

*My grandson is 17. He is going to a Methodist church regularly but he has not made a public confession and been baptized. I am concerned but my son says he knows where his son's heart is and is saved. I'm worried that if he does not come forward now, he won't later, when he goes away to college. Is he saved without a public commitment and baptism?*

One need only to believe that Jesus is who he said he is to be saved (Ac 5:14, 1 Ti 4:12).

Christians can know (1 Co 12:10) who is of God and who is not by observing one's fruit (Mt 7:20, Jas 2:14–26). A believer's life should be consistent with his profession of faith (Tt 1:16). Not all professors of the faith are possessors of the Spirit (Mt 7:21). The world notices when one has been made new in Christ (2 Co 5:17). Christians should live by faith and not shrink back (He 10:38).

God will do all that he can to save each person (Lk 16:31). He is not willing that any should perish (2 Pe 3:9).

Many churches have departed from sound teaching—just as the Bible said they would in the last days (2 Thes 2:1-3). It reminds us that our salvation is nearer than when we first believed (Ro 13:11).

Elders can pray for those who have been justified (Re 3:10, 21); but, who lack the courage to share their testimony (Jn 9:25, Jas 5:14, 15).