

So Great a Salvation: Hating Sin - Paris Reidhead

by From the Pulpit & Classic Sermons

The sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding eternal life and the evidence of being born of God, which includes walking in the light, keeping God's commandments, and loving our brothers.

Duration: 49:36

Topics: "Radio"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses six evidences of being born of God. The first evidence is having a right attitude towards the commandments, which involves loving God and others. The second evidence is loving your brother, while the third evidence is not loving the world. The fourth evidence is continuing in the faith and trust in Christ, and the fifth evidence is standing firm in one's profession of faith. The sixth evidence is found in the tenth verse of the third chapter, which is not explicitly mentioned in the summary. The preacher emphasizes the importance of these evidences in demonstrating one's relationship with God.

Transcript

Welcome to From the Pulpit in Classic Sermons. Each week we bring you a different message from some of history's greatest speakers in the Christian faith and powerful sermons from modern preachers too. This week we have Parris Reedhead with his message So Great a Salvation, Hating Sin.

Now we should turn to the little epistle of 1 John. You that are joining us this morning that will not have been with us in the other services may be interested in knowing that I've asked each of the people present to mark certain verses in 1 John so that they can use them. You know, today we have so many people that will come saying, I'm not sure about my salvation.

I'm not sure I'm a Christian. I'm not sure I've been born of God. And to tell you the truth, there's a great deal of reason why many ought to be concerned.

I've seen missionaries that have discovered they've not been born of God and pastors and deacons and Christian workers. Because during the lifetime there's been so much that one might term easy believism or shallow evangelism or something else. So people have a right to be concerned about it.

And I've asked that folk mark this. Now, not just for your sake, but for the sake of those that will be coming to you. When someone says, I'm not sure I'm a Christian, what are you going to do? Pat them on the back? Smile at them? Why do you worry? Or are you going to have the same kind of concern that a doctor should have even though he's a friend of the family? If someone comes and says, I think I may have cancer.

You don't want that doctor to just pat you on the back and smile at you and tell a joke, do you? Wouldn't you rather that the doctor would say, well, because we're friends, I'm going to use everything available to me in medical knowledge and equipment to help discover this. If you have it, we should not let one day go. If you don't have it, you should have the assurance that comes from knowing that.

And so with people that say, I'm not sure I'm a child of God. We're viewing 1 John as God's little x-ray machine. And we ask the person to read each of these verses.

Because each verse is in the midst of a truth that deals exactly with that issue. In 1 John 5 and 10, we are told these things are written that you might know that you have eternal life. That's why they're written, so that you can know.

Well, the first of these evidences of eternal life is the first chapter and the sixth verse. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth. So this person sitting across from you in the restaurant to whom you're speaking because they've asked you this question, you just turn your Testament or your Bible and say, well, read that.

Well, what's it say? Well, if we say we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness. Well, what does that mean? Well, just what it says. How do you walk? Is it your purpose to walk in the light or are you still walking in darkness? They have a question.

What does it mean to walk in darkness? And of course, you take them to Ephesians chapter 4 verse 17 through about the sixth verse of the fifth chapter and you have God's explanation of what it means to walk in darkness. Now put a number two next to the third verse of the second chapter. Hereby we do know that we know Him if we keep His commandments.

He that saith I know Him and keepeth not His commandments is a liar and the truth is not in Him. How do you walk? What's your attitude toward the commandments? That's evidence number two. And then I have chosen to put three verses with a number three has to do with loving your brother.

In this case, it's enough just to put a number three next to verse nine of the second chapter. He that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light.

What's your attitude toward others? Do you love God? You know to love God with all your heart and mind and soul and strength includes loving your neighbor as yourself. Hatred is the intention to harm somebody and love the intention to help and bless someone. Well, that's number three.

Number four, we've put just opposite verse 15 of the second chapter. The fourth evidence. Love not the world neither the things that are in the world.

If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Well, that's pretty clear, isn't it? What's your attitude toward the world? Whom you love, you seek to please. You get your happiness from.

Do you love God? Or do you love the world? That's the fourth evidence. And then the next evidence is found in the 24th verse of the second chapter. Let that therefore abide in you which you've heard from the beginning.

