

Being *SURE* of the *FUTURE!*

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Being sure of our *future* encourages godly lives in the *present*. Knowing that the doctrine *Once Saved Always Saved* is not a right teaching, we may hesitate to think *We can Be Sure of Heaven*, but the Bible says we *can* know by believing and trusting God. ¹ John 5:13 “*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*”

If we *believe* on the name of Jesus, place our *trust* on His Atonement sacrifice for sins we have committed, and we *remain* in that position of faith in God, Scripture says that we can be *sure* of our future destination.

Three times in the Gospels someone wanted to be *sure* of Heaven and asked Jesus how they could be certain. One was told Luke 10:26 “*What is written in the law? how readest thou? 27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*”

²⁸ “*And [Jesus] said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.*” He could be *sure* of Heaven—if he heeds “*This do*” and continues to do so until Jesus returns.

The second man asked Luke 18:18 “*Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*” After testing the man on knowing who he was speaking with, the Master said ²⁰ *Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.* ²¹ *And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.*”

A third man knelt before Jesus—asking Mark 10:17 “*Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*” Jesus tested him also and saying only *God is good*—then adding Mark 10:19 “*Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud [deceive, cheat] not, Honour thy father and mother.*”

This man had also observed these from his youth. Jesus, of course, *loved* him and *told* him how to be *sure* of Heaven—giving instruction on financial trust. Mark 10:21 “*One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*”

Knowing the commandments and being *will-ing* to follow them as God gives the ability, has us being *sure* of Heaven. Exodus 20:3 “*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.* ⁴ *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*”

We need to ask God every day to protect us from idols and from anything becoming too important to us—something we place ahead of God. We must always reverence God’s Name Exodus 20:7, and to keep the Sabbath a day when we give our attention to reading Scripture, attending services, and spending time with God.

Everyone must obey Exodus 20:13 “*Thou shalt not kill,*” but Jesus said being angry without a cause is akin to murder. God checks us *inside* as well as *outside*. These instructions are for godly living.

Exodus 20:14 “*Thou shalt not commit adultery,*” is a commandment that is often broken since Satan takes advantage of today’s culture and social media ads to tempt people—giving easy access to images and things that would cause one to *commit* that sin. Such temptations are used by the devil to defile the conscience of millions worldwide. Jesus said: passively *looking* is the same as actively *committing* Matthew 5:28.

It is required that we be *honest* at all times and in all situations—Exodus 20:15 “*Thou shalt not steal.*” This would mean not taking *anything* that belongs to someone else; it means not even taking a small item to a diamond ring if we have not paid for them. It means not stealing an answer when taking a test nor putting false amounts on tax returns.

Exodus 20:16 “*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor,*” means never making a false statement or never telling a lie about anything or anyone—no matter *who* it involves or how *minor* it seems. God calls us to be *truthful* and *honest* concerning everything—and there is no such thing as a *white lie*—God says *No* to all lying—any untruth is wrong!

We can be sure that Heaven is *not* in our future, if we are not *willing* to be honest and truthful in everything and with everyone. We should have Jesus’ answer as a refrigerator magnet Luke 18:20 “*Thou knowest the commandments*”—and an important one is Exodus 20:16 “*Thou shalt not bear false witness.*” God takes lying seriously—we have too also.

It says Revelation 21:8 “*The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*”

The 10th Commandment on coveting is often broken as well. Exodus 20:17 “*Thou shalt not covet thy*

neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife—nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." Coveting is a *strong* and *wrong* desire for something that belongs to another.

These Commandments remind us how often we do not measure up to God's standard of righteousness—and how we must put our trust, our faith, and our full dependence on the divine power of God for *His* righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

We ask God daily for divine wisdom concerning everyday attitudes and our many responses to everyday situations. We cannot depend on our own intellect to know if we are in His will or not, because Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Only a believing and trusting faith on the Atonement Blood of Christ makes us righteous before God.

God does *not* grade on a curve, because His standard is *perfection*—and *that perfection* can only be when our total trust is on the *perfect* sacrifice of His dear Son. James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

No one is good enough to enter Heaven in their own righteousness, but only 2 Corinthians 5:21 "That we might be made the righteousness of God in him"—when our trust is on Him for all things. Isaiah 64:6 "We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Also, Isaiah 59:2 "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

It is not the fact that we attend church; give to the poor; take care of our finances correctly; do our work honestly and help anyone who needs help. Such things we *should* do, but they do not *make* us righteous. Luke 17:10 "So you also, when you

have obeyed all the orders given you, must say, 'There is no merit in our service: what we have done is only what we were in duty bound to do.'"

Every day is another *opportunity* to ask God to give us an open mind and a willing heart to make changes when shown anything that is outside of His will. We are warned Hebrews 3:12 "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort [encourage] one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

Sin has always been the issue but *God* provides a remedy—if we will *accept* His plan and *follow* it in faith. Hebrews 3:14 "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end." Sin appears to *please*, but sin really *deceives* and *destroys*. Sin looks like a *bargain*, but it will *bankrupt* the sinner.

We must consider our sins as King David considered his—Psalm 51:1 "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."

All sin is against *God* who gave us life. Psalm 51:4 "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight." 7 "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

When we realize how unclean and impure we are before a holy and pure God, then we start to appreciate what He has *done* for us by sending His Son Jesus to make *Atonement* for us. God does not grade on a curve—we are either wheat or tare; clean or unclean; righteous or unrighteous—but we *can* be clean and we *can* be righteous by a believing *faith* in Jesus.

The prophet Isaiah said Matthew 4:16 "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." We can be sure of the future when we follow the instructions of the Lord—and He says to *Repent!*

Repentance is when we are inwardly humbled and outwardly reformed. Admitting our sin; hating our sin; confessing our sin; and turning *from* sin is what repentance is all about. We are *not* comparing ourselves to others; but comparing ourselves to a *perfect* and *holy* God who says Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Admitting our sin and wrong attitudes is first. Isaiah 55:7 "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

If we want a *different life* and a *new attitude*, then Jesus must be ruler of our life and controller of our attitude—only *He* can really bring change, when we decide to trust Him *for* that change. Jesus is the only One who has the *solution* for the sin problem we inherited from Adam.

The apostle Paul, speaks to us today, Acts 20:21 "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." If we will do that—we *can* Be Sure of the Future!



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