

SECURELY
SAVED
AND
SURE
OF IT!

KEN
FLEMING



Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

Securely Saved and Sure of It!

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Course Components

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

How To Study

This study has twelve chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

Exams

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material given in the course.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions. It is important that you read the Bible passages referenced as some questions may be based on the Bible text.

How Your Exams Are Graded

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago I was drafted into the army. I was a sincere believer in Christ and immediately looked for other draftees who were believers. Among the few that I found was a young man from Alabama who freely acknowledged his faith in Christ and was as glad to meet me as I was to meet him. We eagerly encouraged each other by discussing Scripture, praying together, planning how we could be a witness to our platoon, and encouraging each other to live for the Lord. I soon discovered, however, that my friend was living under a cloud of doubt concerning his salvation. He was worried that it might not last—that he could somehow lose it. The lurking fear of uncertainty affected his attitude *toward* God, his relationship *with* God, and his service *for* God. He could not understand how I could say with utmost confidence that God had already given me eternal life that was irrevocable and unchangeable, no matter what happened.

“A.D.D.”

My friend suffered from a spiritual affliction that preacher Tony Evans has called A.D.D.: *Assurance Deficit Disorder*. Its symptoms are insecurity, worry, doubt, spiritual defeat, legalism, and self-preoccupation. Fortunately, the “remedy” for its treatment is easily obtained and of no cost to the sufferer.

We could describe this “medication” as “pills of promise.” These “pills” are found throughout the New Testament and are available to every true believer. Some A.D.D. sufferers are unaware of the promises and only need to be shown them in order to gain immediate relief. Other believers are fully aware of them but find them very difficult to “swallow.” They cannot understand how such a small and inexpensive treatment could provide

relief from such a huge problem. Because of this, “pills of promise” remain available yet unused, and the sufferer remains afflicted.

God’s Word, the Bible, makes it very clear that God wants His people to know for certain that they are secure in Christ while on earth and that they will be with Christ in heaven (1 John 5:13). This study is about assurance of salvation—what you as a believer can know for certain about both your present position and your future inheritance in Christ. It explains why knowing for certain that you are secure in Christ is vitally important to you as a believer. It will give you the biblical basis for certainty that your salvation is as secure as God’s promises. And finally it will tell you how you can enjoy that assurance and what it can do for you in your daily walk with God.

If this study brings you, a believer in Christ, from uncertainty into full assurance it will change your life in many ways:

- Your misunderstanding of God’s great salvation will turn to appreciation of God’s limitless power to keep you saved forever.
- Your anxiety about your past or present sins will turn to peace.
- Your worry about whether you can “hang on” to your salvation will turn into rest in the finished work of Christ and His “hanging on” to you.
- Your fear that perhaps you may fall from grace and lose your salvation will be transformed into greater love for the One who died to save you.

1

THE TRUTH OF ASSURANCE

In relation to this study, we will define *assurance* as “the confidence that the Christian’s salvation in Christ is secure forever.” When the Bible speaks about Christians, it speaks of those who have realized their sinfulness before a holy God. They have confessed their sin to God and repented of it. They have understood that Jesus Christ, God’s Son, bore God’s wrath against sin generally and for their own personal sins by His suffering and death on the cross. Knowing this truth, they have personally and consciously placed their faith in Christ as their Savior, their Redeemer, and their Substitute.

Faith and Assurance

On any given Sunday there are a variety of people who attend church services around the world. As God looks on them, He knows which ones are saved and which ones are lost. The saved will spend eternity with Him, and the lost will be separated from Him forever. Relative to their faith in Christ and the assurance of salvation, they comprise four categories of people:

- Those who do not believe and have *no assurance* of eternal life.
- Those who have not believed in the biblical sense of the word but who think they are believers; these have a *false assurance* of eternal life.
- Those who do believe and have *conditional assurance* of eternal life.
- Those who do believe and have *full assurance* of eternal life.

1. No Assurance

Each of us falls into one of these categories. Perhaps you are in the first category—you have never believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore have no assurance of salvation from “everlasting destruction” (2 Thess. 1:9). Your lack of assurance may be due to your indifference to spiritual realities. It may be due to a misunderstanding of the gospel, or to the fact that you have never heard it clearly explained. Or it is possible that up until now you have put off considering its claims or that you are allowing a particular sin to hinder you from embracing it.

