

Assurance of Salvation  
Part 120

PRACTICAL ("real-life")  
OBEDIENCE  
– The Nature of Obedience (2)

**"PRACTICAL OBEDIENCE!"**

= "DOING" the obedience,  
not just "TALKING" about it!

An infallible guide  
to "assurance  
of salvation."

**For those who are saved...**

Obedience will be present,  
and it will be visible.

What is the nature of this  
"obedience"  
that guarantees salvation?

1. It involves all of God's commands.
2. It is habitual. [SHORT REVIEW]
3. It is ongoing. [TODAY]

**1** This obedience involves all of God's commands

- We cannot emphasize some commands and ignore others.
- We cannot focus on commands that make us "feel good" about our spiritual condition.

Doing this will almost guarantee that we reach false conclusions about our salvation.

{ ... 96% ...97% ... 98% ... 99% ... maybe not quite 100% }

**2** For the follower of Jesus:  
This obedience is habitual.

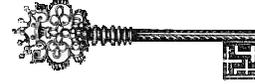
- It characterizes his day-to-day life.
- It does not mean: He is "100% sinless perfect."
  - That will not happen until we are in Jesus' presence.
- It does mean: He wants to be 100% perfect.
  - He strives for perfection.
  - When he sins, he repents and returns to his pursuit of perfection.

## Habitual obedience?



TRY IT!  
**IT'S A GOOD  
HABIT!**

## The KEY to defining one's life:



It's not the individual acts  
that define a person  
as righteous or wicked,  
but the ongoing character.

**3**

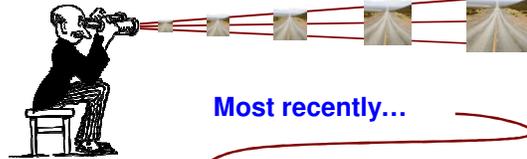
This obedience is  
ongoing.

NO TURNING  
BACK!

God's people will  
keep to the path  
of obedience.

In this matter, we can  
see a big difference  
between the **genuine**  
and the **fakes**.

## We've seen this concept before!



Most recently...

When we looked at the topic "Growing in Grace," we saw that genuine salvation could be described as a continuing "present tense" activity. It is not a "past tense" accomplishment that we can now consider "done."

Another way to say it: God's  
people will "persevere."

NO TURNING  
BACK!

**PERSEVERE...**

To persist, continue,  
endure, keep on going...

God's people ... They WILL persevere.

- Their salvation is like a rock-solid foundation.

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,\*  
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

Psalm 125:1 (NIV)

\* ("Mount Zion" – The place of God's temple in Jerusalem. The Old Testament "Zion" is a "picture" or "shadow" of the future eternal dwelling place of God, in the New Jerusalem, Revelation 21:2.)

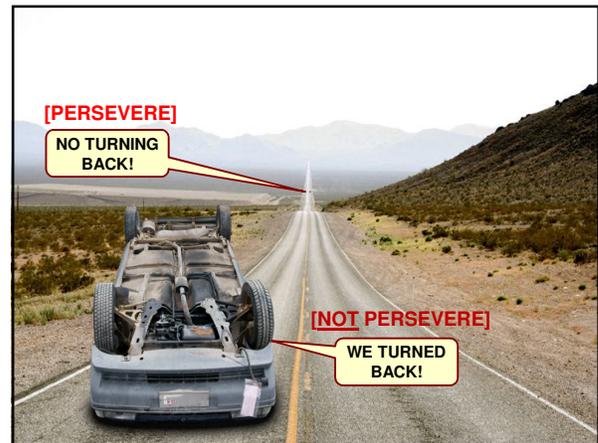
**The FAKES ... They WILL NOT persevere.**

- Some may look "saved," but their "salvation" will eventually become a thing of the past.

They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us.

For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

1 John 2:19 (NIV)



**This contrast  
-- GENUINE vs. FAKE --  
will continue to the end.**

- **The fakes** will turn away...  
**God's people** will stand.

