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STUDY ONE

The Assurance of Salvation

You are standing at one end of a high bridge which crosses a raging river. Your friends are waving and shouting at you to cross the bridge and join them. As you attempt the crossing, which situation would you rather face—strong faith in a weak bridge or weak faith in a strong bridge? Strong faith in a weak bridge will land you in the river, but weak faith in a strong bridge will land you on the other side! Faith is only as valuable as its object.

The assurance of your salvation is grounded in the person of Jesus Christ and the promises of God's Word. Robert Cook wrote, "Salvation is not something you do, but something Christ does when you receive Him."¹

It is inevitable that doubts will come to you about the reality of your salvation, but they will vanish like the early morning fog in the noonday sun if you focus on God's Word and the fact of Jesus' death and res-

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urrection. Your salvation is a fact regardless of your moods, circumstances and the opinions of your family or friends. Remember, your hope is built on Jesus Christ, the visible picture of the invisible God, and on the unchanging Word of God.

Walking into the Scriptures

Read John 1:12

Receiving Jesus

1. How does a person receive Jesus Christ?

2. When you received Jesus Christ, what did you become?

3. The name "Jesus" means "the Lord saves." Does the meaning of Jesus' name give you assurance that you are saved? If so, why?

Read 1 John 5:10–12

Life or No Life

1. What kind of life are we speaking of in this passage?
2. Who gives life?
3. Who has life?
4. Who does not have life?

Read Ephesians 2:8–10

Receiving versus Earning

1. How have you been saved?
2. How significant are your works in your salvation?
3. Whose workmanship are you and how were you created?
4. What is the expectation God has for those that He saves?

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Read John 3:16–18

The Miniature Gospel

1. What did God love?
2. Who did God give?
3. Who will not perish?
4. How does “condemnation” fit into the discussion of these verses?

Read Romans 6:23

Wages

1. How does Romans 6:23 validate the statement, “Sin pays”?
2. What is the “gift” in this verse?
3. Through whom does this gift come? (Note: It’s a *person*.)

Walking It into My Life

1. Someone has defined GRACE with this acrostic:

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense

How is this acrostic definition justified based on Ephesians 2:8-10?

2. Acts 1:8 tells us that we are witnesses for Jesus Christ. Every Christian should be able to briefly give a testimony of his or her faith experience. The apostle Paul gives a pattern to follow in the first chapter of First Corinthians. Write your own testimony using this pattern:

a. Your life before being saved—"Brothers, think of what you were when you were called" (1:26).

b. Your salvation experience—"It is because of him [God] that you are in Christ Jesus" (1:30).

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c. What God is now doing in your life—"Therefore, as it is written: 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord' " (1:31).

Walking a Little Deeper

Many people think that they can earn salvation through good works. Take a sheet of paper and fold it in half. On one side write the heading "CREDITS." List everything about you that you believe would please God. Now write the heading "DEFICIENCIES" on the other side. List things about you that you believe would displease God.

Review your two lists. Compare them to what Paul said in the passage you read. Then write in large letters over your credits the word "INSUFFICIENT." Over your deficiencies write the word "FORGIVEN." Take a moment to thank your gracious heavenly Father that your eternal life does not depend on you or anything about you but rests solely on your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Endnote

¹ Robert Cook, *Now That I Believe* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1975), 13.