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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: **Can people know for sure if they are saved?**

Once I had a discussion with a very devout Muslim. He was upset because I made a connection between the Islam religion and terrorism. During our peaceful discussion with one another I asked this question: *"Suppose you go to Mecca on your pilgrimage. Are you worried about your safety? Are you worried that when you arrive there, a militant Islamic terrorist will try to kill you and those who believe in peaceful ways?"* Here is what my Muslim friend told me, *"If a terrorist kills me on my pilgrimage to Mecca, it would be the most wonderful thing that could ever happen to me."* I was shocked. I asked why this would be such a wonderful thing. His answer: *"According to Mohammed, if a person is killed on the way to Mecca, all the sins of his entire life are wiped out and the person is assured of going to heaven."*

You see, this Muslim does not know for sure if he's saved. He doesn't know if he died right now whether he would be lost in hell or saved in heaven. This was a sad commentary on the Islamic faith.

According to the Bible, it is possible for a Christian to know he is saved.

## **1 John 5:13**

<sup>13</sup> **These things I have written** to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Think carefully about what this is saying. The apostle John said he wrote his book in order that Christians may know they have eternal life. So ... according to this, it is truly possible for a Christian to know that when they die, they will be saved in heaven.

What more does the apostle John say about this?

## **1 John 2:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Only men who are Christians and “know” the Lord are assured of being saved in heaven. Notice carefully, the passages says: *If we say we know Him and do not keep His commandments, we are liars.* Those are very strong words.

Knowing the Lord means we not only know and believe the Lord is the Son of God, but it also means we obey what the Lord said.

### **Luke 6:46**

<sup>46</sup> "... why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

To be saved and to know we are saved, we must do the things which the Lord has commanded.

What are the commandments of the Lord in order to become a Christian to begin with?

- Believe that He is the Son of God (Jn 8:24).
- Repent of sins (Lk 13:3).
- Confess verbally with our mouth (Rom 10:10).
- Baptized in water for remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

### **Acts 2:41-42**

<sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. <sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Notice these sinners not only were baptized as the Lord commanded, but they “*continued in the apostles’ doctrine.*” These people could know for certain they were saved.

### **2 Peter 1:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to **make your call and election sure**, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

This passage gives a list of eight things which Christians must do after they are baptized. If they do these things, according to v8, they will not fall away. According to v9, if Christians do not continue in these things, they will indeed fall away and be lost. Verse 10 encourages all Christians to “*make their call and election sure.*” Christians make their salvation sure by doing these very things Peter wrote about. When someone becomes a true Christian by obeying the gospel as we outlined earlier and when that person continues in the teachings of the apostles – growing day by day in the grace and knowledge of the Lord – that person can know for certain he is saved.

I am thankful to be a Christian. I am thankful I do not have to wish some terrorist would kill me on a pilgrimage to Mecca so I could know for certain I would be saved. I thank the Father of heaven and earth for sending His only begotten Son to die on the cross to save all sinners who would submit to the gospel plan of salvation.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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