**FROM JESUS' DESCRIPTION OF THE "END TIMES":**

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:12-13 (NIV)

- **THE FAKES** will shrink back when obstacles surround them; **THE GENUINE** will focus on Jesus and press on to the ultimate goal.

**THE FAKES – SHRINKING BACK**

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

Hebrews 10:39 (NIV)

**GOD'S PEOPLE – PRESSING ON**

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philip. 3:14 (NIV)

- **THE FAKES** will turn back to the ways of the world; **THE GENUINE** will follow Jesus' example, and have moral purity as their goal.

**THE FAKES – RETURNING TO THE WORLD'S WAYS**

It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

2 Peter 2:21 (NIV)

**GOD'S PEOPLE – PURSUING MORAL PURITY**

And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He [Jesus] is pure.

1 John 3:3 (HCSB)

**Genuine Christianity is NOT  
an empty speculation without a  
practical influence on life.**

- It doesn't involve "heart changes" that lack visible "life changes."
  - It's not emotions without action.
  - It's not religious experience without practical day-to-day effects.
- Nor is it the opposite – visible "life changes" without any "heart changes" toward God and neighbor.

### What is IN will come OUT.

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up **in** him, and the evil man brings evil things **out** of the evil stored up **in** him.

Matthew 12:35 (NIV)

- *If Scripture is our guide in these matters, we **cannot** be deceived.*
- ALL fake hopes are the result of following our own "standards" (or those invented by other people).

### YOUR MISSION: "DETERMINE"!

Does  
**"practical day-to-day  
obedience"**  
characterize your life?

### IF YOU CLAIM TO BE SAVED...

**ASK  
Yourself ...**

### Does your "love for God" impact the way you live?

- Your devotion to your religious duties (worship, prayer, etc.)?
- The attention you have toward Scripture and serving God?
- Your pursuit of moral purity?

**Do you obey Scripture's commands  
in these matters?**

### Does your "love for neighbor" impact the way you live?

- Leading you to promote justice, love, mercy, peace, etc.?
- Influencing the way you treat others?
  - Family members? Equals?
  - Those having authority over you?
  - Those under your authority?

**Do you obey Scripture's commands  
in these matters?**

### TEST YOURSELF!

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves.**

Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?

**—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!**

(2 Corinthians 13:5, ESV)

## Credits (1)

### SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quoted from the HCLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervanbibles.com)
- Scriptures marked "ESV" - Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (www.gnpcb.org)
- Scriptures marked "HCSB" - Scripture quotations marked HCSB are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Numbers 1, 2 and 3 in rounded squares - By Lev89 [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alt1.png>; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alt2.png>; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alt3.png> (some colors modified)
- Man with megaphone - By Witzel (L.A.) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thomas\\_H\\_Ince\\_-\\_Megaphone\\_1892.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thomas_H_Ince_-_Megaphone_1892.jpg) (image reversed)
- Key - (Scan from the original book Die Gartenlaube, 1887) [Public Domain], via Wikimedia Commons; [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Die\\_Gartenlaube\\_%281887%29\\_b.\\_2\\_705.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Die_Gartenlaube_%281887%29_b._2_705.jpg) (modified)
- Road - By Jon Rawlinson (The Long Road Ahead) [CC BY 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The\\_Long\\_Road\\_Ahead.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Long_Road_Ahead.jpg)

## Credits (2)

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Man with binoculars - Public domain, Open Clipart Library (Uploader: johnny\_automatic); [http://openclipart.org/detail/26611/man-using-binoculars-by-johnny\\_automatic](http://openclipart.org/detail/26611/man-using-binoculars-by-johnny_automatic)
- Upside-down car - By kailema (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Auto\\_katolikan.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Auto_katolikan.jpg) (background removed)
- Backgrounds (not a solid shade or provided as part of Microsoft PowerPoint®) - Dennis Hinks © 2015-2016.
- Presentation - Dennis Hinks © 2016.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree, some might not.