

3-27-2022 主日信息:

得救的確據(下)

約翰一書 5:11-13 哥林多後書 13:5

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3-27-2022 Sunday Message Assurance of Salvation (2) 1 John 5:11-13 2 Corinthians 13:5 Preacher: Elder David Lee Interpreter: Sister Fangyan Liu

Assurance of Salvation (2) 得救的 確 據 (下) 1 John 构壹 5:11-13 察驗 2 Cor. 林筱 13:5 Examine Yourself 自口

Maryland Gospel Church 馬利蘭福音教會 3-27-22

Saved ?

los

Foreword



Today's sermon is a continuation on the subject of [Assurance of Salvation].

- This subject is very important because it pertains to our eternal destiny.
- This subject is also quite involved and cannot be covered in one sermon. So I divided the subject into two parts.
- My last sermon dealt with the first part which is security of our salvation (救恩的穩固). Namely, can salvation be lost?
- The first part has a lot to cover and it took me 1 ½ hours to preach that sermon with adequate details.
- I believe a sermon should be as long as it needs to cover a subject which cannot be broken up, but it should not be longer than is necessary.
- Today's sermon deals with the second part which answers the question how can a person know whether he / she has been saved.
- This sermon will not be as long as the last one.



No Assurance of Salvation 沒有得救的確據

- I know a brother who had been a Christian for over 50 years.
- He has served in various capacities in the church including teaching Sunday school and as chairman of the church's deacon board.
- But this brother has no assurance of his own salvation. He told people one cannot find out if he has been saved or not until after he dies.



For centuries, the question of assurance has sparked controversy in the church. Many churches have gone so far as to question whether assurance is even attainable.

At the Council of Trent (特利騰大公會議 1545-1563) in the 16th. century, the Roman Catholic Church denied that it is possible for a person to have assurance of salvation except in rare circumstances.

Assurance of Salvation 得 救 的 確 據

Surely, God doesn't want to leave his children who are saved in doubt of their salvation, wondering and worrying each day whether they are truly saved or not. He wants them to have peace, joy and assurance of salvation and He makes this clear in the Scripture.

"¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life**." (1 John 5:11-13)

"11 這見證、就是 神賜給我們永生、這永生也是在祂兒子裡面。
12 人有了神的兒子就有生命、沒有神的兒子就沒有生命。
13 我將這些話寫給你們信奉神兒子之名的人、要叫你們知道自 己有永生"(約翰一書 5:11-13)

We will come back to this scripture and this subject later. But let us first look at a very big problem many people have: false assumptions of salvation or self-deception.

False Assumption of Salvation 錯誤的救恩假設

Millions of Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and Christian Scientists think they are on their way to heaven but they are not. Satan has deceived them. Satan loves to make people think they are saved when they are not. Many people who go to church on Sunday are unsaved, but Satan fool them into believing that they are saved.

In the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25, we see ten virgins. Five of them are wise and five are foolish. All ten look indistinguishable on the outside, but the subtle difference between them lies in the inside.

All ten virgins were waiting for the bridegroom (Jesus) to return. The foolish ones didn't carry enough oil for their lamps. When they heard the bridegroom was coming and found out they didn't have enough oil for their lamps to greet the bridegroom, they rushed to buy oil.



False Assumption of Salvation 錯誤的救恩假設

Upon their return, the foolish virgins found out the bridegroom had gone into the wedding banquet with the wise virgins and "the door was shut."





They knocked on the door and said: **'Lord, lord**, open to us.', but the bridegroom answered, 'Truly, I say to you, **I do not know you**.'

What a shock to the foolish virgins when they heard the bridegroom said "I do not know you". They thought all along they knew the bridegroom well but the bridegroom said he didn't know them. How could this be?

False Assumption of Salvation 錯誤的救恩假設

In the Bible **oil** symbolize God's Holy Spirit. Romans 8:9 tells us "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ 人若沒有基督的靈、就不是屬基督的"

The foolish virgins represent those people without the indwelling Holy Spirit of God inside (沒有內住的聖靈).

