

## Our Assurance in Christ

All human beings are 'sinners' - rebels against the will of God.

Christians regard themselves as 'sinners saved by grace'.

There is nothing a human being can do in his (*where apt read her*) own strength; with his own attributes; through his own good works, that can assure him salvation, atonement with God, eternal life.

**So can we be assured, certain, of ultimate salvation  
in this life and in the life to come?**

The Christian answer is, "Yes"

BUT only in Christ, and in Christ alone!

What does it mean to be a 'sinner saved by grace'?

God's Word - the Bible - tells us that '**all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**'. [Romans 3:23]

It also tells us that, '**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**' [1 John 1:8] And we are calling God a liar. [1 John 1:10]

On the positive side the Bible tells us that, '**it is by faith you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no-one can boast.**' [Ephesians 2:8 - 9]

Also we are told, '**we are justified freely by [God's] grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**' [Romans 3:24]

And, '**If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**' [1 John 1:9]

[Justified = God - although knowing we have sinned - will, for Christ's sake, treat us as if we had never sinned, as long as we are in Christ.

Grace = God's undeserved love (God's Riches At Christ's Expense).

Mercy = God NOT giving us our true deserts for our sin.]

Anyone who comes to Jesus the Christ, confesses his sin, repents of his sin, and invites Jesus into his life as his Lord and Saviour, receives eternal life with God in Jesus the Christ.

**No-one can come to God except through Jesus the Christ.** [1 John 14:6]

Yes, a Christian may sin from time to time but through repentance that sin will be forgiven because of the blood Christ shed on the cross at Calvary.

[cf. Hebrews 9:22b); Romans 6:23]

The Christian faith is joyful confidence in Jesus the Christ.

It is, '**being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.**'

[Hebrews 11:1]

Even as Christians go through trials of all kinds [including even Lockdown and suffering and grief caused by coronavirus] the certainty of their heavenly inheritance is solid and assured. [cf. 1 Peter 1:3 - 9]

Christian assurance is grounded in the purpose of God, the saving work of Jesus the Christ, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, against which nothing can prevail.

[cf. Romans 8:12 - 39]

As part of the body of Christ - the Church - Christians have God's affirmation of their salvation in Christ.

Day by day 'sinners' - 'sinners saved by grace' - are being conformed by God into **'the likeness of' Jesus the Christ, and we are being 'transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory.'** [Romans 8:29a); 2 Corinthians 3:18]

The very fact that Christians have God the Holy Spirit dwelling in them to remind them of the teachings of Jesus the Christ, and to be their advocate and Counsellor and inspiration, is further evidence of the assurance of their eternal salvation.

[cf. John 14:15 - 21; 16:5 - 16]

Jesus said:

**“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no-one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”** [John 10: 27 - 30]

**To God be the glory!**

Yours in Christ,  
Douglas