If that which you've heard from the beginning shall remain in you, you shall also continue in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise He has promised us even eternal life. Are you continuing in that profession of faith you've made in that trust in the finished work of Christ? Or have you gone away? That's the issue.

And that's the fifth evidence. Continuance. Go carrying on, standing firm.

Now today we're coming to the sixth evidence. And I want you, because you're now up with us, I want you to put a six next to the tenth verse of the third chapter. This is the sixth evidence of being born of God.

I guess you have to check the ninth verse and put the six next to ten. Whosoever is born of God does not commit or practice or do sin. For his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot do sin because he is born of God.

In this the children of God are manifest and the children of the devil. Whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. Now everything that we've seen in 1 John relates to those first three verses where John said, that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you that you might have fellowship with us.

And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And then he said, and these things write we unto you that your joy may be full. And if we're going to have fellowship with God, we've got to know about God.

We've got to know something about Him. I regret that the beginning of the third chapter did not start with the 29th verse of the second chapter. We're going to do that.

We're going to make verse 29 of chapter 2 the first verse, even though it isn't in your Bible. I'm not changing that. I'm just including that and saying that's where we're going to begin.

If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him. In the seventh verse of the third chapter, we're told that Christ is righteous. The Lord Jesus Christ is righteous.

In this 29th verse, we're told that God is righteous. You see, it says, everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him. Nowhere are we said to have been born of the Son.

We're born of the Father. So what we're discovering here is more about the Father and about the Son. If we're going to have fellowship with God and our fellowship is with the Father and with the Son, we'd better know all we can know about them.

So what John is telling us here is that God, God the Father, is righteous. And I said in the seventh verse, the Apostle says the Lord Jesus is righteous. Now here's the argument that the Apostle makes.

God is righteous. Everyone doing righteousness is born of Him. That's his logical argument.

Now if I do not do righteousness, it is evidence that I am not born of God. So someone is saying, am I a child of God? God says, do you do righteousness? Do you practice righteousness? God is righteous. And everyone that's born of Him has been made a partaker of the divine nature.

So if someone says that they're a child of God and they've been born again and they don't practice righteousness, the argument John makes is they're not telling the truth because God is righteous. And therefore everyone born of Him will do righteousness. If I do it, if I do righteousness, if I practice righteousness, there is evidence that I'm born of God.

Now there are a great many in the day of our Lord and ever since and certainly today, a great many who pronounce themselves to be righteous. And we're not counting that. For instance, Christ said to the Pharisees, you are the ones declaring yourselves righteous before men.

You see, the Pharisees thought that if they made a claim, then what they claimed was a reality. The claim made them what they claimed. It doesn't work that way, I'm afraid.

It just doesn't happen that way. They thought so. They said because we declare ourselves to be righteous, therefore we're righteous.

No, not so, said our Lord Jesus. When Klaus Harms, on the anniversary of the Reformation, the Lutheran Reformation, prepared the 95 theses that he put on the door at the cathedral, one of his theses was this. People used to pay for the forgiveness of their sins.

In other words, they bought indulgence from the priest. But nowadays, people have advanced. They don't want to part with the money, I guess.

So what they do is every sinner just forgives his own sins or he declares himself to be righteous. And, of course, that, according to this good man, is an evidence of the declension into which we've come. Oh yes, many do pronounce themselves righteous.

Then there's another company that consider themselves safe because they're resting in their baptism as infants. And so they assume themselves to be acceptable to God. And then there are other multitudes, multitudes of people who'd followed the instructions of some religious leader and they now have assumed themselves to be righteous.

That's a dangerous thing to do because God is righteous and they that do righteousness as He prescribes it are born of Him. You see, the problem rides on this. The world doesn't understand God.

We have it right here. It's very clear. Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God.

Therefore, the world knoweth us not because it knew Him not. And therefore, those that have been born of God, those that are truly His, are going to have a little bit of a problem. God may see them as righteous and God may accept them, but the world has a different standard.

The world knows what we were because many times we've been born of God and yet there are those around who recall how we lived before we came to know the Lord. They're going to realize that once we were traitors against God and rebels and anarchists and enemies that we walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince and the power of the air, the same spirit that continues to work in them. And they're going to say, well, what difference is there about you? No.

