

## The Proof

I received a letter from a minister asking how I could “prove” a child of God is not a sinner and does not continue in sin. Upon consideration, I realized that this is actually the only view of salvation that can be proven, both by scripture and by experience. We live in a day that many are teaching that our sins are forgiven “past, present, and future,” even before we commit them, but how do you prove that it is so? Jesus said it is easy to tell someone their sins are forgiven, Mark 2:9 but how would we prove such a thing? Or, how would we prove that Jesus has “taken the penalty” for our sins, or that He has “paid our sin debt?” These views of salvation can never be proven in the lifetime of those who believe them, and it will be too late to change their mind and believe the truth when they stand before God. On the other hand, the gospel the apostles preached is proven both by the scriptures and in the life, heart, and experience of those who believe the truth.

The apostle John wrote many things in his first epistle in order that we could know who are the children of God and who are the children of the wicked one. He wrote as though his words were common knowledge to the believers of his day. For those who do not believe the word of the apostles, what possible proof is there? Is there a greater “proof” than the scriptures? Peter heard a voice from heaven say of Jesus, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 17:4-5 What greater proof can there be than a “voice from heaven?” Why then did Peter speak of a “more sure word of prophecy,” II Peter 1:19 referring to the scriptures of the prophets who “testified of Jesus?” John 5:39 Peter accepted the “prophecy of the scripture” as greater proof of who Jesus is above what he experienced on the mount of transfiguration. I spent years arguing against the scriptures shown above, trying to make them fit “my experience” until the Spirit of God sharply rebuked me saying, “Stop making excuses for what my word says.” I said, “I know by experience that the children of God do sin,” to which God answered, “You know nothing by experience; you only know by my word.” I found that if “my experience” contradicted the scripture, my experience was a “lie,” but the scriptures were true. I soon came to the place that I could tell God, “I do not understand it, my experience denies it, but I will believe it because your word says it.” Only then could understanding of the scriptures come to me. The person who waits to understand before they believe the scriptures will never understand, and they will never be free.

“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness (evidence) in himself...” IJohn 5:10

and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us.” IJohn 1:2 The apostles saw “eternal life” manifested in Jesus Christ, and that same “eternal life” could be seen in the apostles, hence the saying, “we ...show unto you that eternal

“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...” IJohn 3:5-6 “He that committeth sin is of the devil...” IJohn 3:8 “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin...” IJohn 3:9 “In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil...” IJohn 3:10

The “proof” that a person believes on the Son of God is the “eternal life” which is in them. The apostle John tells us “eternal life” can be seen in those who possess it. “For the life was manifested,

life.” A person may say, “I know that I am saved because I believe!” Do you “believe” a child of God is still a sinner? Or do you believe Christ was “manifested to take away our sins?” It does make a difference what you believe. The “proof” of a believer is “evidence” that the world can see in the believer. I am not speaking about “human perfection;” God deliver us from those who think they are “perfect.” I do understand, however, that Christ has “...by one offering, perfected forever them that are sanctified.” Hebrews 10:14 “Strong’s Greek Dictionary” defines “sanctified” as “made holy.” Sin has been taken out of the hearts of those who are sanctified. This is what God calls “perfected.” Their hearts have been “purified by faith.” Acts 15:8-9 They “believe the truth” and “the truth has made them free” John 8:31-36 from the sin that held them in bondage.

“...he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.” IJohn 5:10

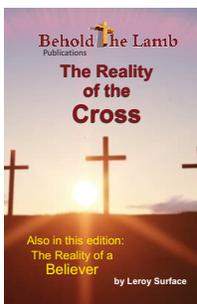
God does not wait until after a thing has happened to tell us what has happened. He tells us of the end from the beginning. Isaiah 46:10 Who can read either the 22nd Psalm or the 53rd chapter of

Isaiah and not clearly see the sufferings and death of Jesus on the cross. God gave the record of His Son hundreds of years before Jesus was born to Mary. Why He suffered and died on the cross cannot be left to speculation. God gave us that record also. Over five hundred years before the event, God sent the angel Gabriel to Daniel to tell the prophet of the coming of Christ (the messiah). He told Daniel of a four hundred and ninety year period of time, and pinpointed the very year Christ would come in His ministry, which would be only seven years before the end of the prophetic period. God said Christ would come “to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity,” and to “bring in everlasting righteousness.” Daniel 9:24 This is “the record that God gave of His Son.” Those who believe Christ accomplished through His death on the cross exactly what God said He would do, enter into rest and the “glorious liberty of the children of God.” Romans 8:21 Those who refuse to believe the record God gave have “made God a liar” and will never be free. That is the choice that is set before us.

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