I think the foolish virgins are called foolish not because they are stupid, but because they fooled themselves into believing they know the bridegroom and have a close relationship with him, but they don't.

Many people who go to church enjoy fellowship with people there and they like the programs. They may even participate in church ministries. But they don't have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Jesus said "Many will say to me on that day, **'Lord, Lord**, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, **'I never knew you**. Away from me, you evildoers! (Matthew 馬太福音 7:21-23) 當那日必有許多人對我說、主阿、主阿、我們不是奉你的名傳道、奉你的名趕 鬼、奉你的名行許多異能麼。我就明明的告訴他們說、我從來不認識你們、你 們這些作惡的人、離開我去罷。

The Key is Known by Jesus 國鍵是被耶穌認識 Known by Jesus means having an intimate relationship with Jesus with Jesus at 所認識是與主有個人的密切關係

The Bible use "know" to describe Adam's intimacy with Eve: "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain 亞當和他的妻子夏娃同房,夏娃就懷孕,生了該隱(創 Gen 4:1 also see Matthew 1:24,25 KJV;RSV; ESV).

Known by Jesus means owned by Jesus, hear His voice and following Him 被主所認識是被主所擁有、聽見祂聲音並跟隨祂

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me " 我是 好牧人.我認識我的羊、我的羊也認識我...我的羊聽我的聲音、 我也認識他們、他們也跟著我" (約 John 10)

Known by Jesus means loving Jesus 被主所認識是愛耶穌

"But if one loves God, one is known by Him." (林前1 Cor. 8:3) "如果有人愛神, 這人是神所認識的" (呂振中譯本)

What Causes Self-Deception in Salvation 什麼導致得救的自欺

So how could people arrive at a false sense of assurance in salvation ? Satan is the biggest deceiver and he plays tricks on people into believing they are saved through misunderstandings in three vital areas

舌 仕

- 1) Requirements for salvation. 救恩的要求
- 2) Regeneration.
- 3) Saving faith.

Let us examine these three areas one by one:

Requirements for Salvation 救恩的要求

A young, rich ruler who has kept all God's commandments since he was a boy came to ask Jesus one day, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18-27).

Similarly, Nicodemus, a respectable and pious religious leader, a Pharisee who adheres to every strict laws of God and man, inquired Jesus how he could get into the kingdom of God. He expected Jesus to tell him what he must do. (John 3:1-12).

People always think they have to do something in order to be saved. This is the fallacy of Arminianism / Finneyism. (阿民念主義 / 芬尼主義)

- Many people think they can "gain salvation" by **doing** things like :
- 1) Going forward in response to an altar call
- 2) Making a decision to receive Christ, saying a "sinner's prayer"
- 3) Joining a church
- 4) Participate in sacraments like baptism, communion, or attending worship services etc.
- 5) Doing "good works" like charity and church ministries.

All these are good things to do but they don't save people

The Bible tells us we are **saved by God's grace through faith** (Eph. 2: 8) Romans 4:4-5 tells us: When a man **works**, his wages are not credited to him as **grace**, but as an obligation. However, to the man who **does not work but trust**s God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. **作工**的得工價、不算**恩典**、乃是該得的、惟有**不作工**的、**只信**稱罪 人為義的神、他的信就算為義。

God's grace does not require us to do anything but just rely on His mercy and free gift alone. When we rely on any work for our salvation, we have deprived ourselves of God's grace which leads to salvation (Romans 6:23)

Salvation = Grace + Faith + Nothing Else 救恩 = 恩典+信心 不加上任何東西 The only things God requires people to do for salvation are repentance and faith, both of which are gifts from God and made possible through operations of the Holy Spirit. (John 約16:8; Ephesians 弗 2: 8)

Misconceptions in Regeneration 對重生的誤解

Regeneration is the starting point & an important step in salvation As I mentioned in my first sermon in this series, regeneration is a mystery. Regeneration is rarely preached, studied and often misunderstood. Most people don't know much about regeneration and that it is a prerequisite to faith. Regeneration is ignored by most people in the church. Once a young man told R.C. Sproul he wanted to be a Christian but he didn't want to be a "born again" Christian. Like many other people, he had no idea that he has to be born again to become a genuine Christian.