The world has no way of knowing God and because the world doesn't know God, it doesn't know those that are born of God. It doesn't have the grounds for understanding what has happened to us. The world

has this idea promulgated by a lot of preachers of the universal fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

No concept of redemption or regeneration. The world did not know our Lord Jesus Christ. That's a historical fact.

And since it never knew Him, didn't know who He was, didn't understand who He was, today the world doesn't know those that are His. But we shouldn't be grieved about that. Don't grieve because the world doesn't understand you as a child of God born into the Father's family through faith in Christ.

I think you ought to be grieved if the world did understand you. The fact that it doesn't, that's alright. People that you work with, the people that know you and that you meet out in the normal course of activities, they don't understand this thing that's taken place in your life.

But they're certainly going to know the difference that He's made. Perhaps the best time in the world for you to tell someone of what's taken place in your life is when they come to you and say, what's happened to you? I've known you then, I've known you since, but you're different. What's happened to you? Best opportunity in the world to tell someone about Christ.

And if they don't see a difference, all the talking in the world you're going to do isn't going to mean anything to them. They've got to see it. They don't understand it.

We've established that. But they recognize there is a difference and they'd like to, or many of them at least, would like to know more about it. So we have to, in this same portion, John's going to tell us more about those who are born of God.

In this second verse of the third chapter, Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be. But we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Now we still look like other people, and as I've pointed out, the world does not really understand anything about us.

It laughs at the idea that we are children of God. You see, God has not yet made a public display of His children. One day He's going to do it.

We're going to have a body like unto the body of glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have an incorruptible inheritance. We'll have white robes, and we'll be all that He has planned for us to be, and then there'll be the setting forth of the children of God.

But not yet. We're still as we were in many respects, and the world doesn't understand how we can claim to be born of God and still be so much like the rest of the people in the world. But we know that when He appears and we see Him, we're going to be changed into His likeness.

We'll be like Him. You see, here on earth, this time, we are in, shall I say, a state of humiliation in the same way Christ was when He was here. He was said to be a root out of the dry ground and no beauty that anyone should desire Him.

But He's been glorified, and when we see Him, we're going to be as He is. They're going to appear like the Lord Jesus Christ. That's when it will be made manifest, that one great final manifestation.

Then the children of this world will see that those whom they've despised and disregarded, often persecuted, are indeed the children of God. Now, if you have been born of God, if you are a child of God, the evidence is going to be supported by the fact that since you know He is righteous, and you've been born of Him and made a partaker of His nature, that one day you're going to be like Him when you see Him as He is. You are going to certify the genuineness of your faith in Christ by your continuing to purify yourself even as the Lord Jesus Christ is pure.

Now you say, well, how can you purify yourself? Well, you do it by obeying the Word, taking heed according to the Word. Doing righteousness means that you obey the Scripture, that you are careful to obey the Scripture. You say, well, we're not under law.

No, we're not under the law of mosaic offerings and sacrifices and all that pertain as shadows and types of Christ. But everything in the New Testament that's in the imperative mood is a command of the Holy Ghost. And we are expected to give heed to the Word of God.

We are told that the Word is to have free course and be glorified in us. And the Word is glorified in us when we obey it. How much time do you give in reading the Word with the purpose of changing your attitudes, your relationships, your activities to match the Word? Well, it's important for you to know that because we are told that every man that has this hope of seeing Him and being like Him continues to purify himself even as Christ is pure.

You've sung it. Have you ever really thought about those words when you sang them? Oh, to be like Thee. Oh, to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art.

Come in Thy fullness. Come in Thy pureness. Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.

Well, that's the cry of the one who's been born of God. Oh, to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer. Purifies himself even as He is pure by taking heed according to the Word, by reading it, by studying it.

It's so very, very important for us to understand that. And there is no exception. No exception at all.

He who stops purifying himself has dropped this hope from his heart. You can't have it both ways. You can't have it, that he that has this hope in him purifies himself.

On the one hand, and say, he that stops purifying himself still has this hope in him. It doesn't work that way. It's got to be that he that has this hope in him purifies himself.

And conversely, he that has stopped purifying himself has dropped this hope from his heart. And the evidence, therefore, is that if you're born of God, you have this continuous desire to bring your life in accord with the Word of God, to purify yourself by the Word. How shall a young man cleanse his way, purify himself, said David? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word.

