



## Secure and Sure (Part 2)

BY: Chris Harper, AD

Where do you stand? Perhaps the most dangerous place to stand is on the shore of assurance without the promise of security. My fear is that many in the church today are sure of their “salvation”, but lack the security of the promises of Christ. Like the rich young ruler, sure of himself and his work, the

something. It required a life, a righteous life, the life of Christ. If we are to receive this gift freely the Bible is very clear that it will cost us; it will cost us our very lives (Matt. 6:25, 16:25, Luke 9:24, 17:33).

The righteous one for the unrighteous world, that is the premise of the gospel and that

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young man replied,

“All these I have kept.” – Matt. 19:20

Of course, he had not ‘kept all these’, as the young man had something in his life he desired more than God. Often, we can become so sure in our faith that we miss the requirements for a secure faith. Many will be troubled by the word ‘requirement’. Yet, grace though free, did require

is why the gospel is good news, good news indeed.

Like the disciples who thought they were victorious through their association with Christ, we must come to understand that we are not victorious or innocent, rather guilty because of our association with Christ.

Therefore, we must die to ourselves in order to receive

## Upcoming events

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2/7 – B JV/V vs. Trinity Lutheran, 6 p.m.

2/8 – Elementary Basketball, 9 a.m.

2/8 – Wrestling Regionals at Jeffersonville, 9 a.m.

2/8 – B JV/V at Eastern (Pekin), 6 p.m.

2/13 – B JV/V at Shawe Memorial, 6 p.m.

2/14 – G V Sectional at New Washington, Time TBD

2/15 – B JV/V at Southwestern (Hanover), 12 p.m.

that which we desperately need, eternal security.

This spiritual death comes only through the power and Spirit of God. Like many today, the young ruler sought to stand on his own merit. The young man had lived a very holy life, had been extremely blessed, and thought an appeal to Christ would serve as confirmation. He sought a guarantee, something to confirm his faith and preserve his pattern of living. Christ obliterated all his notions.

The gospel, when properly taught and understood, destroys all sense of "assurance" and brings the believer into the deep peace of security. All false assurances crumble under the mass and volume of the gospel.

Pray a prayer and receive Jesus into your heart...annihilated.

Baptize them early to preserve them later...demolished.

Live good, be good, do good... filthy rags in the face of God.

There is one way, and one way only, unto which a man can be secure, unto which man can be saved... repent and believe. No magic prayer, no "holy" water, no work of our own; just pure contrite repentance

and belief. The Bible states, "repent and believe," as to which one comes first, though debatable, I do not believe the answer to be necessary. Both repentance and belief serve as two sides of the same coin, and one does not happen without the other.

People who are "sure" in their faith and do not understand security will always lack repentance. Like the young ruler, excited in his approach and destroyed in his departure. Why? Because of the cost. Because of his love, love of the world, love of himself. The cost of following Christ was too great. He was so sure in his approach, mentally calculating and recalling the holiness that defined his life; only to be crushed, his ways obliterated.

As believers, God does not give us rules to follow, rather, He clearly defines for us the nature and standard of His son, Christ. If our relationship with God is built on repentance and faith we will follow the life of Christ and do what He says. If we do not do what He says, or simply do not have the desire to do what He says, it's because we love something more than Him, mainly ourselves. Thus, evidence that

we have not died to ourselves, evidence that sincere repentance is not in us, and evidence that our assurance is not built upon a promised security.

It is not enough to know that God is God. It is not enough to be "sure" that Jesus is Jesus. Knowledge and assurance can be a start, but it will never carry you to the finish. Security in the promises of Christ is all we have. Do not trust your eternal salvation to a false prayer, do not trust it to the wetting of your head, or to the strength of your convictions. Rather, trust in the words of Christ.

Ask, plead, beg the Holy Spirit to turn you from your wicked ways, let go of the darkness, cling to the light, and build your security on the cornerstone of faith, namely, the person of Jesus the Christ.

"Repent and believe" – Mark 1:15

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