- The most common error in regeneration is "**Decisional Regeneration**"(決 志重生) which teaches that believers are regenerated because of decisions they made and actions they took. But the Bible teaches otherwise.
- Even a world famous evangelist made such a mistake when he wrote a book called "How to be Born Again"
- None of us were born into this world because we "made a decision" to be born. How can we make a decision even before we exist?
- It was our parents' decision to have a child that resulted in our births.
- And even our parents' desire to have children requires God's blessing for conception to take place.
- Many couples wanted to have children but ran into difficulties.
- Examples are Abram & Sara; Isaac & Rebecca; Jacob & Rachel etc..

Misconceptions in Regeneration 對重生的誤解

I am not going to repeat what I preached on regeneration in June last year. You may review that sermon on our church website. But let me refresh your memory with this key summary chart below:

Misconception 誤解	Biblical Truth 聖經真理
Born again means turning	It is the impartation of a divine life
over a new leaf in life	by God to a spiritually dead person
重生就是革面洗心,重新	重生是神將祂的生命輸入一個靈
造人	命死亡的人裏面
Regeneration is the result of my decision and action. 重生是出於我的決定和行 動	The Triune God did something to regenerate a person. The Father's will, the Son's Word and the Spirit's quickening. 三一的神同工 使人重生。是聖父的旨意、聖子 的聖言和聖靈的催生叫人活過來
Repentance and faith results	Regeneration precedes faith
in being born again.	and repentance.
悔改與相信導致重生	重生先於悔改和相信

Misconceptions in Regeneration 對重生的誤解

Damages caused by Arminianism & Finneyism are devastating. They fool people into believing they have been regenerated when they are not. There is not enough time for me to go into the details, but I will direct you to read the following articles. (they are very important because it is about your salvation):

<u>Decisional Regeneration</u>(決志重生)← Link

<u>What is Decisional Regeneration?</u>(什麼是決志重生) ← Link War On The Sinner's Prayer - Paul Washer ← Link 連結

堅決反對「現代的決志禱告」保羅華許牧師 (Paul Washer) 中文翻譯 ◆

Dr. / Rev. Martyn Lloyd Jones, the renowned powerful preacher in the last century said this : 我傳講的不是決志, 是重生 "I do not preach decisions, I preach regeneration"

> D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones 鐘馬田牧師

Saving Faith 得救的信心

Most people's faith in God is no more than an intellectual assent to some doctrines they heard. But as I pointed out in my 3rd sermon in this series, genuine saving faith involves our intellect, emotion as well as our will.



Without participation of the will which leads to action, faith is no different from demons' faith (James 2: 14, 19, 26)

Demons also believe that God exist, that Jesus is Son of God (Mk 3:11-12), that He is the judge (Mt 8:28-29) and God condemns evil (Lk 8:31)

Saving Faith 得救的信心

There are also three aspects of saving faith:

It is **intellectual** (it is not a blind faith) – the believer knows the gospel truth, understands it and is convinced by it.

It is **relational** - Christian faith involves more than knowing about God; it involves knowing God Himself in personal relationship. This is where the five foolish virgins misses. Relationship with God is born with (through regeneration- John 1:13,14), not by any other means

It is **fiducial (trust)**. There is a huge difference between **believe (信)** and **believe in (信靠)**. The former means believe something is true; whereas the latter means trust/ rely /depend on.

God tells us in the Bible to **believe in Jesus**, **not believe Jesus**. Saving faith requires us to **trust Jesus** for salvation, not relying on any other means.