And so it is, then, that the evidence that we're born of God is this continuous desire in every relationship, in every aspiration, in all of our motivations, in our plans, in our words. Well, now, you say, my goodness, you're saying, what if I fail? What if I do? What happens when I'm overtaken by a fault and let aside into temptation? What's that mean? You mean to say that there's a place in grace that I'll never be tempted anymore? No, I don't mean that. I know a lot of folks are looking for it, but they aren't going to find it.

If there ever came a place in the Christian life or a state of grace where you couldn't be tempted, do you know what that would mean? That would mean that you were holier than your wonderful Lord. Because He was tempted in all points, like as we are, yet without sin. See, temptation is not sin.

Temptation is the proposition presented to the mind to satisfy a good appetite in a bad way, and sin is the decision to do it. And there's no time in our pilgrimage when we aren't subject to temptation and no place in our life on earth that we're not capable of yielding to temptation. By the same token, there's no temptation that we have to yield to, because with every temptation He's made a way of escape that we may be able to bear it.

So we've got protection there, but should it be? We do not avail ourselves of that way of escape and we fall into sin. The evidence that you are His, that you have been born of God, is that when you discover what you've done or said or thought in terms of purpose, whenever you realize what it is that's come between you and the Lord, you deal with it, because your hope of seeing Him means you're going to purify yourself as He is pure, and the purifying means that you're going to immediately do everything the Scripture says to do. What does the Scripture say to do? Well, do you remember when the people at Corinth got into trouble at the Lord's table and sinned? And Paul said in writing to them, Judge yourself that you be not judged, for he that is judged is chastened of the Lord, that he should not be condemned with the world.

Now, judge yourself means that the moment that you discover that what you said and what you wanted and what you purposed and even what you continued to think about, because sometimes sin gets in the mind the same way a candy gets on a child's tongue and it's sort of rolled over and the sweetness sucked out without having acquired the outward actions or the penalties that imposes, God looks on the thoughts and the intents of the heart. So what happens when we discover that? Judge it immediately. This is what the Word of God says about it.

Judge it to be what God's Word declares. Then the second thing is, forsake it. Done with it.

Finished with it. No defense. No plan to continue.

Forsake it. For let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord and he'll have mercy. And then to confess it.

Say with God exactly what God says. And this is how we purify ourselves when there comes into our life that which has grieved God. And he that hath this hope in him of seeing him and being like him will purify himself.

It used to be back down in the south that every August after the corn was laid by. Any of you farmers know what that means? When the corn got so high you couldn't cultivate it anymore without breaking the stalks over. And so that was the last cultivation.

Between the time the corn was laid by and it had to be cut, they'd have brush arbor meetings. They'd go down in somebody's woods where there was a stream for fresh water and they would cut poles and lay them across the branches and then they would cut branches and lay them across the poles. And then they would cut logs down, split them in two and auger a couple of holes and put some branches in them and those were the seats.

And then they'd cut off a big tree up to the front halfway through, fall it in such a way that it became a pulpit and they'd already set up. People would come with their wagons and horses and their tents and they'd have a brush arbor meeting and all the families would be there tending around and preachers would come and would preach. And an altar was a split log on branches and they brought a few bales of straw or loads of straw and they spread that down, down the aisles and then preachers would preach and call the people to repentance and some of the folks got the idea that when they sinned in September there wasn't anything they could do about it till the next August at the brush arbor meeting.

That was when you took care of these things. So like getting your foot infected in September and limping around on it, losing it, till the next August when you could treat it. See, sin sets in an infection.

Well now the one that's looking for Christ, yearning to see Him, knowing He's going to be like Him, purifies Himself, He isn't going to wait from September till the next August. He can't afford to do that. He's going to purify Himself, He's going to do exactly what the Scripture says to do at the moment that He discovers that He's got a problem.

That's what the text teaches us here. Everyone having this hope, oh the world is full of people that have some kind of hope, maybe they've invented the foundation, but this hope rests on Christ who shed His blood, who poured out His soul unto death. And we're going to purify ourselves.

He is pure, we're His, we're going to be like Him. Our Lord's purity is an eternal state. This is what He is by nature.

Ours is a constant purifying, an action. We keep striving to be like the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone, and then we proceed to say, whosoever does sin, I'm using this because it gives the idea of continuance, whosoever committeth, keeps on practicing sin, transgresses also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law.

