Your Greatest Doubts and Fears
How to Keep the Faith When Facing Life's Toughest Questions

#12: What if I am Not a Christian? How Can I Know for Sure?

Intro: If you were to die today, how certain are you that you'd end up in heaven?

> *Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election...*
> 2 Peter 1:10

> *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.*
> 1 John 5:13-14

1. One Distinction: True Assurance vs False Assurance (4 Kinds of People):
    a. Those who are saved and know that they're saved.
    b. Those who are saved and don't know that they're saved.
    c. Those who are not saved and know that they're not saved.
    d. Those who are not saved and believe they *are* saved.

    e. The last group is of course the most troubling.
        i. Why are they deceived, so that I may avoid it?
        ii. 2 things we may derive from here:
            1. There *is* such a thing as a false assurance.
            2. It can be avoided through right doctrine.

2. Two Questions: Questions of Life and Knowledge.
    a. Fist Question: Do You Love God with your Life?
        i. Only he who is regenerate is able to love God.
        ii. Also, there are two tests to see if we love God:
            1. Are we loving our brothers?
            2. Are we keeping God's commandments?

    b. Second Question: Is it the God of the Bible?
            1. How do we know we know the God of the Bible? We keep his commandments.

3. Three Theological Foundations: Christ's Promises, Ordinary Means of Grace, Internal Testimony of the Holy Spirit
    i. The WCF (18:ii-iii) list these three categories as the grounds of our assurance:

    b. Frist, Christ's Promises: Do we believe Christ?
        i. We do not look at ourselves for assurance
        ii. We look at God and his faithfulness
        iii. We look at Christ, and the Gospel, as a witness to God's faithfulness

    c. Second, Ordinary Means of Grace: Are we being diligent?
        i. Double Mechanism of Assurance
            1. The Spirit oversees Our Sanctification
            2. He sanctifies us by the means of grace

    d. Third, Internal Testimony of the Holy Spirit

4. Four Final Words (Concerning All Kind of Sincere and Humble Doubt)
    a. [Almost] Every Christian Doubts
    b. Fight your Doubt
        i. With Holiness,
        ii. Identifying the Cause,
        iii. Deal with it in Community

    c. Jesus is not Ashamed of You
        i. Heb 2:11, 11:16
        ii. Heb 2:18, 4:15

    d. The certainty of your faith is not the grounds of your salvation, the object of your faith is. The certainty of your faith is not the grounds of your salvation, Jesus Christ is.

        i. What happened with both Smith and Brown and why?