IF

Lesson One

Two Great Dangers

There are two devastating lies being taught that can cripple an individual's spiritual walk. One of these is ***UNCONDITIONAL ETERNAL SECURITY***, or Once Saved Always Saved. It is sometimes called ***ONCE IN GRACE, ALWAYS IN GRACE***. This teaching destroys, in many people, the ***DESIRE*** to live close to God. It also destroys the responsibility we have to live close to God.

The second lie is the false teaching of the ***THEORY*** of ***EVOLUTION***. It may seem odd that evolution could affect the life of a born-again believer, but there is a subtle, lingering thought because of the wide-spread influence of evolution, that the ***CREATION*** and ***CREATOR*** we have believed in, may not be an accurate belief.

If there is ***NO*** creator, we are not ***OBLIGATED*** to ***ANSWER*** for the way we live. Although these lessons are about Unconditional Eternal Security, please be both ***INSPIRED*** and ***ENCOURAGED*** to both read and memorize chapter ***ONE*** of the Book of ***GENESIS***. Make sure the truths of this chapter are ***FIRMLY*** embedded in the ***HEARTS*** of any children for whom you may be responsible.

For such a small word, the word ***IF*** is extremely important. It appears well over ***1,000*** times, actually closer to ***1,300*** times in the Bible. What does if mean?

The Merriam Webster's Deluxe Dictionary has this to say of the word if: 1a: in the event that; b: allowing that; c: on the assumption that; d: on the condition that.

The word if is a particle of conditionality. In other words, it means, if the ***CONDITION*** is met. Let us look at a good example from the Word of God.

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: **IF** *thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but* **IF** *thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.* **1 Chronicles 28:9**

David was giving instruction to his son, Solomon, who was about to become the third King of Israel. Notice those two if's. The manner in which Solomon would respond to the IF's of this challenge would not only determine his ***SUCCESS***, but also his ***ETERNAL DESTINY***.

Just looking at I Chronicles 28:9 gives us an understanding of the ***POWER*** and ***IMPORTANCE*** of IF. God's covenants are based on ***IF***. Let's look at some more examples.

[6] And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

[7] **IF** *thou* **DOEST** *well, shalt thou not be accepted? and* **IF** *thou* **DOEST NOT**

well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. **Genesis 4:6-7**

The great promises of God to His people are predicated on ***OUR RESPONSE*** to ***HIS*** conditions. We ***MUST*** not, we ***DARE NOT*** take this lightly. Let's look at some New Testament examples.

[30] As he spake these words, many **BELIEVED** *on him.*

[31] Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **IF** *ye* **CONTINUE** *in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

[32] And ye **SHALL** *know the truth, and the truth* **SHALL** *make you free.*

John 8:30-32

To have a ***MOMENTARY*** surge of faith is not enough. To say we once believed, falls far short. To truly belong to Christ, we ***MUST*** have a continuing relationship.

[15] **IF** *ye love me,* **KEEP** *my commandments.*

[16] And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

[17] Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. **John 14:15-17**

[21] He that hath my commandments, and **KEEPETH** *them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

[22] Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

[23] Jesus answered and said unto him, **IF** *a man love me, he* **WILL KEEP** *my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

[24] He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. **John 14:21-24**

The message is so definite, and so clear. Our continuing walk with God ***DEPENDS*** on our continuing obedience. This is one of the ***GREAT TRUTHS*** of the Bible.

Many like to believe and proclaim that grace is ***ALL*** of God, and ***NOTHING*** of us, but this is not so. Let's look at the grace in which we have a part.

[11] For the grace of God that bringeth **SALVATION** *hath appeared to all men,*

[12] **TEACHING** *us that,* **DENYING** *ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should* ***live*** *soberly, righteously, and godly, in* **THIS PRESENT** *world;*

[13] Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

[14] Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. **Titus 2:11-14**

Let's honestly consider that not only our ***INITIAL*** salvation, but also our continuing salvation ***DEPENDS*** to a great extent on what we do, and ***HOW*** we live.

[3] That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may

have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

[4] And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

[5] This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

[6] **IF** *we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

[7] But if we **WALK** *in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

[8] If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[9] **IF** *we* **CONFESS** *our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

[10] If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **1 John 1:3-10**

Notice the four important ***IF'S*** in those verses. Read them again.

So, how can we ***KNOW*** that we ***KNOW*** Christ?

Is it from joining a church? Is it because we labor in a church? Is it because we have a good feeling. No! It is ***NONE*** of these.

[3] And hereby we do **KNOW** *that we* **KNOW** *him,* **IF** *we* **KEEP** *his commandments.*

[4] He that saith, I know him, and **KEEPETH NOT** *his commandments, is a* **LIAR***, and the truth is* **NOT** *in him.*

[5] But whoso **KEEPETH** *his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby* **KNOW** *we that we are in him.*

[6] He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. **1 John 2:3-6**

How do we know we have security in Christ? We know we are in Him ***BECAUSE*** we keep His commandments.

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.* **1 John 3:10**

God has made available this two point test to take inventory of ourselves. We need to draw away from the foolishness that claims you cannot tell the difference between the lifestyle of a believer and a ***SINNER.*** Beware also of the saying "I'm not perfect, only forgiven." We are encouraged, even commanded to strive for perfection.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, **Hebrews 6:1**

[13] Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

[14] As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

[15] But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

[16] Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. **1 Peter 1:13-16**

We are not to merely guess that we are a born-again child of God. We are not to judge ourselves, or anyone else for that matter, because once-upon-a-time we, or they, had a ***MOMENT*** of faith for eternal life.

The ***PROOF*** of our relationship, or ***LACK*** of it, is to be judged by how we are living right now. Let's look at another one of the Bible IF's.

[19] And hereby we **KNOW** *that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.*

[20] For **IF***our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.*

[21] Beloved, **IF***our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.*

[22] And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, **BECAUSE** *we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.* **1 John 3:19-22**

These ***STRONG*** words are from that great apostle, John, who talked so much about love.