

## HOW CAN I KNOW?

Dear Friend,

Research has consistently shown for many years that 80-95% of Americans believe in God. The number is considerably smaller and continues to decline regarding those who identify themselves as a Christian (65%). To be very specific the number who identify themselves as "born-again" Christians is around 24% (Pew Research). About the same percentage of people go to church weekly. Of those who identify as Christian it is not unusual to hear them ask the question: "How can I know I'm saved?" In I John 5:11-18 we find three assurances of being a Christian.

I John 5:11-12 answers the question: "How can I know I'm saved". I call it the assurance of salvation verse. v. 11 starts with: "And this is the testimony, God has given us eternal life". By using the word testimony John is saying: "This is the truth...". Who gives eternal life? God. Who has eternal life? v.12, "He who has the Son". John is not lying and God is not lying. I John 5:11-12 is the assurance (and benefit) of eternal life!

I John 5:14-15 is an assurance of answered prayer benefit. Once we have established a relationship with God (v. 11-12), we have a direct line to God for prayer. There are 3 prerequisites to answered prayer: (v.14) we ask according to His will, (v.15) we ask in confidence, and we pray for others (v.16). Assurance of answered prayer is a second benefit of the Christian life.

I John 5:18-19 is an assurance of protection benefit. Protection from what? First, protection from Satan. Jesus guards the child of God. Nothing can happen to you that God does not allow. Second, protection: God won't let Satan tempt you beyond what you can bear. God protects you from the controlling power of sin. Before one becomes a Christian he or she can only fight against sin in the flesh. After becoming a Christian person can fight against sin in the power of the Holy Spirit! I pray you use that power every hour!.

In Christ's Love,  
*Pastor Mike*

Prayer: Baby: Beckett Shippy (In hospital fever/testing), Rose Farber (fractured vertebrae), Rev. Bob Gentzel (fractured vertebrae)

Events: No potluck this Sunday, taking the summer off!