

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION NOTES

Lesson 10

Page 24 and following  
(teacher helps)

Top of page 24--What about joining a good Bible believing, teaching, Christ honoring local church?

Why is the local church important? Why is the Middletown Bible Church important to you? Why do you come on Sunday or on Wednesday? What do you expect the church to do for you? What do expect to do for the church? What do you receive? What do you give? How does the local church help you to grow as a believer? Can you grow without the local church? Do you need a Pastor? Why? Do you need to be with other believers? Why?

Here are some illustrations that might help:

A Christian who doesn't go to church is like:

- A STUDENT WHO DOESN'T GO TO SCHOOL
- A SOLDIER WHO DOESN'T JOIN THE ARMY.
- A SAILER WHO NEVER GETS ON THE SHIP.
- A TUBA PLAYER WITHOUT AN ORCHESTRA.
- A PARENT WITHOUT A FAMILY.
- A BASEBALL PLAYER WITHOUT A TEAM.
- A BEE WITHOUT A HIVE.

As someone has said, GO TO C H \_\_\_ C H

What is missing? \_\_\_ (YOU ARE!)

To further illustrate the importance of the local church you can use the BODY ILLUSTRATION (1 Corinthians 12, showing how each member is needed and important and useful).

6. What place does the study of God's Word, the Bible, have in our growing assurance or confidence in God?

CONFIDENCE IS GOD is another way of describing FAITH. Where does faith come from? How does a person get faith? See Romans 10:17--faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Where does assurance come from? WE CAN KNOW SO BECAUSE GOD HAS SAID SO! The more we understand what God has said and the

more we understand the God who said it, then the more assurance we will have.

Here is an illustration that perhaps might help. Think of a lobsterman. How can he catch lobsters. He must put lobster traps down on the floor of the ocean. His catch of lobsters depends on the lobster traps which he places on the ocean floor. The more traps that he puts there, the more lobsters he will probably catch. If he puts no traps out, how many lobsters will he catch.

The believer must place God's Word in the depths of his heart (compare Psalm 119:11). Just as you can't get lobsters apart from traps being put in the bottom of the ocean, so also the believer can't get assurance apart from God's Word being placed in his heart (by Bible reading, by hearing God's Word in the local church, at family worship times, by memorizing verses, etc.). The more Scripture that is placed in his heart the more confidence and assurance he will have. MORE AND MORE, he will be able to say I KNOW THAT BECAUSE GOD HAS SAID THAT! I'M CONFIDENT THAT GOD WILL BE GOD AND THAT GOD WILL DO JUST AS HE SAID BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN READING WHAT GOD HAS SAID AND I HAVE BEEN READING THE PROMISES WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN IN HIS WORD.

The teacher can do the matching problem on page 24.

Do you ever read the Bible on your own? Do you read a little each day and think about what you are reading? Is the Bible a Book that is too difficult for Juniors or can they understand its message too? Can the Holy Spirit teach Juniors as well as He can adults? Let's not limit God by saying that He cannot work in our hearts until we reach a certain age. It's not that God cannot work in our hearts! He can! The real question is: WILL YOU LET HIM? Age does not hinder God but unbelief does.

#### 8. What about prayer?

Do you ever get alone with God to talk to Him? When do you pray? Do you pray only at meals? Do you bow your head in prayer at school? (Remember, the Apostle Paul gave thanks in the presence of unsaved people--see Acts 27:35; and the Lord Jesus did the same--see Matthew 14:19, the feeding of the five thousand).

Do you ever begin the day with prayer (soon after you wake up)? Do you ever end the day with prayer (right before you lie down)? Is prayer really important? If some alien from outer space (even though we know such does not exist) were to spy on us throughout the day and watch everything that we do, would he think that prayer is very important or would he think that prayer is not very important at all? Would he see you praying at all?

Have the students fill in the blanks at the bottom of the page (page 24)--Matthew 7:7-8 (God's part and my part).

There is a relationship between ASSURANCE and PRAYER, as seen in Hebrews 10:22. Praying in faith is saying, "I KNOW that God is God and I KNOW that because of the cross of Christ I can come boldly to God's throne of grace and I KNOW that I can come to the Father through Christ and I KNOW that God will reward those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6). What else can the believer KNOW as he comes confidently to God?

Page 25--Explain John 15 (the vine and the branches). How can I be at home in Jesus? How can His Word be at home in my heart? The teacher could pick up a dead branch from outside and bring it into class. Ask the students why this branch is lifeless. Ask the students if this branch will ever bear apples (or leaves or anything else). Have the students explain to you why this is so. Then apply it to the believer and show that how that Christ is our life and apart from Him we are lifeless and fruitless.

## 9. Water baptism.

How many of you have been baptized?

Who should be baptized? Who should not be baptized?

Is a Junior old enough to be baptized? Is a Junior old enough to be saved? Is a Junior old enough to obey God? What does baptism picture? (see bottom of page 25) What message is it presenting? How is baptism "putting a label on the can"? What does baptism do for a person? What does baptism not do for a person? See the end of Acts 8, and ask the same question to the Juniors: "What doth hinder you from being baptized?" Of course, the greatest hindrance is unbelief! No unbeliever should

be baptized. This would be giving a false picture (why?). But if you are really a believer in Jesus Christ, what is hindering you? Are you afraid of giving a testimony? Do you have problems with assurance of salvation (a person should first be sure of his salvation. This is even more important than water baptism) This might be an opportunity for the teacher to talk with the Juniors about certain "hang-ups" that they might have. What is keeping them from going forward? We don't want to push them forward when they are not ready, but neither do we want to hinder them from going God's direction.

Note: Under #5 (page 24) there could be good opportunity to talk about church membership, its importance, its commitment, etc. Juniors need to know that church membership is not something just for adults. Church membership is something for every true believer. If a Junior is old enough to receive Christ as Saviour then a Junior is old enough for baptism and church membership. Again the teacher can talk through this with the class and find out what things might be hindering them in this respect or find out what things they might be misunderstanding.

#10. What about talking to others about God's Good News?

Are you a missionary? Has God put you in a place where you are with unsaved people? Think about your friends in school-- are they KNOW SO believers! Do they have assurance of salvation? Do they have salvation? Do they know the Lord? Do they have eternal life? Do they know the good news? Do they go to a good Bible believing church?

Do they have parents that read the Bible to them and teach them? Do they go to Sunday School in a church where the Bible is taught to them? Do they go to a good news club where they hear the good news?

If you were an unsaved person with no good church to attend and no Christian parents to teach you and with no one to help you understand the Bible, would you want someone to share the good news with you? Would you want this? Would you want

someone to tell you about Christ?

Think again about your friends in school. Do they know that you are a believer in Christ? If not, why not? Why have you kept it a secret? Don't they ever see you pray before meals? Do they notice any difference in your life? Do they notice a difference in the language you use?

If they do know you are a believer, how do they know? How did they find out? How did they learn this? Did you tell them? Did someone else tell them? Did they learn it from the way you lived?

Let's not be ashamed of the gospel and let's not be a shame to the gospel! Let's not be ashamed of the gospel with our lips (Romans 1:16) and let's not be a shame to the gospel by our life!