You need to understand that you have offended a holy God by your sin. You need also to understand that Christ paid the penalty for your sin when He died on the cross. When you acknowledge your sin and believe on Christ who died to save you, God will forgive your sin. Acts 16:31 says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”

2. False Assurance

If you fall into the second category, you *think* that you are right with God because you call yourself a Christian, or because you are basically a good person, or because you do good works. But the truth is that you have not yet specifically admitted your sinful condition to God and accepted His forgiveness on the basis of Christ’s death.

Until you do this, any assurance you may have is false assurance. When you die you will die in your sins (John 8:24). Your false assurance needs to be stripped away, and you need to place your faith in Christ for salvation. Jesus once said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 7:21). He also declared that many will say they have prophesied in His name and done many wonders in His name, but He will one day say to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (Matt. 7:23).

3. Conditional Assurance

The third category of people who attend churches are those who are genuine believers and know that their past sins are forgiven, but they are troubled that their thoughts, words, and actions are

not up to the standards of God's holiness. Doubts about the quality of their faith creep into their minds and they wonder about the possibility of failure or of falling away, resulting in God rejecting them. They have been taught that if they "fall away" they will lose their salvation. The result is that they do not have assurance that their salvation is, in fact, unconditional. Maybe you fall into this category. You may know that you are saved, but your assurance of salvation is limited by the conditions that you believe you must meet in order to please God.

4. Full Assurance

The fourth group found in many churches is also made up of genuine believers. They too have understood their lost condition and have put their trust in Christ's saving work. But instead of fear and uncertainty, they have the joy and peace of knowing they are eternally secure in Christ. In response to His love, they seek to live a godly life consistent with the character of their Savior and His great salvation. Having understood what He did for them at the cross, they want to please Him in all they do and say.

No saved person lives without sinning, but we *can* live with certainty that we are secure in Christ. We can live in the peace of knowing how to deal with our failures and sins and how to walk with the Lord. We can serve God with great joy because we love Him.

Why Assurance Is Important

The security of our salvation is one of the most precious truths we should grasp when we are saved. Most new believers soon have doubts as to whether they are truly saved or whether their faith was sufficient. New Christians have many questions; their new relationship with Christ raises these questions because their perspective of life has changed. They often need to make some major decisions, including the rejection of sinful areas of their former lifestyle. In their new lives in Christ there are new values that must be accepted. These new values, if allowed to become part of them, will redirect their attitudes, actions, thoughts, pleasures, and relationships with others. When they realize the magnitude of all this, they may begin to wonder if they can measure up. Then they worry whether it is real, whether it will last, and whether they can be sure. The truth is that it is real, it will last, and they can be sure!

There are at least four reasons why it is important to have this assurance.

1. Assurance Is Important Because of the Presence of Sin

As new Christians we soon discover that we still have sinful thoughts that give rise to sinful words and deeds. When we sin we need to confess our sins to God (1 John 1:9). When we do this, He promises to cleanse us. It is in these moments of failure that we need the assurance that the work of Christ in bearing our sins on the cross is adequate for them all—past, present, and future.

The Bible assures us that *our sins and failures cannot undo what Christ has done*. It assures us that His work of salvation is complete. We know that no one can completely live up to God's standards every minute of every day. If life in Christ were dependent on our ability, we would fail. It would cause us first to doubt our salvation, and second to fear that we would lose it when we sin. No genuine believer needs to be caught in the trap of doubt, worry, and fear of losing their eternal salvation.

2. Assurance Is Important Because of the Activity of Satan

Satan plants doubt in our minds about God's promises. If he cannot stop you from getting saved, he will try to stop you from enjoying your salvation.

From the beginning, Satan has been a master at getting people to doubt what God says. He began to do this in the Garden of Eden when he confronted Eve with the question, "Has God indeed said 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" (Gen. 3:1). With that subtle question he succeeded in getting Eve to doubt what God had clearly said to her through Adam.

Satan still tempts people to doubt God's goodness. He is the father of lies (John 8:44). It is important that every child of God be able to stand on the promises of the Word of God with perfect confidence and assurance.

3. Assurance Is Important Because Other Christians May Try to Take It Away

As we have already indicated, there are many true believers who lack assurance of eternal salvation. They may have assurance right now of their salvation, but they are not sure they will still qualify for it when they die. Some people may try to persuade you that it is not possible to be absolutely certain. They may urge you to keep trying harder so that you will not “fall from grace.”

