

**T**here is a common, worldly kind of Christianity in this day, which many have, and think they have enough – a cheap Christianity which offends nobody, and requires no sacrifice – which costs nothing, and is worth nothing.” (J.C. Ryle)

**V**arious major polls and studies show that between 70% and 85% of Americans profess to be Christians. With how wicked America has become, you would never know it. Most of these people may be religious, but they certainly aren't regenerated, saved children of God. Jesus Himself said, *“Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* (Matthew 7:14) This is not only a warning to atheists and adherents of false religions; he further warned that the majority of professing Christians are lost and will go to Hell. *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven...Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* (Matthew 7:21-23) There are many who are religious, and call Jesus their Lord, yet will go to hell. The reason is that the focus of their religion was not a saving faith in Christ Jesus.

**T**he Bible warns that, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.”* (Jeremiah 17:9) Many are led astray because they trust their feelings and are deceived by their own heart. It is entirely possible to have a faith that is false and does not lead to salvation. *“The devils also believe, and tremble.”* (James 2:19) The Apostle Paul also warns that you can believe in vain. Speaking about the gospel, he says, *“By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain.”* (1 Corinthians 15:2) You can even believe in a false Jesus and a false gospel which will send you to hell for an eternity. *“For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached...or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”* (2 Corinthians 11:4)

**T**he implications and levels of self-deception are frightening. Therefore God, in His word, does not hesitate to command us to examine ourselves to make sure we are truly His children. *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.”* (2 Corinthians

13:5) *“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”* (Philippians 2:12) Because our hearts are wicked and deceitful above all things, the only way we can examine ourselves by is God's word, the Bible (use the Kings James Version or KJV). Do not trust your feelings. *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12) Thankfully the Bible lays out many evidences, by which we can examine ourselves, to see whether we have been regenerated, or if we are simply religious, deceived, and lost.

**T**he first evidence that someone is regenerated is that they have a conversion testimony. Jesus said, *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* (John 3:3) Being born again is a conversion experience in which God supernaturally and radically transforms your heart. *“Repent ye and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.”* (Acts 3:19) *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17) It's not just adding a little bit of Jesus into your life, but you will be a completely new person with new affections and desires. If you cannot point to a moment in time when God radically changed you and made you a new creature and saved you, then you are lost and on your way to hell. The new nature and new affections and desires that are present in a true conversion are further evidences of true salvation.

**T**he truly saved child of God has a love for God and His word, the (KJV) Bible. Jesus said, *“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.”* (John 8:31) Not only will you read it, but you will love it, understand it and conform your life to it. *“He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.”* (John 8:47). *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”* (James 1:22) *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* (1 Corinthians 2:14) If there is one thing you take away from this tract, whether you are saved or lost, it is to pick up a KJV Bible and read it earnestly with a humble, and believing heart, and God will work in your life. *“God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the*

*humble.”* (James 4:6) The modern translations of the Bible come from a completely different source text, which has questionable origins and corrupted teachings. Study it out.

**T**he life of the true convert is marked by a love of righteousness, holiness and separation from worldliness, and is part of the new nature that comes with the new birth. It is not the cause of the new birth. *“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”* (Matthew 7:19) Many *“profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”* (Titus 1:16) *“But wilt thou know...that faith without works is dead? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”* (James 2:20,26) Remember, it is God's word that determines what works (or fruits) are good and acceptable to the Lord. Many do works they believe are good but really aren't, or have selfish motives when they do them. God will not accept any of your works until you are born again. *“All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.”* (Isaiah 64:6)

**W**hile salvation is by grace through faith, grace that comes from God leads to holiness. *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”* (Titus 2:11-12) Grace is not a license to sin. The person who believes and behaves in such a manner has not received grace or forgiveness from God. *“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”* (Galatians 5:24) Jesus didn't just come to save us only from hell, but to save us from our sin and its power over us. *“Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins.”* (Matthew 1:21) You will never be without sin, but you will no longer love your sin and be in bondage to it. *“For sin shall not have dominion over you.”* (Romans 6:14) Obedience should be seen as a blessing and not as a burden if you are regenerate. *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous.”* (1 John 5:3)

**I**f you find that you are able to live in continual, unrepentant sin without God dealing with you, it is further evidence that you are unregenerate. The Bible tells us that just as a loving father

corrects his own children, God deals with and disciplines every single one of His children when they sin. ***“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons...But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”*** (Hebrews 12:6-8) This chastisement from God always results in more holiness and righteousness. ***“Now no chastening...seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness...”*** (Hebrews 12:11)

**W**hile there are yet more evidences than mentioned here, these are some of the main ones. If you are still not sure after reading this tract, get into a KJV Bible and read it until you know. Perhaps after reading this, it has become evident to you that you are religious, but never have been regenerated by the Spirit of God, and are in the same place as the jailer in Acts who asked, ***“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”*** (Acts 16:30) God, in his love and mercy has provided for us a way to be saved by sending his Son, Jesus, to die a bloody death on the cross as our substitute. ***“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*** (Romans 5:8) During his life on earth, Jesus perfectly kept all of God’s commandments and then was punished on the cross to satisfy the demands of God’s justice for your sin. Even in your sin and rebellion, Jesus took the punishment you deserve so you could be forgiven. ***“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...and with his stripes we are healed.”*** (Isaiah 53:5) He was buried, and rose again from the dead on the third day, conquering death and proving his death was acceptable to God as a payment for sin. ***“...he [God] hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him [Jesus] from the dead.”*** (Acts 17:31) This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **The only thing you can do, upon which the new birth occurs, is obey the first words of Jesus earthly ministry: *“Repent ye, and believe the gospel.”*** (Mark 1:15)

**REPENT!** ***“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”*** (Luke 13:3) Repentance is humbling yourself and admitting your guilt and spiritually lost condition before God. It is recognizing that you have sinned against him alone, that your sin has separated you from him, and that you deserve hell because of your sin. It

also means to be sorry for your sin and rebellion against God, confess it, and hate it. ***“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation.”*** (2 Corinthians 7:10) Surrender, and turn from your sin and from going your own way in life to going God’s way by submitting to Jesus as your Lord. Repentance also means to recognize that you have no merit, good works, or attributes that play a role in your salvation. Until you realize you are lost and utterly helpless to contribute anything to your salvation, you will not receive grace and forgiveness. ***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*** (Ephesians 2:8-9) You must recognize that your only hope of redemption is to trust solely in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ as a payment for your sins.

**BELIEVE THE GOSPEL:** ***“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”*** (Acts 16:31) Believing is more than just acknowledging that Jesus Christ exists; it’s even more than acknowledging that he died and rose again. True belief is placing your complete confidence and trust in Him alone and His ability to save you by his death and resurrection. You must believe with all your heart that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He died on the cross to save you. ***“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.”*** (Romans 10:9-10) If the Lord is gracious enough to bring you to a place of repentance and desperation, recognizing that you are in need of salvation, you must cry out and call upon the Lord Jesus and ask him to forgive you for your sins and save you. ***“...and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*** (Romans 10:10,13)

**How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;** (Hebrews 2:3) Today may be your day of salvation, friend. You are not promised tomorrow! The author begs you in Christ’s stead, to repent and trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior before it’s eternally too late! ***“Strive to enter in at the straight gait; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in and shall not be able.”*** (Luke 13:24)

<https://www.oldpathsbaptistchurch.org>  
[www.sermonaudio.com/pastorcooley](http://www.sermonaudio.com/pastorcooley)  
[salvationpreacher@gmail.com](mailto:salvationpreacher@gmail.com)

