A TRINFINITY MINI BOOK

Knowing Where I Stand with God

Assurance, identity, and the hope of heaven

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Introduction

Many people hope they will go to heaven, but few are sure. Some think it would be proud to say they know. Others are afraid that one bad day could undo everything. I want to look at what the Bible actually says, because God does not leave His children guessing about where they stand.

Assurance does not rest on how good I have been. It rests on who Jesus is and what He has done. When I keep my eyes on Him, I can know that I belong to God, and I can learn to see myself the way He sees me.

1 Receiving Christ for who He is

John 1:12 (NASB) says that as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God. Receiving Christ is more than raising a hand or joining a church. It means receiving Him for who He really is.

John's Gospel opens by saying the Word was with God and the Word was God, and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1, 14, NASB). Jesus is not just a good teacher or one prophet among many. He is God the Son who became a man.

Receiving Christ also means receiving Him for what He did. First Timothy 1:15 (NASB) says Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He did not come only to set an example. He came to die in our place and pay for our sins. Today He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He is the one mediator between God and people (1 Timothy 2:5, NASB). No priest, pastor, or saint stands in that place. Only Jesus does.

2 God wants me to know

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.

1 John 5:13 (NASB)

First John 5:13 (NASB) tells us why John wrote his letter. He wanted believers to know, not merely hope, that they have eternal life. Just before that, he wrote that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life (1 John 5:11-12, NASB).

That is why assurance is not pride. If I were trusting my own good works, it would be foolish to say I was sure of heaven. But I am trusting Jesus and His promise. Jesus said, the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out (John 6:37, NASB).

People who depend on their church, their good deeds, or their religious rituals often live with doubt, because they can never be sure they have done enough. The answer is to stop looking at myself and look at Christ. My feelings change from day to day. His Word does not.

3 Who I am in Christ

When I trust Christ, God gives me a new identity. The world will hand me plenty of labels, some fair and some not. Some come from my achievements and some come from my failures. None of them get the final word about who I am. God does.

Scripture tells me I am accepted. I am God's child (John 1:12, NASB). I have been justified (Romans 5:1, NASB). I have been bought with a price, and I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NASB). I am a member of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:27, NASB).

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1 (NASB)

Scripture also tells me I am secure. Romans 8:1 (NASB) says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him (Romans 8:28, NASB). Nothing in all creation can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39, NASB). And I can be confident that He who began a good work in me will perfect it (Philippians 1:6, NASB).

4 Heaven is a real place

Jesus told His disciples, I go to prepare a place for you (John 14:2, NASB). Heaven is not a vague idea or a cloud where we float forever. It is a real place prepared by a real Savior. After His resurrection, Jesus had a real body. His disciples touched Him and watched Him eat (Luke 24:39-43, NASB).

Salvation is not something I receive after I die. It is received here and now, while I am alive. Jesus said, he who believes has eternal life (John

6:47, NASB). When the criminal on the cross next to Jesus put his faith in Him, Jesus told him, today you shall be with Me in Paradise (Luke 23:43, NASB).

Believers will stand before Christ and give an account of how they lived, and rewards will differ (2 Corinthians 5:10, NASB). But the question of where I will spend eternity is settled when I trust Christ. That truth does not make me careless. It makes me grateful, and gratitude makes me want to live for Him.

5 Living from assurance

Some believers worry that they can lose their salvation. Others argue that once saved means always saved. Sincere Christians have studied this question for centuries and landed in different places. What I can say plainly is that Jesus said His sheep hear His voice and follow Him, and no one will snatch them out of His hand (John 10:27-28, NASB).

The best evidence that I belong to Christ is not a past moment I can point to. It is a present trust in Him that shows up in how I live. John wrote that we know we have come to know Him if we keep His commandments (1 John 2:3, NASB). Obedience does not earn my place in God's family. It shows that I am already in it.

If you are not sure where you stand with God, do not wait. Turn to Jesus with a repentant heart and trust Him to save you now. Then find a Bible teaching church, be baptized, and start reading God's Word every day. The First Letter of John and the Gospel of John are good places to begin.

Knowing Where I Stand with God

Can I really know I am going to heaven? This book looks at what the Bible says about assurance, who Jesus is, the new identity God gives His children, the reality of heaven, and how to live from that security instead of fear.

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.

1 John 5:13 (NASB)

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