

Oct. 27, 1013

The Confident Christian Psalm 19, Rom. 1:16-20, I John 5

All Stand and Read Scripture

Romans 1:16-21

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed [a]from faith to faith; as it is written, “[b]BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

Unbelief and Its Consequences

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth [c]in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident [d]within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not [e]honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

Last week Joe came forward to be baptized due to uncertainty of his first baptism. This prompted me to consider, **“How can we have confidence of our Christianity?”**

Have you ever thought to yourself or expressed, **“Is God Real, or is He just another Easter Bunny or Santa Clause?”** How can we have the faith and confidence that He is God the Creator?

Have you ever thought to yourself or expressed, **“I Hope I’m Saved”**. How can we have the confidence that we are saved?

ILLUSTRATION:

We are constantly facing uncertainty during our lifetime on earth. There are many things we do not know.

Uncertain of our Health.

Health Insurance.

Life Insurance.

Wills

Uncertain of the Weather.

Harvest

Ball Games

Mowing Yard

Picnics

Uncertain of the Economy.

Stocks or Bonds?

Buy a House or Rent?

New or Used?

Buy Now or Wait?

Jar Doctor Supplies

Uncertain of Security.

Security Systems

Door Locks

Safes

ILLUSTRATION:

Dad's Death.

Dad died on Wednesday, October 16th at 1:13 in the afternoon.

There was a peace that came with his death. Although I will miss him dearly, I knew that he was in the presence of God in all of his glory and he did not have to suffer any longer.

Considering his condition with Pulmonary Fibrosis, a disease that creates scar tissue on the lungs and hardens the lung walls, he passed with little suffering. He actually suffocated to death, but was not aware of it. I came in Wednesday morning and patted him on the shoulder and said, "Dad, this is Wayne, I am here", but he did not respond. I don't believe that he knew I was there that day. My mom and I watched as his vital

signs kept declining. His oxygen level was supposed to stay above 90. He was on full oxygen, it kept dropping from the 70's down to the 20's, and finally was getting an oxygen reading of zero. He would suck up a small breath of air and bump it up for a short time. Eventually he went for a couple of minutes with the oxygen level at zero. We saw his heart rate drop way down and finally flat lined. He had passed on.

I felt a peace that could only be experienced as a Christian.

There had been so many prayers that dad would not suffer. I definitely felt the power of prayer during that time. I was able to spend many hours of quality time with dad during his final days. He was ready to go.

Thank you for your prayers and I thank God for his answer to all of the prayers.

At his funeral, I gave a small sermonette and sang "How Great Thou Art".

At the end of the sermonette, I said that if dad could look down and talk to us right now, this is what I believe he would say: "Working for God on earth is hard, but His retirement plan is out of this world"!

So where did this confidence come from? How can we have the confidence to know that we are prepared to meet the Lord?

The scriptures tell us that we can be certain of the existence of God, that we are a Christian, and that by the grace of God, we will have an eternal life in the presence of God and all of His Glory.

BODY:

1. We Can See God through His Creation

First we need to KNOW that God is in control.

In Genesis 1 we know that God created all things and set everything in motion. The world would fall apart without God. WE are God's creation.

Colossians 1:16-17

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶ For ^[a]by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He ^[b]is before all things, and in Him all things ^[c]hold together.

How can we be certain that God was the creator? The scriptures tell us that if we examine God's creation, we will see His handiwork.

Psalm 19:1

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

19 The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

Romans 1:18-20

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth ^[a]in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident ^[b]within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

ILLUSTRATION:

Man, with all his knowledge and wisdom, cannot create a single seed that could be planted in the earth and have it grow into a living plant, tree, vine, or bush. Imagine how much more difficult it would be to create an embryo from fluids and have it grow to a living, breathing, intelligent animal or human.

It would take **much more faith** to believe that the beauty of our earth and all of the details of a leaf or a plant, or all of the varieties of birds and animals, or the beauty of the sunrise or sunset could happen accidentally at random, than the **faith** to believe that it was created by God.

John wrote I John 5 so we could Know that we are a saved Christian.

1 John 5: 13

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

This Is Written That You May Know

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.

2. We Can Know that We are Christian or a “Child of God”.

1 John 5:1-5

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵ Whoever believes that Jesus is the ^[a]Christ is ^[b]born of God, and whoever loves the ^[c]Father loves the *child* ^[d]born of Him. ² By this we **know** that we love the children of God, when we love God and ^[e]observe His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is ^[f]born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

3. We Can Know that We have Eternal Life with God”.

Note that everyone will have an eternal life. Only the Christian or “Child of God” will have a quality eternal life.

Doesn't confidence in our eternal salvation sound a little arrogant?

Consider that **true arrogance** would be to say that the Word is incorrect.

1 John 5:10-13

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

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. ¹¹ And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

This Is Written That You May Know

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.

4. We Know that God will Answer a Christians Prayer.

1 John 5:14-15

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁴ This is the confidence which we have ^[a]before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, 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.

5. We Know that a Christian does not Continue Sinning.

1 John 5:18-19

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸ We know that no one who is ^[a]born of God sins; but He who was ^[b]born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. ¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

6. We Know that God is in Control.

1 John 5:18-19 (Again)

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸ We know that no one who is [a]born of God sins; but He who was [b]born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. ¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

7. We Know that Our Salvation is Through Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:20

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT:

KNOW THAT:

We Can See God through His Creation

We Can Know that We are Christian or a “Child of God”.

We Know that God is in Control.

We Know that a Christian does not Continue Sinning.

We Know that God will Answer a Christians Prayer.

We Know that Our Salvation is Through Jesus Christ.

We Can Know that We have Eternal Life with God”.

ILLUSTRATION:

Is Christianity a reality in your life, or just a concept?

If we could video your life and hear all of your thoughts.

Would we witness a constant attention to God in everything that you do?

Would we see you in prayer?

Would we see you reading the Bible to gain knowledge and faith?

OR...Would we see lust of the eyes or lust of possessions or worldly passions?

Heaven and earth is passing away. Life is but a vapor.

If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in Him.

What does your heart long for?

Do you long for the time when Christ will come again?

Do you long for the time that you will be in the presence and glory of God?

Are you allowing Christ to be Lord of your life?

These are the signs that can give us the confidence to KNOW that we are a Child of God and will have an Eternal Life with God.

Romans 1:16-17

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed ^[a]from faith to faith; as it is written, “^[b]BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

He is Lord, He is Lord.

He has risen from the dead and He is Lord.

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,

That Jesus Christ is Lord.