matter.

Many "church-goers" have **NO** conscious awareness of who God *really* is! (i.e., the "100% God")

- How should we **RESPOND** to this fact?
  - If this is us... REPENT! (= change what we think and do)
  - If this is someone else... (see the next page)...

(In BOTH cases, pray that God will bring the needed change!)

(How should we respond to such "church-goers"?)

Perhaps **Jude's instructions** would be helpful:

"Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear --hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. (Jude 1:22-23 NIV)

- **Other circumstances may require a different response.**
  - But when possible, this is a good place to start.
- **God willing, we will look more at "How to Respond" at a later time.**

- But right now...

## YOUR MISSION:

**CARE about people!!!**  
**(Show it by the way you respond to this issue.)**

**How to apply these things:**

1. Examine your own condition first.  
(But don't stop there!)
2. Then be concerned about others.

**REMEMBER:**  
**Ignoring one's obligation to others doesn't make it go away!**

- NOT dealing with our own sins *doesn't* cancel our obligation to others. *It just increases our guilt.*

 This type of conduct is not an option for a follower of Jesus!

**ADMIT that it's easy to go to extremes.** (And then avoid them.)

- **Attacking everyone** who is "less perfect" than we are.
  - (Ignoring what God says about humility.)
- **Closing our eyes** to the sins of others.
  - (Ignoring God's command that we are to encourage each other to do what is right.)

(When necessary)  
**ENCOURAGE and WARN those who are in spiritual danger.**  
**(Follow Jude's instructions, when possible.)**

 **Remember that we can't do this encouraging without God's power.**

- We can't do it until we've dealt with our own sins.
- We can't do it unless we admit our responsibility to **love** other people.

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