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THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.

A SERMON

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"We know that we are of God."—1 John, 5-19.

AM I of God, or am I not? Can any man raise a question of greater moment to himself than that? If he is of God it will be well with him forever; if he is not of God, and if he dies in that condition he must spend eternity in shame and misery. We ask your attention therefore to no light question; and to a question which we believe to be a living one, a question on which many pious, thoughtful people desire more light.

Let us get the exact meaning of the text. What is meant by being "of God?" It is equivalent to other expressions in this epistle, such as being "of the truth," "born of God," and "sons of God." John is speaking for himself and those "that believe on the name of the Son of God" (5:13); and he says "we are of God," are the sons of God, are born of God; but of the rest of men he adds, "the whole world lieth in the evil one," are "the children of the devil" (3:10). We are of God and "*we know*" it. My text contains a statement of *certainly* in reference to our salvation; and this is the question we propose to discuss.