Now, we've already seen in the past the nature of the law. The law is thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and mind and soul and strength. That's the first and great commandment, and the love of that commandment is the intention to please God in everything.

And if you've been born of God, you have repented of your sin, and your sin was the intention to please yourself, and now you've turned your back on that, and you've made a commitment to please God in everything. And therefore, the whole law is summed up in that one commandment. Do only that which will bring joy and satisfaction and gladness and happiness to the heart of God.

So if you find someone that claims to be a child of God, but he is transgressing that, he's living to please himself, well, we have it here, whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law. Everyone doing sin gives concrete evidence that he hasn't been born of God. His will is still set to do evil.

In Ecclesiastes chapter 8 and verse 11 we are told, because the judgment upon sinners isn't executed speedily, the heart is set to do evil. Is your heart set to please God? Have you fixed your heart to please God? Well, that's what the issue is. That's what he's talking about.

Why? Because we are told in that verse that Christ came into the world. He was manifested to take away our sins and in Him is no sin. Our sin was the committal of the will to please ourself.

Our sins were what we had done in obedience to that governing principle of pleasing ourself. Now Christ came. Remember what the angel said that night of His birth.

Listen. Hear the song. You get the echo of it.

Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from hell and take them to heaven when they die. Was that what the angel said about our Lord? Why have we preachers been focusing on that and forgot what the angel did say? The angel said, Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins. That's what He came to do.

Do you mean to say that He could love the world and give His life for it? Die and go into death, be raised from the dead and not accomplish what He came for? I certainly don't believe that. He accomplished what He came for. He came into the world to destroy the power of sin, to pardon the guilt of sin, to cleanse from the pollution of sin, and He made full and perfect and complete provision to do everything He came for.

Do you think it can be stated that He either cannot or will not do that which was the object of His coming? Well, you might think so, should you choose, but I don't think so. I don't hold it for a moment. Since He came with the purpose of taking away the sins, it's plain that anyone who is doing the sin, anyone who is practicing lawlessness, scorns Christ's sacrifice for sins, or if he doesn't scorn it, he views it as a license so he can go on to practice sin and somehow escape from the consequence of it.

No, the Lord Jesus accomplished what He came for. He came to save His people from their sin. And everyone that's in Him, everyone that's born again, we read in verse 6, whosoever abideth in Him doth not go on sinning.

And anyone who goes on sinning has not seen Him nor has he known Him. Oh, you know, if I had written this, I might get a little afraid of the face of the people. But since I'm reading what God by the Holy Ghost gave through John that's been part of the Bible ever since then, I have to read it.

Now, listen, if you'd have caught me a few years ago, I had some clever, neat, tricky little explanations that got all around this. I was like somebody going through the blackberry patch and I dodged the bushes and I never got raked by one of the thorns. I knew how to get right through it.

Come out on the other side and say, well, that's not so bad. The only thing was, I had given lip service to what was inspired by the traditions of the elders and the teaching of my fathers that made the Word of God of none effect. Well, I've had to unlearn a lot since then.

And you're catching me now at a point where my unlearning isn't complete yet, but it's well on the way. And I'm going to have to tell you what the explanation of these scriptures are in 1 John 3. Do you know what they are? It means just exactly what it says. Now, you can either like that or not like that as you wish, but that doesn't change it in my opinion.

God meant it because He said it and He said it because He meant it. And the only way to deal with it is to accept that God said what He meant and meant what He said. And He said, everyone remaining in Christ does not go on practicing sin and everyone keeping on practicing sin has not seen Him nor has he known Him.

Everyone into whom Christ has come in response to receiving faith and who remains in Christ by faith simply does not keep on doing or practicing sin. Not to do sin implies a decisive break with sin. Now, I

have a memory of my own past days, years ago when I said, because I read it.

Oh, I read a lot of nice things that weren't true. I read somewhere that everyone sins a thousand times a day in thought, word, and deed. And I figured about then that if I was going to sin a thousand times a day in thought, word, and deed, I might just be clever enough to work in something I enjoyed now and then.

And it became a license. But it wasn't long until the Spirit of God through the Word of God showed me that antinomianism is a disease of the mind and of the heart and of the spirit. I got under deep conviction.

