

Text: 1 John 5:9-15 NAU (New American Standard, 1995 Version)

Assurance of Heaven

From God's Word

1 John 5:9-15

Learn & Benefit

Saturday, 5/15 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/16 at 9:00

Seventh Sunday of Easter – 2021

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: **HEAVEN...** Doesn't that sound nice?... And where do we want to go when we die? Yes, *heaven!* **However,** ☹️ we know we have sinned in the past **and** ☹️ we know we continue to sin every day. **So,** most people **wish** for heaven *but are **not certain** of heaven.*

In this sermon we will ➡️ gain assurance about who Jesus is, ➡️ learn how we are equipped to testify about Jesus to others, and ➡️ become sure of heaven – *for all who **know Jesus!***

1. **God Has Identified His Son:** ⁹ **If we receive the testimony of men [information given in proof of something], the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that **He has testified concerning His Son.**** // On the topic of testimony, *some witnesses tell the truth, and some do not,* BUT GOD IS RADICALLY DIFFERENT! He is holy, *so He always tells the truth!* On these occasions God testified about His Son:

- a. Jesus' baptism: ^{NAU} **Matthew 3:17 ... "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."**
- b. Jesus' transfiguration: ^{NAU} **Matthew 17:5 ... "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"**

2. **Believers are Equipped to Testify:** ¹⁰ The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

- a. He who does believe:
 - i. As I said in last week's sermon, when we believe, or *have FAITH*, ☞we **know** something about the Bible, ☞we **agree** it is true, and ☞we **trust** in Jesus as our Savior. Therefore, *we have the testimony within ourselves*; that means *we have what is needed to help others know the truth about sin and salvation*.
 - ii. Even more, *we can speak with **certainty** and **personal conviction***: ☞Yes, God created; ☞yes, all have sinned; ☞yes, Jesus took away the sin of the world; ☞yes, God is calling everyone to repent; and ☞yes, those who *by the Spirit* repent (**S-H-H-S-J**, see the 5/13 sermon) are forgiven!
- b. He who does not believe: Calling God a liar is a shocking statement, *but that is exactly what a person is doing when he does not believe God's Word!* **Therefore**, *for all who are not believing any part of God's Word at this very moment, REPENT – for your eternal good*, rather than continuing to call down God's eternal punishment upon yourself.

3. **John Identifies the Benefit of Having God's Son:** ¹¹ **And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.**
- When most people think about living forever, *or going to heaven*, they have that desire, yet they know they have done wrong, and wonder if God will welcome them in. Have you ever thought that way?
 - Now, notice the text: What is the testimony of God? He has given us eternal life **"in His Son."** What does that mean? Eternal life is NOT based on our goodness, *but on the sinless life and the sacrificial death of Jesus!*
4. **Having God's Son Makes ALL the Difference:** ¹² **He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.**
- Who will enter heaven? **All who continue in Christ to the end!** For all such people, *the Holy Spirit is working repentance within them: S---H---H---S---J*; repentance is not a one-time thing, *but the Spirit's ongoing work!*
 - Who will NOT enter heaven? **All who continue without repentance!** For all such people, they are resisting the work of the Holy Spirit **and so** have *one or more* of the following problems:
 - They are **not aware** of their sins.
 - They are **not aware** they deserve hell.
 - They are **not aware** they are helpless.
 - They are **not sorry** for their sins.
 - They are **not trusting** in Jesus alone for forgiveness.

5. **Being Sure that We have Eternal Life:** ¹³ **These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.** // John wrote to those who *believe in Jesus for eternal life.* Where is **your** confidence for heaven: In yourself or **100% in Jesus**? If you said, **100% in Jesus**, then God wants you to **KNOW** you have eternal life! Keep these in mind:
- Regarding your sins: *Jesus paid your FULL penalty!*
 - Regarding heaven: *It is God's GIFT through Jesus!*
6. **Praying Rightly and Confidently:** ¹⁴ **This is the confidence which we have before [God], that, if we ask anything according to His will [which is spelled out in His Word], He hears us.** ¹⁵ **And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.** // In other words, let us **know** God's Word, **pray** God's Word, and **be confident** that God hears and will grant our requests with His timing.

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – He who has Jesus *has eternal life!*
- **Relevance** – For all of us, *within whom the HS is continuing to work repentance*, heaven is open!
- **Inspiration** – We have the saving truth, *so let us testify!*

Let Us Pray: Dear HS, please **keep** working repentance within us and **move** us to testify about Jesus to others!