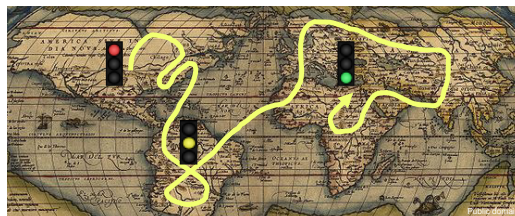


# Assurance of Salvation Part 8

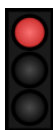
## Conviction of sin

### Our road map



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)

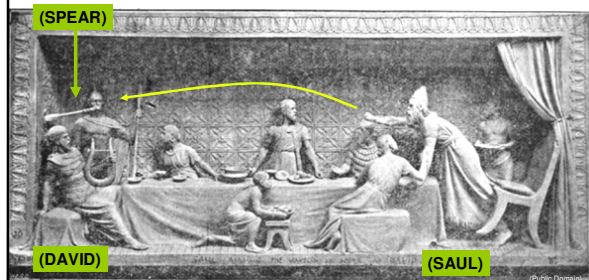
So Pharaoh sent and summoned Moses and Aaron and said to them, "**I have sinned** this time! **The Lord is righteous**, and **I and my people are guilty**. Pray to the Lord, for the mighty thunders and hail are too much! I will release you and you will stay no longer."

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?)

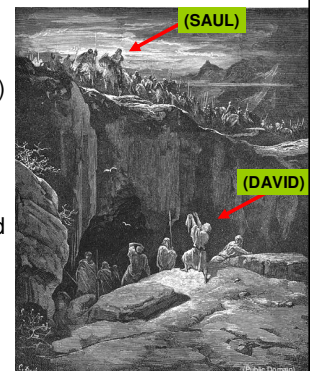


But every now and then...

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!"



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.

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



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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