

## **“A Confirmed Ticket Is Better Than Standby”**

1 John 5:13

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

**Introduction:** When Dottie and I were married (August 21, 1964), she worked for Delta Air Lines. One of her perks as an employee of Delta was free travel for her family. The only drawback was that you flew on standby which means you did not have a confirmed seat. In those days, if you picked your days and flights you almost always could get on a flight. Employees in those days could purchase confirmed seats for half price which sometimes we did. It was just a good feeling to go to the airport with a confirmed ticket in hand.

A more important good feeling is to know that you have a “confirmed ticket” to heaven. I know there are many people who do not believe that you can know you are going to heaven. I believe you can know you are going to heaven. My goal today is not to change or even challenge what you believe. I simply ask you to consider what I share.

I believe the Bible is very clear that you can know that you are going to heaven. One of the clearest verses in the Bible is our text. It says you can be sure you have eternal life.

**Text:** 1 John 5:13

There are many verses in the Bible that teach the eternal security of the believer in addition to 1 John 5:13. John 3:16 speaks of eternal life. John 6:47 says, “Whoever believes has eternal life.” John 10:27-29 is a classic passage on the eternal security of the believer. Romans 8:31-29 is perhaps the strongest passage in the New Testament on the eternal security of the believer. Ephesians 2:4-10 is a very clear passage on the eternal security of the believer.

There are also passages in the New Testament that those turn to who do not believe in the eternal security of the believer. The warning passages in Hebrews (2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:12; 10:19-39; 12:1-29) seem to say that you can lose your salvation. I do not believe that is what they teach, but those who believe you can lose your salvation say that is what they are saying.

The truth is a person can find Scripture to support about anything they want to believe. And many do! The first rule of interpretation is to interpret Scripture in light of Scripture. When we don't understand something in Scripture, work from what we do understand and then apply it to what we do not understand.

The only thing better than knowing you are saved is being saved. Not know you are going to heaven is a bad thing. For example, Muslims are convinced that Islam is the right religion, but they have no confidence when they die that they will go to heaven. They do their best and hope to go to heaven, but they will tell you that they have no idea what Allah is going to do. Many religions hope they will go to heaven, but they are not sure.

**Question:** Why are people not sure of their salvation?

1. Some who lack assurance of salvation believe that salvation is a cooperative effort between man and God.

2. Some who lack assurance of salvation believe their sin is greater than God's grace.
3. Some who lack assurance of salvation are not sure about the Bible.
4. Some who lack assurance of salvation have never been saved. They have prayed a prayer, but they have never transferred trust to Jesus to save them.

**Conclusion:** Personal assurance of salvation is one thing that you want to have a "confirmed ticket." You do not want to have a "standby ticket" on your eternity. A good way to do that is to read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and believe it.

"God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21—NKJV).