Thursday Night Bible Study Outline, 08.20.2026 @ 7 P.M.
"L.I.F.E. In Christ"
Elder Steven Clough

"The DISTINCTION between two Doctrines: Salvation vs. Assurance" – Part 3
A Johannine Masterpiece
1 John 5:13

Part 1

The Doctrine of Salvation: The objective & monergistic work of our Triune God to rescue sinners from the *penalty* of sin (God's Condemnation), the *power* of sin (its Control), and the *presence* of sin (its Corruption) by the substitutionary life, death, burial, and resurrection of the Jesus Christ, the Son of God; who alone procured for the sinner eternal life. Rom. 8:29-34; Eph. 1:3-14; Titus 3:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2

*It answers the **Objective** questions...*
Does God save sinners from his wrath? Does God forgive sinners and grant them everlasting life? If so, how does He accomplish this without compromising the Truth, His justice, or His holiness?

The *Gospel according to John* is about proving objectively (by **sign miracles... visible** evidence) that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who alone grants everyone who believes everlasting Life because of his life, death, burial, and **resurrection**. John 20:30-31

The Doctrine of Assurance: The subjective & inner Conviction, Expectation, and Ownership of the believer possessing the inheritance of eternal L.I.F.E in Christ. This is marked by (1) faith in the ***person*** and finished work of the gospel, (2) the ***power*** of the gospel working in/through that saving faith true obedience and love, and (3) the ***promise*** indwelling of the Holy Spirit who confirms our sonship. John 3:16-17; 5:24; John 6:40; 20:30-31; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 4:4-6

*It answers the **Subjective** questions....*
Did God truly forgive *me*, did he grant me everlasting life, do I have possession of this gracious inheritance, did Jesus die for my sins, did Jesus raise for my justification? How do I *know* that I am truly saved by God through the perfect work of Christ?

The *First Epistle of John* is about proving subjectively how the believer can *know* that they possess the inheritance of everlasting Life in Christ with God (our permanent **relationship**). 1 John 5:13

Why are these distinctions critical for the Christian?
1) To ***clarify*** the Sovereignty of God in Salvation and the human responsibility of the believer in assurance. John 1:12-13; Eph. 2:4-6
2) To ***classify*** Salvation as a work of God alone apart from our works, and assurance being a collaborative work between God and the believer. Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 John 3:18-21
3) To ***codify*** the permanence of Salvation and the conditional privilege of assurance. John 10:27-29

4) To ***crystalize*** how Salvation is how one <u>*enters*</u> a right relationship with God, and assurance is about how one confidently <u>*enjoys*</u> their right relationship with God. PS. 51:12; John 17:2-3
5) To ***categorize*** eternal security as the objective reality of the believer in Christ, and assurance as the subjective confidence in the believe possessing a salvation that is eternally secure. John 6:37-39
6) To ***caution*** against a mere knowledge and an intellectual ascent to the gospel as the exclusive grounds of assurance without the necessary obedience to Christ, rooted in a saving faith. Matt. 7:21-28; James 2:14-26

Part 2-3

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."
1 John 5:13

1. The <u>*Content*</u> of the Apostolic **WORD**: The *Blessed* ***Proof*** of one's <u>Salvation</u>. vv. 13a
   A. Having a right <u>*Christology*</u> – Do we have the ***Correct*** Jesus that we are trusting? 1 John 1:1-3; 2:22-23; 3:2-3; 2 John 7
   B. Having Righteous <u>*Conduct*</u> – Our ***Conformity*** to Christ in a life of Love and obedience. 1 John 1:6; 2:3, 5, 18-19
   C. Having consistent <u>*Claims*</u> – Having ***Complete*** and sound biblical teaching. 1 John 1:6, 8-10; 2:6, 9-11; 4:15

2. The <u>*Cause*</u> of this Gospel **WITNESS**: *Being* ***Persuaded*** of our Eternal <u>Security</u>. vv. 13c
   A. The <u>*Settled*</u> **KNOWING** of our Salvation, *resting* in the ***finished*** work of the Son of God by faith. 1 John 2:1-2; 5:1-2, 10
   B. The <u>*Sure*</u> **KNOWLEDGE** of our eternal security, *revealed* in the subjective ***fruit*** of obedience and love. 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7-8, 12, 17, 20-21; 5:4-5, 18
   C. The <u>*Spirit*</u> **KEEPS** us and confirms our KNOWING God, taking *resident* in us ***forever***.1 John 2:20; 3:23-24; 4:1-2, 6, 13; 5:10

3. The <u>*Crowd*</u> to who it was **WRITTEN**: To those *Believing* in the ***Person*** of the <u>Savior</u>. vv. 13b
   A. Assurance is <u>*secured*</u> only for the ***CHOSEN*** in Christ whose confidence is in the LORD. Mic. 7:7-10; Rom. 8:28-30
   B. Assurance is <u>*supplied*</u> only to those who ***CURRENTLY*** believe in Jesus as the Christ the Son of God! John 1:12-13; John 3:16-18; 5:24; 6:40, 67-69; Heb. 10:38-39; 11:1-2; 1 John 3:21-23
   C. Assurance is <u>*sustained*</u> with those who ***CONTINUOUSLY*** trust and obey the Master to the end! Ps. 51:12; John 13:16-17; James 2:14-17, 21-24; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21