

Assurance of Salvation
Part 10

Knowing the time of your
"conversion experience"



Assurance of Salvation
(Make sure while you can!)

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)

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:
Knowing the **TIME** of your "conversion experience"

ALSO:
"Anything else" we haven't mentioned, but which fits in the category.

There are lots of "events" you can remember or keep record of.

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- "Walking down the aisle"
- Praying "the prayer"
- A sudden "feeling of enlightenment"
- Something your parents did (while you were a baby)
- Etc.

But is there any guaranteed relationship between these and your salvation?



You can have a special certificate to "prove" it.

(Or you can write it in the front of your Bible.)

But what does a piece of paper really prove?



Consider what the Bible says about this issue.

- In both Old and New Testaments, the Jews tended to think they were in **God's favor**. They had rites and rituals they could point to as "proof" – and they could tell you the time and day these things happened.
- Yet over and over again, we read about **God's judgment** on them, because they weren't genuine followers of God!

Consider also the very things we see in a typical church.

- We see people who give testimonies about what they claim is a "life-changing" experience. They can tell you the **time and place** where it happened.
- The next thing we know, they are **gone**. And they're **wallowing deeper in sin** than they ever were before.



ON THE OTHER HAND...

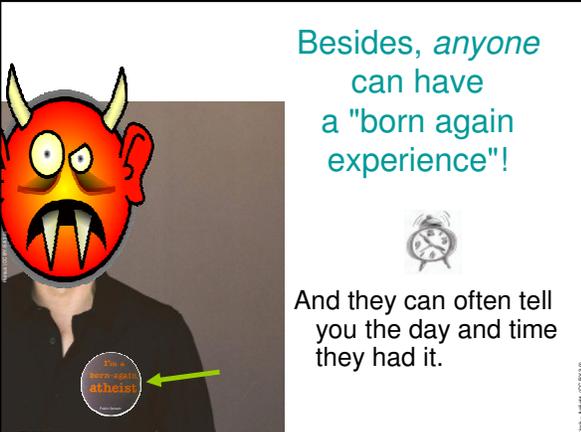
What about those who **DON'T** know the time and day it happened?

- Does this **prove** they are lost? [No]
- Does **not** knowing it matter? [Hint: Read the clock!]

[God often begins to work in a person's life **BEFORE** the person is aware of it.]



Besides, **anyone** can have a "born again experience"!



And they can often tell you the day and time they had it.

Knowing the time: Conclusion?

Do you know the **date and time** of your "conversion experience"?

- If **YES** – It doesn't guarantee that you're saved.
- If **NO** – By itself, it doesn't mean there is a reason to worry!



FINALLY!!

"ANYTHING ELSE"

that might be in the "no proof" category

- Other things that prove *nothing* may exist...
- If you **keep your focus on the Bible**,
 - you will recognize them,
 - and you won't be sidetracked by them.

Just one example: **The ability to do miracles**

Matthew 7:22-23 (NIV)

Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, **you evildoers!**'

2 Thes. 2:9-10a (NIV)

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with **the work of Satan** displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.

MIRACLE-WORKING IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE PERSON IS SAVED!

Consider also this passage:

One day Jesus called together his twelve apostles and gave them power and authority to **cast out demons and to heal all diseases**. Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the coming of the Kingdom of God and to **heal the sick**.

(Luke 9:1-2 NLT)

————— Do you realize... —————

One of the "twelve" who was given this power to just happened to be ... **Judas Iscariot**.



CONCLUSION

(to this entire section)



Don't cling to *any* of these "no proof" things as evidence of salvation!

- Not proof for yourself.
- Not proof for others.

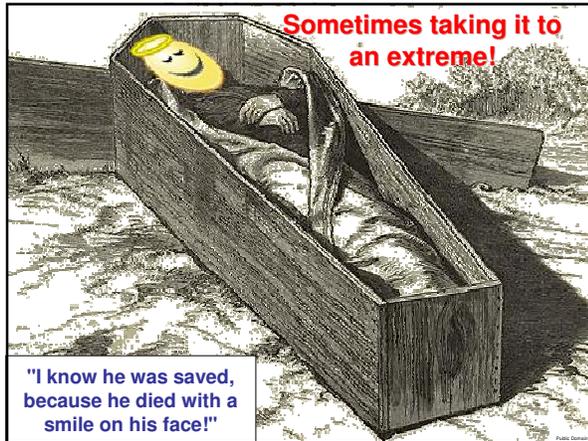


TWO WRONG RESPONSES TO ALL THIS

- Wanting to "make-believe" that people are saved (when no evidence exists).
- Not wanting to hear the truth.

A Wrong Response (#1):

- People *desperately* want to believe that their family and friends are saved.
- When no GENUINE evidence of salvation is present, they tend to grasp at *any* "hope" they can find – including things that prove *nothing*.



A Wrong Response (#2):

- People *don't want to know*. When they are shown Scripture, they get offended and say things like, "Don't judge me!"
- Yet what good will it be ...
 - If we don't point out the truth
 - If we choose to remain silent
 - If we refuse to obey God in this matter...

What good will it be ...

...when they are cast into the lake of fire?

- What excuse will you make then?
- Are you going to say, "At least I didn't hurt their feelings!"



YOUR MISSION...

- We have completed this part of our "journey" to assurance of salvation!
- *Remember the nature of these things*, and you won't be sidetracked by them.
- Even when they are a necessary part of living for Jesus, they are not the proof that we actually are living for him!

YOUR MISSION...

- Pray for us as a group,
 - that God will prepare us for what will come next, in:

"Part 3 - Actions that prove we are saved."



If these lessons have left you concerned about your salvation...

- **Start reading** the Bible (or learning it in some other way), to find out what God says about your situation. **& Accept** what it says.
- **Pray** that God will work in you, to accomplish anything that is necessary.
- **Commit** the final results into God's hands; for he is faithful and can be trusted.