Paul counters this idea with the statement that we are foolish if we think that we have to become perfect by human effort (Gal. 3:3). Those who urge you to try harder are persuaded that if you do not live in a perpetual state of guilt and doubt, you will presume on God’s grace as an excuse for sinning. They are often very sincere and well-meaning, but they do not understand the wonderful grace of God. A good grasp of the biblical teaching of eternal security and assurance of salvation will help you be prepared to give a good answer to these dear people of God.

4. Assurance Is Important Because It Gives Your Soul Rest

The Lord Jesus spoke of people who were burdened with the guilt of their sins. He called them to come to Him and promised that in Him they would find rest for their souls (Matt. 11:28-29). The degree of rest they enjoyed would not depend on the *quality* of their faith, but on the *object* of their faith—that is, Christ Himself, who would go on to provide their salvation by His substitutionary death. When you enter into the rest He gives, you will no longer be dependent on your feelings or your performance as a Christian, but on Him.

It is possible to be perfectly certain that God has saved you forever. You can have the calm assurance that nothing can separate you from the love of God (Rom. 8:35). You can rest in the fact that God’s saving grace will keep you forever.

The Full Assurance of Faith

Assurance will strengthen your growth in Christ, for with it you will be able to devote yourself fully to living for God’s glory without the fear that it may one day be all in vain. When the fear of losing your salvation is

not a concern, you can focus your spiritual energies on knowing God and then respond in worship, obedience, and service. It will release you from bondage to your lurking doubts so that you can enjoy your life in Christ. The following chapters will guide you into the Scriptures so that you may enjoy the full assurance of faith (Heb. 10:22).

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EXAM BOOKLET
AK '07 (2 UNITS) SSS

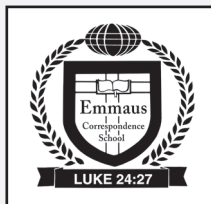
STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: _____

INSTRUCTOR



Exam developed by Emmas Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a single page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

MULTIPLE CHOICE

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- A. blue C. yellow
B. green D. orange

 B

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Questions headed this way are designed to help you express your ideas and feelings. You may freely state your own opinions in answer to such questions.

RETURNING THE EXAM

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

DO NOT PHOTOCOPY THESE EXAM PAGES

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CHAPTER 1 EXAM

THE TRUTH OF ASSURANCE

EXAM GRADE

Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet.

Directions: Read each question carefully and write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.

1. Assurance of our salvation means being sure that
 - A. we will always feel good about ourselves
 - B. we will never sin again
 - C. our salvation is secure forever
 - D. life will be easier from now on_____

2. A person who has “false assurance” of being saved
 - A. is saved, but has not completed all the steps
 - B. is saved, but doesn’t realize it
 - C. knows what it means to be saved
 - D. thinks he is saved, but actually isn’t_____

3. We can know we are saved if we
 - A. confess our sins daily
 - B. do good works
 - C. have put our trust in Christ’s atoning death
 - D. go to church regularly_____

4. Having assurance of our salvation brings
 - A. unconcern and no fear
 - B. carelessness and irresponsibility
 - C. laziness and disregard for judgment
 - D. peace and joy_____

5. An important truth to grasp when we are first saved is
 - A. that we need to live a better life
 - B. how the church should be run
 - C. the security of our salvation
 - D. what God’s plan for the future is_____

- 6. Christ's death on the cross cleansed us from
 - A. our sins before we were saved
 - B. our sins after we are saved
 - C. our criminal sins
 - D. all our sins_____

- 7. Satan tries to make us _____ God's promises
 - A. believe
 - B. doubt
 - C. explain
 - D. enjoy_____

- 8. Christians who don't believe in eternal security may
 - A. try to persuade you that you can't be absolutely certain you are saved
 - B. tell you that you must live a more holy life
 - C. tell you that you can lose your salvation
 - D. all of the above_____

- 9. In Matthew 11:28-29, Jesus promised those who come to Him
 - A. will always feel free of guilt
 - B. will never go hungry
 - C. that He would provide rest for their souls
 - D. a home in heaven_____

- 10. Being confident of your eternal salvation
 - A. means you don't have to feel sorry when you sin
 - B. means you don't have to study the Bible
 - C. enables you to enjoy your spiritual walk
 - D. is only possible for mature Christians_____

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

How do you hope to benefit from studying this course? What aspects of eternal security and assurance of salvation do you currently have doubts about?