During the years 1859-1860 Charles Blondin, a French tightrope walker made fame for crossing the 1,100 ft. Niagara Gorge on a tightrope.

Blondin did this 300 times with different variations: blindfolded, carry a person on his back & push a wheelbarrow with a man sitting on it.

This story shed light on the difference between believe and believe in a person. Here is a short video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEHv1Rcn9YQ



The Charles Blondin Wheelbarrow Story 査爾斯・布隆丁獨輪車的故事

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Saving Faith 得救的信心

Two more things about saving faith I need to mention:

As I said before, saving faith is a gift from God (Eph. 2:8).

- It originates from God and not from ourselves (Heb. 12:2).
- It comes through hearing God's Words (Rom. 10:17) via the Holy Spirit and usually through a preacher. (Rom 10: 14,15)

Faith & Repentance are born as twins (悔改和相信是雙胞胎) 2 And they are the two sides of the same coin.

It is impossible to have genuine saving faith without repentance.

Many people in the church today have believed Jesus without awareness of their sinfulness and need for repentance. Most people just casually acknowledge they are sinners. Satan has deceived them that they can be saved without repentance



信心和悔改是一起 出生、一起生活、 一起茁壯成長的。

沒有人可以不相信耶 穌就悔改,也沒有人 可以不悔改而相信耶 穌。 司布真

Assurance of Salvation 得救的確據

How can a person ascertain he/she is a true Christian (i.e. saved)? It is a very important question to ask and it had been a big controversy for centuries. But nowadays few people ask this question, even in the church. Many people just simply "believe" they are saved.



William Gothier was a great 17^{th.} century Puritan minister who wrote only one small

"The Christian's Great Interest \star in Two Parts " but this booklet is what many of his contemporaries described as one of the finest and most important works in Christianity.

歌士瑞是十七世紀的一位偉大的清教徒牧 者,他一生中只寫了一本書,但就是這本 書(基督徒真偽辨), 被他當代的許多人描述 為基督教中最優秀、最為重要的著作之一。

* The word "interest" in the English title of Guthrie's book does not just mean that the book deals with matters of greatest importance to a Christian. It also has a legal sense in which to have an interest means to have a valid stake or share in something.

The Christian's Great Interest 基督徒真偽辨

Gothier's book answers two of life's most crucial questions—"Am I a true Christian?" If not, then "How do I become a true Christian?" 歌士瑞在書中回答了人生最關鍵的兩個問題:「我是否一個真基督徒?」 若不是,那麼「我如何成為一個真基督徒?」

He insists being able to know if a person is a Christian also tells us why so many people are not sure if they are a true Christian.

他堅持說,一個人能夠確實知道自己是否一個基督徒,也告訴了我們為什麼有那麼多的人不能確定自己是否一個真基督徒的原因。

Gothier's book deals with how the Christian may know that he has a "legal claim" within the Will and Testament or Covenant that the Lord Jesus Christ graciously makes with His people.

歌士瑞的書說明基督徒如何能確定他在主耶穌基督與祂的子民所訂立 的聖約中擁有合法的權利。

Gothier helps us to put ourselves in a courtroom trial where we are under the Scripture as a judge to determine whether or not our claim is a valid one.

歌士瑞幫助我們將自己置身於法庭審判中,根據聖經來判斷我們是否 有合法的權利得著救恩。

I found out much I wanted to say about assurance of salvation is already in this book. So I sincerely ask everyone to read this book which I will send to you

The Christian's Great Interest 基督徒真偽辨

* Translated from the Chinese Table of Content



The Christian's Great Interest 基督徒真偽辨

Christian Classics Ethereal Library

The Christian's Great Interest. In Two Parts.

William Guthrie



➡ 歸正福音閱讀

網址



Assurance of Salvation 得救的確據

The purpose of the apostle John in writing the Gospel of John was to bring his readers into faith in Jesus Christ.

