

ASSURANCE

I John 3:18-24

Introduction:

- A. Assurance or confidence.
 - 1. In this day as well as in John's day we need an assurance or confidence in our God.
 - 2. Remember that John wrote this epistle that "Ye may know."

I . ASSURANCE OF OUR SALVATION

I John 3:19

"And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him."

- A. Look again at verse 18. We see that John is talking about love of brother.
 - 1. It is not a passive love.
 - 2. Over and over John says if you want assurance of your salvation check your attitude toward fellow Christian and God.
- B. The fact that we know we have passed from death unto life gives us an assurance before God.
 - 1. We would not be so bold in prayer if we were not sure of our salvation.
 - 2. We would not be so bold in our witnessing.
 - a. "And when they saw the boldness of Peter and John."
 - b. Boldness of Paul.
 - c. Boldness of Abraham.

II . ASSURANCE OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE (HEART) .

I John 3:20-21

"For if the heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things, Behold, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God."

A. Who can say his heart has never condemned him.

1. John 8:9

"And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one beginning at the eldest, even unto the last; and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst."

2. Our hearts or conscience condemns us day by day.

a. Things we should have done we leave undone.

b. The word we should have spoken we leave unsaid and say the things we shouldn't.

c. We neglect service to God.

B. "But God is greater than our hearts, and knoweth all things."

1. Some interpret this passage in that if our hearts condemn us then how great shall be the condemnation of God.

2. The greatness of God is not so much in his condemnation of sin as in his mercy in saving us from them. Son of God come not to condemn for we were condemned already.

3. God seeing and knowing all about us, yet loves enough to forgive.

4. What John is saying is that since God forgives and forgets we can stand boldly in his presence.

a. Of course repentance is involved here.

III. ASSURANCE OF ANSWERED PRAYER

I John 3:22

"And whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

- A. We come boldly to the throne of grace when our hearts are not condemning us for our failure to do the things God would have us to do.
 - 1. A clear conscience is found in keeping his commandments and doing those things pleasing in his sight.

- B. The commandment.
 - 1. I John 3:23
 - "And this is his commandment. That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."
 - 1. Believe on Christ.
 - 2. Love our neighbor as ourselves.
 - 3. This brings a clear conscience.

IV. ASSURANCE THAT HE ABIDES IN US

I John 3:24

"And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

- A. He that does the commandments of God lovingly and willingly has the assurance that God indwells.
 - 1. We cannot love God if we do not know him.
 - 2. We either love or hate, for or against.

- B. He that is born again has the assurance of indwelling Spirit.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit beareth witness with out spirit.
 - 2. Only by the Spirit of God we are born anew and only by His Spirit that we are able to love our fellow man.

- C. Do you have assurance before God?
 - You can have it tonight.