Listen, sin is the transgression of the law. And the law is before us in the word of God and the will of God. And God does not treat as sin the failure to measure up to the infinite predispositions of God or the infinite perfections of angels.

We're talking about transgression of the law. And we're saying that anyone who goes on sinning implies that he has never made a decisive break with his past and he's still dead in his sins. All right, verses 7 to 10, we learn how to recognize those who are born of God.

Now there's always a possibility of deception. In verse 7 it says, Little children, let no man deceive you. Don't be taken in.

Everybody talking about heaven ain't going there. If I can quote some of my southern friends from a few hundred years ago, in chapter 2, verses 18 and 19, shows that there were and there are anti-Christian deceivers who seek to lead astray. Now some of these in the 8th verse the first chapter says they don't have any sin.

They couldn't sin. And some claim they cannot be saved from sin. And there are others that argue that, well, sin won't do you any harm if you're in the family of God because nothing can happen to you anyway.

But the verse here says, Don't be deceived. Everyone continuing to sin has not seen him nor has he known him. Oh, I get the idea that this is intended to be understood just the way it's written.

My little children, let no man deceive you. He that doeth righteousness is righteous. He that commiteth sin is of the devil.

He that keeps on practicing sin. Conduct is a result of what a person is. And a person who is practicing doing righteousness has been born into the family of God and made a partaker of the divine nature.

And the person that is practicing sin is doing exactly according to his father, the devil. The devil maintains sin in the world by controlling all those who serve him and he continued holds his followers in sin. And largely often because he keeps telling them that there isn't any possibility of their being saved from sin.

And regrettably, there are preachers today who were like I was for years and are telling them that that's true. There's no way they can be saved from sin. Alright, the purpose of Christ's coming.

We are told in the 8th verse in the second part of that verse, for this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil. The Lord Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless holy life. He came to loose the bonds of sin and release people from the power and influence and control of sin.

He was manifest in the flesh, in His human nature that He might destroy the works of the devil. Now, He was raised from the dead and the resurrection of Christ from the dead is the testimony to the universe that the Lord Jesus accomplished what He came for. And those who are born of God, who pass from death unto life, share this life of Christ and exhibit it as the victory of their risen Lord.

Now, everyone that has been born of God does not go on doing sin. Do you see it right there? Whosoever is born of God does not keep on practicing sin for he who has been born of God has been made a partaker of the divine nature by the Holy Spirit and therefore he cannot continue practicing sin for God's seed remains in him and he can't because he is born of God. Boy, isn't that marvelous? Isn't that wonderful? Isn't that a great emancipation proclamation to the human heart? It seems so to me.

That's why Paul writing to that church at Corinth in the second letter, 13th chapter, 5th verse said to the Corinthians, examine yourself whether you be in the faith. Prove your own selves. Do you not know your own selves how that Christ be in you except you be reprobate? Therefore, anyone who has been born of God cannot go on practicing sin.

It doesn't say he couldn't fall. We dealt with that. He isn't going to go on practicing.

His purpose is to please God. Now, I want you to see the conclusion here in the first part of this 10th verse. In this, the children of God are manifest and the children of the devil.

How can the person know whether they're born of God? What's the evidence of eternal life? Because of their hatred for sin and because of their purpose to please God and it's in this we are told that the children of God are manifest and the children of the devil. So with that in our understanding, with that before us, we've got the sixth evidence of eternal life. Examine your own heart.

Oh, to have gone through all of these scripture verses and to have the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit. Yes, this is what you were, but now you are light in the Lord. In 2nd Corinthians chapter 4 verse 6 we read, God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined into our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

There, that's the testimony. That's the work of the Spirit of God through the word of God. Heavenly Father, we're grateful that we have thy word and as we've given our hearts to it this hour, we ask that it may have been buried there like good seed and will spring forth a hundredfold to the glory of Christ.

Let blessing come to those that have listened and those who will permit the word of God to have free course and be glorified in it. We ask for thanksgiving in Jesus' name. You've been listening to the From the Pulpit and Classic Sermons series.

This week you heard Parris Reedhead with his message, So Great is Salvation, Hating Sin. Tune in next week to hear E.A. Johnston talk about the Cappuccino Church on From the Pulpit and Classic Sermons.

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