He made this clear at the end of the gospel (John 約翰福音 20: 31) : "**these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God但記這些事、要叫你們信耶穌是基督、是神的兒子

In a similar way John wrote his epistles for another purpose: that those who believed **may know** they have eternal life, i.e. they may have assurance of salvation. This he also made clear at the end of his epistle. "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 我將這些話寫給你們信奉神兒子之名的人、要叫你們知道自己有永生。1 John 約翰壹書 5: 11-13

This verse is telling us if we genuinely believe in the name of Jesus, we have the son. Since the Son has eternal life, that means believers also have eternal life and are saved.

These things refers to all the things John mentioned in his epistle.

Most importantly it refers to 1) Fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ 2) Our walk with God in light. 3) The Spirit of God within us (the anointing 恩膏). 4) The purifying work of God in our life (sanctification). 5) Our love for God and fellow Christians (and not for the world and our flesh)

All these are evidences that we are in Christ, and we have the life of Christ within us which is the assurance of our salvation.

Self-examination

察驗自己

So God gives us the assurance of salvation objectively based on His Words that He inspired John to write down in his epistle.

But God also inspired another apostle, Paul, to challenge us to do selfexamination subjectively (1 Cor. 11:28-31; 2 Cor. 13:5), so that we won't fall into self-deception.

2 Cor. 13:5 challenge us to examine and test ourselves in three areas:

- 1. Our faith
- 2. Our life
- 3. The indwelling Christ



- Our faith. I have covered saving faith quite a bit already. Guthrie's book offers some additional points in chapters 3 and 7.
 We should do a self check-up on our faith in the following areas:
- a) Is our faith based on correct understanding of the gospel?
- b) Does our faith involve our intellect, emotion as well as our will?
- c) Is our faith built on the foundation of repentance?
- d) Does our faith involve a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

Self-examination





Examine

Yourself 自己

2. Our Life. - If we are truly born again, COMPARENT there must be some evidences of a new life. Such as:

New born babies crave for milk. Have we ever experienced a craving for spiritual milk (God's word)? 1 Peter 2:2

Young children are delighted when they are with their parents. Do we desire to draw close to God? Or are we afraid to approach Him? (Romans 8:15a)

Babies cry. Do we also cry (pray) "Aba Father" inwardly? (Romans 8:15b)

Babies grow rapidly after birth. Growth is an indication of life inside. Did we experience growth at all after becoming a Christian or remain stagnant?

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature. Have we experience any change in our life since becoming a Christian? Changes such as:

Our perspectives, thinking, motives, life goal & direction

Our interest and how we view our finance

Relationship with God and people.

A desire to be holy and renounce sins.

Self-examination



3. The Indwelling Christ 內住的基督

2 Corinthians 13: 5 challenges believers to examine their faith by checking if Christ lives within them.

Ephesians 1: 13-14 tells us the children of God are given the Holy Spirit as a deposit, a guarantee until the date of redemption

Romans 8: 9-10 tells us every child of God has the Spirit of Christ within. The presence of the Holy Spirit's indwelling is the strongest proof that a person belongs to Christ and is saved eternally.

I looked through 20+ English translations and 6+ Chinese translations and came up with this rather interesting mixed translation

Examine yourselves, test yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. You should realize that Jesus Christ is in you — unless you are a counterfeit. 你們要省察自己,考驗自己,看看自己是否真有信心。你們應該知道耶穌基督住在你們裡面,除非你們是"冒牌的" (2 Corinthians 哥林多後書 13:5)

What Apostle Paul was saying here is: "check for evidences that Christ dwell within you"

The Apostle John basically said the same thing: "Anyone who believes has this testimony in his heart." And this testimony is : eternal life is in His Son Jesus. He who has the Son (indwell in him) has eternal life.

