

LESSON 10

CHAPTER 18. “Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation”

A chapter written against those who would say assurance cannot be had (e.g., Arminians, Roman Catholics.)

I. Paragraph 1: Temporary believers have false hope, but the saints’ hope springs eternal

- A. Temporary believers and unregenerate people deceive themselves and will perish, unless the Lord regenerates them. (Temporary believers do not “fall away.” They were never really there to start with).
- B. Those that persevere may be certainly assured.

II. Paragraph 2: Assurance is grounded in the work of the Holy Spirit

- A. Assurance rests on the infallible promises of God to His vessels of mercy. Having faith that we are kept and sealed, we must gain assurance.
- B. Assurance is a fruit of the Spirit.

III. Paragraph 3: Assurance is not usually instantaneous

- A. Assurance may not come for many years.
- B. We are responsible to pursue assurance by exercise of our faith.
- C. Assurance of salvation will not motivate the true believer to sin.

IV. Paragraph 4:

- A. Like faith, assurance may be shaken and appear to fail, but it shall always be renewed and, by the tempering furnace of God, be made all the stronger.

Discussion Questions:

What do other denominations teach about assurance?

How does God help us to gain assurance?

Of what value is self-examination in person’s assurance?

How do we distinguish false believers from stumbling, true believers?

What can we do for people who seem to have lost faith or are talking about giving up?

Does the absence of assurance mean that a person is probably not saved?