













# A SURE THING

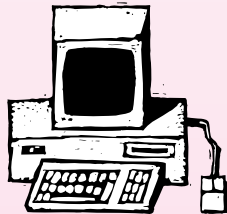
**TOOLBOX**

-  THINK
-  OBSERVE
-  CLOSE-UP
-  WRITE
-  DISCUSS
-  FEELINGS
-  BRAINSTORM
-  REFERENCE
-  PASSAGE
-  ARTICLE
-  BIG IDEA
-  CROSSROAD

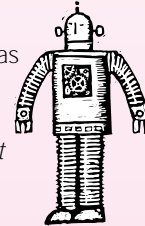


"Gone With the Wind is going to be the biggest flop in Hollywood history. I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling flat on his face and not Gary Cooper."  
*Gary Cooper, 1938*

"I think there's a world market for about five computers."  
*Thomas J. Watson, chairman of the board of IBM, 1943*




"Everything that can be invented has been invented."  
*Charles H. Duell, Commissioner of U.S. Office of Patents, in a letter urging President William McKinley to abolish his office, 1899*




"The deliverance of the saints must take place some time before 1914."  
*Charles Taze Russell, founder of Jehovah's Witnesses, Studies in Scripture, Vol. 3, 1910 edition*

"The deliverance of the saints must take place some time after 1914."  
*Charles Taze Russell, Studies in Scripture, Vol. 3, 1923 edition*




 **DISCUSS**

If you could be told about your future, what would you like to know?

 **CONTRAST**

What is the difference between a prediction and a promise?

 **EXPLORE**

What would it take for you to be confident that a promise will be fulfilled?

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Let's look at a portion of the Bible that gives us a clearer understanding of the salvation God offers.

Who is the subject or one acting in each section?

## WHAT IS NEEDED TO HAVE LIFE AND BE SURE YOU HAVE IT

### TITUS 3:3-8

#### CONTRAST

Contrast the characteristics of the lives in verse 3 with the characteristics of the lives in verses 7 and 8.

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,  
5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,  
6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.  
8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

#### DICTIONARY

**SAVE:** to keep in a safe, intact condition; safeguard

to preserve a person from harm or loss

"[refers to] the eternal salvation granted immediately by God to those who believe in Christ" (*Vine's*)

**MERCY:** "the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it" (*Vine's*)

kind and compassionate treatment of an offender, enemy or prisoner under one's power

**TRUST:** firm reliance on the integrity, ability, or character of a person or thing; confident belief; faith

"to believe, also to be persuaded of, and hence, to place confidence in; to trust, signifies, in this sense of the word, reliance upon, not mere credence" (*Vine's*)

**RENEWAL:** the act of making new or as if new again; the act of restoring or reviving

"a revival of the Holy Spirit's power, developing the Christian life; this passage stresses the continual operation of the indwelling Spirit of God" (*Vine's*)

**JUSTIFY:** to pronounce righteous; acquit

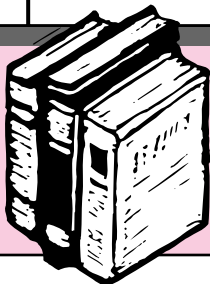
the action taken by God to free man of the guilt and penalty of sin

**GRACE:** unmerited positive regard shown by a superior

**HOPE:** confidence; expectation  
"the full manifestation and realization of that life which is already the believer's possession" (*Vine's*)

#### SUMMARIZE

How is a person saved?  
What is God's part?  
What is our part?



Let's look at one tremendous promise from the Bible.

# A



## PROMISE

God's testimony,  
**not man's.**  
See verses 9 and 10.

1 John 5:11-13

And this is the testimony:  
God has given us eternal life, and  
this life is in his Son.

He who has the Son **HAS LIFE**;  
he who does not have the Son of  
God **DOES NOT HAVE LIFE**.

I write these things to you who  
believe in the name of the Son of  
God so that you may know that you  
have eternal life. *(emphasis added)*



## DEBATE

1. A person can know with certainty that he has eternal life.
2. It is arrogant to claim that you have eternal life.

### DOES NOT HAVE LIFE . . .

and doesn't claim  
to have life

but claims to  
have life



### HAS LIFE . . .

but is unsure

and is sure



### THOUGHT QUESTIONS



What will be the consequences for a person  
who claims to have life but doesn't?  
For a person who has life but is unsure?

### PRIVATE REFLECTION

With which group do  
I identify most?



## DISCUSS

In light of the truths you discovered in Titus 3:3-8, how would you respond to the following statements?

I have eternal life because . . .

I believe in God.

I try to do what is right.

I attend church and pray often.

I was baptized and confirmed.

I once prayed a prayer and asked Christ into my heart.

## CASE STUDY



Mike, a pitcher for the university baseball team, placed his faith in Christ after Phil shared the gospel with him. Mike's background was a little wild, and he hadn't had very much exposure to church or the Christian life.

Phil got together with Mike a few days later and was encouraged as Mike talked about some of the changes taking place in his life. "When I was at home with all of my old buddies this weekend, I suddenly realized that our usual form of entertainment wasn't right for a Christian to do," Mike said. "It was hard, but I told them that I wasn't going to do it anymore."

When Phil and Mike got together again a few weeks later, Mike was very depressed. After pitching poorly in several games he had fallen back into some of his old patterns. Now Mike was disillusioned about his new relationship with God. He couldn't figure out why God would allow him to pitch so badly and he certainly didn't feel like much of a Christian. He began to doubt if he really was a Christian.



## YOUR LIFE



Complete one of the following statements:

I am sure I have eternal life because . . .

I am not sure I have eternal life because . . .



## DISCUSS

If you were in Phil's shoes, what would you say to Mike?

Can doubting something change its reality?



## TRUTHS ABOUT YOUR NEW LIFE

What do the following verses reveal about your new life?

- Colossians 1:13,14; 2:13
- 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:4,5
- John 1:12; Romans 8:15; 1 John 3:1
- Revelation 3:20; Galatians 2:20
- John 5:24; John 10:27-29



## THREE EVIDENCES

Adapted from *How You Can Be Sure You Are a Christian* by Bill Bright:

How then can one be sure that he or she is a Christian? . . . I believe that there is a three-fold confirmation that Jesus Christ is in our lives.

First, we have the external witness, or evidence of the Word of God. (1 John 5:9-13)

Second, there is the internal witness or evidence of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:16)

Our changed lives are a third witness to the fact we are Christians. (1 John 2:3-6; Matthew 7:20; James 2:20)

How are these evidences reflected in Titus 3:3-8?

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.