

Assurance of Salvation
Part 122

APPLICATION

THE EVIDENCE.

If it's there, it's visible.

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!

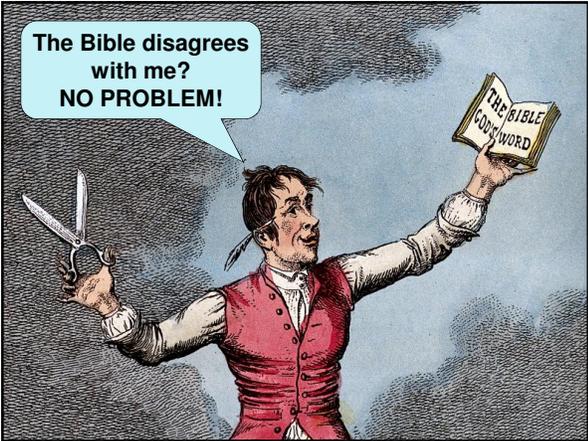
2 Corinthians 13:5, (ESV)

★ If we fail the test, what are we going to do about it? ★

THE ISSUE:

Are we going to be **honest** or a **liar**?

- Are we going to **admit the truth**, even if we don't like what it says?
 - We might end up changing our ways!
- Are we going to **"adjust" God's word**, so that it agrees with what we want to believe?
 - We won't be willing to change our ways.



★ Our final focus: Our responsibility toward others. ★

Our need to warn and encourage both saved and unsaved people.

If we love God and neighbor, we will be concerned ...

- Not just about our own salvation and growth.
- But also about the salvation and growth of other people.

Love for God and neighbor requires us to warn and encourage others.

- **Silence** in this matter is sin!



If we choose to leave people unaware that they are unsaved, it's the same as saying, "I want you to go to hell!"



- **Speaking** can also be sin, if it is not done out of love for God and neighbor!

THE ISSUE:

Are we going to be **honest** or a **liar**?

- **Are we going to admit the truth**, even if we don't like what it says?
 - And then encourage others to follow Jesus?
- **Are we going to "adjust" God's word**, so that it agrees with what we want to believe?
 - And then silently let others perish?

We **CANNOT** obey Jesus unless we are willing to let unsaved people know that they need to be saved.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20a (NIV)

We also need to encourage saved people to grow in Christ.

We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming.

Hebrews 10:25 (GW)

But to do these things, we need to WORK TOGETHER!



We all have different gifts and abilities. We need to work together (and pray for each other) as a family.

For just as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members of each other. We have different gifts according to the grace that was given to us. [Examples:] ... prophecy, ... service, ... teaching, ... encouragement, ... giving, ... leading, ... showing mercy, ...

Romans 12:4-8 (ULB)

We have an obligation to love ALL people, saved and unsaved



Those who **AREN'T** saved.



Those with **NO EVIDENCE** either way.



Those who **ARE** saved.

- **Encouragement** for growth and things related to salvation.
- **Warnings** against sin and things that lead to death.



If there is evidence that someone is **NOT SAVED...**

- **DON'T** pretend, or lie about the truth!
 - They are in danger of perishing!
 - To pretend someone is saved is to HATE them.
- **DO** speak the truth in LOVE.
 - Not out of anger or dislike.
 - But because you want people to be saved!



If there is evidence that someone is **SAVED...**

- **DO** show love by admitting the truth!
- **DON'T** "exclude" someone simply because they haven't reached *your* "level of maturity"!
 - People grow at different rates.
 - You also are imperfect... though perhaps in different areas.



If there is **NO EVIDENCE** either way...

- **DON'T** tell them that there is evidence where there isn't!
 - You may be lying about their eternal destiny!
- **DO** encourage them to grow in Christ.
 - Their response will reveal what is in their heart.

When there is little evidence either way

- **YOU DO NOT KNOW if they are saved.**
They may even look "in-between" saved and unsaved.
 - A new follower of Jesus may be this way for a while.
 - Unsaved people may stay this way for a lifetime.

A "**maybe saved**" person may look good (for a while), but then refuse to grow.

A "**maybe not saved**" person may look bad (for a while), but then begin to grow.

Responses of an HONEST person
(someone who loves God and neighbor)

Type of PROOF	An HONEST person will say:
Proof they AREN'T saved.	"You <u>aren't</u> saved."
Proof of NOTHING.	Won't say either (Will encourage growth.)
Proof they ARE saved.	"You <u>are</u> saved."

Responses of a LIAR
(people-pleasers, etc.)

Type of PROOF	The typical response of A LIAR:
 Proof they AREN'T saved.	"You <u>are</u> saved." (Or may remain silent.)
 Proof of NOTHING .	May say EITHER ("You are / aren't saved")
 Proof they ARE saved.	"You <u>aren't</u> saved."

Responding to responses



When you warn and encourage others:

People will respond to your expression of love.

- **REPENTANT PEOPLE:**
They will love you for it.
- **UNREPENTANT PEOPLE:**
They will hate you for it.

DON'T BE SURPRISED if the world hates you!!

It hated Jesus!

Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.

1 John 3:13 (NIV)

INSTEAD, YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED IF THE WORLD LOVES YOU!

For a time is coming when **people will no longer listen** to right teaching. They will **follow their own desires** and will look for teachers who will tell them **whatever they want to hear**.

(2 Tim. 4:3 NLT)

When the world likes what you say:

- Their response –

"You're being positive, diverse, loving... !"

"You communicate things just the right way!"



Just what I wanted to hear!

- Jesus' response –

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

Luke 6:26 (NIV)

When the world doesn't like what you say:

- Their response –

"You're being negative, intolerant, hateful... !"

"You use the wrong communication techniques!"



Just plain shut up!

- They may claim that your words are "hateful," when in reality, silence would have been hateful.

**When they falsely accuse you,
you're in good company!**

- *Jesus'* response –

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for *in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

THE ISSUE:

Are we trying to *persuade* people who need to come to Christ, or *please* them by letting them remain unsaved?

As people who know what it means to fear the Lord, we try to **persuade** others.

2 Cor. 5:11a (GW)

If I were still trying to **please** people, I would not be Christ's servant.

Galatians 1:10b (GW)

★
**EXPECT
TO BE
JUDGED**
★

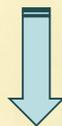
No matter what we say (or *don't* say), we will be judged.

- **THE WORLD** will judge us *falsely*.
- **GOD** will judge *based on truth*.
 - Did we speak the truth, because we care about people?
 - Did we: (1) downplay or ignore the truth, or (2) say it with corrupt intentions?

**YOUR MISSION:
FOR THE UNSAVED & FAKES**



- If you're unsaved or a fake (= an unsaved church-goer), we have a special mission for you!



Come to Jesus and learn his ways!

✦ **Don't remain trapped in the slavery of sin!** ✦

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

YOUR MISSION: FOR THOSE WHO LACK EVIDENCE



- If there is no actual evidence of salvation in your life, remember that you cannot FOLLOW Jesus by standing still!
- If you want to follow Jesus, prove it by your actions!

YOUR MISSION: FOR THOSE WHO ARE ACTUALLY FOLLOWING JESUS



- If you're a genuine follower of Jesus, take to heart this promise:

... God, who *began* the good work within you, will *continue* his work until it is finally *finished* on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.

Philip. 1:6 (NLT)

- **No matter what happens at the present time, your future is bright!**
– You will someday say, as Paul did:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day
--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Tim. 4:7-8 (NIV)

IN JESUS' KINGDOM,
ALL WIN!

IN GOD'S POWER,
WE MADE IT!!!

I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith

2 Tim. 4:7b (NIV)

Credits (1)

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