The Indwelling Christ 内住的基督

Jesus Christ lives today within every child who is born of God. As **the hymn "He Lives 主活**著" says:

I serve a risen Savior,	我奉一位復活主,
He's in the world today	祂今在世活著;
I know that He is living,	我知道祂確活著,
whatever men may say	不管人怎麼說;
I see His hand of mercy,	我見祂手施憐憫,
I hear His voice of cheer	我聞祂安慰聲,
Christ Jesus lives today	基督耶穌今天仍然活著!
He walks with me and talks with me	祂與我談,祂伴我走,
Along life's narrow way	生命窄路同過;
You ask me how I know He lives?	你問我怎知主活著,
He lives within my heart.	因主活在我心。
In all the world around me	在我所處環境中 ·
I see His loving care	主愛常在我旁 ·
And though my heart grows weary	雖然有時心煩惱 ·
I never will despair	但我決不失望 ;
I know that He is leading,	我知救主引領我,
through all the stormy blast	衝破狂風怒潮,
The day of His appearing	不日我主必再來,
will come at last.	大顯榮耀。

The Indwelling Christ 内住的基督

Christ living within His children is not an imagination, not a fantasy. It is a reality. This reality may be manifested differently to each believer. I have been a Christian for many decades. I can testify Jesus Christ is very real in my life. He lives within my heart as the song says. I would like to illustrate the reality of the Christ living in me with two testimonies that happened to me in the last few months.

One Sunday morning in November 2021, I brought before God in prayer a problem I was trying to resolve. I didn't have a solution and I saw no possibilities. After the prayer, I got up and turn on my computer to get ready for church worship. Mysteriously, a webpage popped up

before me without me typing anything.

It was a webpage with 18 songs about God on YouTube.

Then it began playing the first song, a beautiful song

The name of the song was:

"God Will Make A Way" 祂為我開道路

1. God Will Make A Way 2. Shine Jesus, Shine 3. Still
4. Shout To The Lord
5. Give Thanks 6. The Prayer Songs About
7. 10,000 Reasons
8. Seek Ye First
9. In His Time
10. In Moment Like This 11. Power Of Your Love
12. Blessed Are You Lord
13. Warrior Is A Child
14. Tell The World Of His Love
15. God So Loved 16. Take Me Out Of The Dark <u>https://www.youtube.com</u>
17. Lead Me Lord /watch?v=pbUXp5CuGEA
18. Heal Our Land

The Indwelling Christ 内住的基督

https://www.youtube.co m/watch?v=PoYC1jRI1cU

https://www.youtube.co m/watch?v=sodEGcXi7V0

What a beautiful song, What a beautiful promise, What an answer to prayer!



The second incidence God made Himself real to me was in December last year through a traffic violation – a very strange event.

I was talking to my wife while driving and I didn't pay attention to the posted 30 MPH speed limit on the road.

And the car was going down a slope. Without stepping on the brake, the car's speed picked up as it went down the slope.



The Indwelling Christ 🛛 🗗

内住的基督

Just when the car reached the bottom of the slope, we saw two bright white flashes from a roadside speed camera. My wife said: " you are going to get a ticket But as soon as she finished speaking, I heard a voice inside: "you will not get the ticket. I will take care of it, just watch" I knew full well who was speaking. It was a familiar voice spoken in a familiar way. It was not audible, but the words spoken was clear to me. It flashed into my mind like a telegram. It has been more than



3 months now. I have not received a speeding ticket.

Why did He do this for me? Because He wanted to assure me He takes care of my problems and I can rely on Him. I think it also reminds me I am a sinner. I broke the law, but He takes away my penalty. I am not encouraging anyone to violate the traffic laws. Please don't tempt God. God gave me grace for a good reason. He taught me a lesson.

My point of telling these stories is to testify that Jesus is alive. He lives within His children. He walks and talks with us. **"My sheep hear my voice** 我的羊聽我的聲音". In hearing His voice, we are assured that we are His and He is ours and our salvation is secure.



He Lives



Assurance of Salvation (2) 得救的 確據(下) 1 John 約壹 S: 11-13 察驗 2 Cor.林筱13:5 Examine Yourself É Saved ? los Maryland Gospel Church 馬利蘭福音教會 3-27-22