

**2 Cor 1:18-24**

Sec 1. ...hypocrites & other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes & carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God, & estate of salvation (which hope of theirs shall perish):

A. This section describes 2 classes or people who deceive themselves about being saved.

1. “Hypocrites”— someone who talks the talk yet is not walking with Christ. **Isa 29:13** describes such people: *““Because this people draw near with their words & honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, & their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote.”* In other word, these are people who only go through the motions of Christianity. They do not have any true devotion to God. They do not pray to God on their own in any intimate fashion whatsoever.

2. “other regenerate men”— These can be either religious or general deists.

a. Muslims, Jehovah’s Witnesses, & Mormons are examples of very religious people who sincerely believe they have favor before God & an estate of salvation.

- All 3 groups claim Jesus Christ was sent by God yet deny His sacrificial death as essential to be saved.

b. The deist is one believes in the existence of God based on reason yet with little to no trust in special revelation (i.e. Scripture). They may believe in most to the 10 commandments & say they are “good people” in God’s sight because they kept the commands they feel really matter. An example is the common Santa Clause interpretation of God.

B. Apart from such presumptuous people whose hope shall perish, sec 1 goes on to say that a person can truly have assurance of salvation through Christ: “... yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, & love him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, & may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.”

1. This is in stark contrast to what the Council of Trent (Session 6, Chapter 9) declared:

“It is not to be said to any one boasting a confidence and certainty of the forgiveness of his sins, that his sins are forgiven, or have been forgiven; seeing this vain confidence, totally remote from piety, may exist in heretics and schismatics. . . seeing that no man can know with a certainty of faith, as to which there can be no lurking error, that he has obtained the grace of God”

2. Here the Roman Church claims us to be “heretics and schismatics” because we have a “certainty of faith” to have “obtained the grace of God.”

a. Our assurance is not based upon us having all the theology perfect or a sinless life, but we have faith in the perfect work of Christ on our behalf.

b. The next section goes on to say how we can have such an assurance.

Sec 2. “This certainty is not a bare conjectural & probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope; but an infallible assurance of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation,

A. A Christian can obtain assurance based upon the “divine truth of the promises of salvation.”

1. Our assurance is not based upon the sinking, unstable shifting sand of the doctrine of men.
2. Our assurance is based upon the foundation of prophets & apostles with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone. → Turn to **2 Peter 1:16-21**.
  - a. If your religion is based upon what you “think” about God apart from Scripture, that is bare conjecture which this section condemns.
  - b. An example of “probable persuasion grounding upon fallible hope” is one being saved because they exhibit some special fruit of the Holy Spirit (i.e. speaking in tongues).
3. Our assurance is based upon the grounds or foundation of the objective **“prophetic Word made more sure.”**

B. Sec 2 goes on to say our assurance is also based upon subjective, inward grounds as well:

“an infallible assurance of faith [is] founded...” [also upon] “the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made...”

1. “the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made”

- a. → Turn to **Romans 10:9-13**. We can have an inward & outward evidence that we have made such a confession & sought to live by it.
- c. Growth in the fruit of the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of **Mat 13:23** **“the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word & understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, & some thirty.”**
  - 1) Examine your fruit in accordance to **Gal 5**
  - 2) Peter gives another parallel passage for fruit examination in **2 Pet 1:4-11**.

2. “an infallible assurance of faith [is] founded...” [also upon] “the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.”

a. → **2 Cor 1:18-24**

b. → **Rom 8:14-16**