

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Heb. 10:22, 35,39; I Pet. 1: 5, 9; I Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. I want us to study "Blessed Assurance", or we could call the lesson "The Christian's Confidence in His Salvation".
2. Many Christians are not sure they would be SAVED if they died today.
3. They are not sure of their salvation.
4. They are hesitant to affirm with confidence that they are saved -- II Cor. 5: 1 - 10
 - (1) Paul had confidence of his salvation -- II Tim. 4: 7 - 8; Phil. 1: 21 - 24
 - (2) John said we can know we have eternal life -- I John 5: 13 - 15
 - (3) John lists a number of things, that if observed enables us to know.
 1. "*If we walk in the light*" -- I John 1: 7
 2. "*If we confess our sins*" -- I John 1:9
 3. "*If we keep His commandments*" --I John 2:3
 4. "*Love not the world*" -- I John 2:15
 5. If the truth remains in us we will be in fellowship with the Father and the Son -- I John 2:24
 6. If we fail to do our known duty we will have "a guilty conscience" and be "self condemned", and we may be sure that God will condemn us -- I John 3: 20 - 21.
 7. "*If we love one another God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us*" --I John 4: 12
5. Some have latched on to this problem among us, and have given a false confidence based on false doctrine:
 - (1) Some have taught the "imputed righteousness of Christ".
 - (2) Others have taught "automatic grace"--"continual cleansing"-- if a man is generally "walking in the light" and commits sins in ignorance and weakness, he is "automatically" cleansed from sin -- Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:8
6. The Christian needs to realize the Bible does have somewhat to say on the fact that we can be saved and we can KNOW that we are saved.
7. How a man can KNOW that he is saved, and have the BLESSED ASSURANCE of salvation when he dies?

I. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION RESTS ON GOD'S PROMISES

1. God has promised to extend His grace to save the man who responds to the gospel of Christ, and meets the conditions laid down in the gospel -- Mk. 16:15 - 16; Eph. 2:8
2. The believer in Christ can know that he is SAVED because of the reliability of the promises of God.
 - (1) God cannot lie -- Titus 1:2
 - (2) God is not slack concerning His promise -- II Pet. 3:9
3. Assurance of salvation does not rest upon human experience but upon the promises of God.

- (1) Many people rest their assurance of salvation squarely upon their own personal sensations, despite the fact that the Bible repeatedly warns that personal feelings are not trustworthy.
- (2) People feel a certain way about a matter as a result of testimony that is unreliable -- Jacob -- Gen. 37: 31 - 35
- (3) Paul thought he was in a saved relationship with God -- Acts 26:9; 23:1
 1. But, he was "*chief of sinners*" -- I Tim. 1:15

II. SALVATION COMES TO MAN THROUGH GOD'S PARDON

1. We must remember, salvation from sin occurs when God forgives us of sins.
2. Forgiveness of sins occurs in the Mind of God -- Isa. 55:7; Neh. 9:17
3. God is the one who we have sinned against -- Isa. 59: 1 - 2
4. He is the One who has the right to grant pardon.
5. How does one receive the Word of Pardon from God?
 - (1) Obviously, God does not issue a formal decree sent down from heaven to an individual to let him know that he has been forgiven.
 - (2) Yet, our knowledge of salvation must come through God's STATEMENT of SALVATION.
 - (3) That is done through the WRITTEN Word of God, the Bible -- Rom. 8:16; Heb. 10: 15 -17
 - (4) In the Bible, God has promised Salvation to man conditionally -- Eph. 2:8; Mk. 16:16; Act 2: 38
 - (5) When we meet the conditions, God has promised to save us.
 - (6) We CAN know that we are saved because God has promised, and He cannot lie.
 - (7) Our assurance of Salvation rests squarely upon the promises of God.
 1. When one meets the divine conditions he receives God's grace.
 2. The alien sinner must believe, repent, confess and be baptized.
 3. An erring child of God must repent, confess and pray -- Acts 8:22

III. HERE ARE THE SCRIPTURAL REASONS I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT I WILL BE SAVED:

1. The nature of God
 - (1) He is longsuffering and of great mercy -- Num. 14:18; II Pet. 3:9, 15; Eph. 2:4
 - (2) God wants men to be saved -- II Pet. 3:9; I Tim. 2:4
 - (3) God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked -- Ezek. 33:11
2. The provisions of God for man's salvation.
 - (1) He purposed man's salvation from eternity -- Eph. 3: 9 - 11
 - (2) His great love for man is manifested in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our sins -- John 3:16; Rom. 8:32
 - (3) He has given man an infallible guide to direct him to heaven -- II Tim. 3: 16 - 17
 - (4) God planned the church to help man to go to heaven.
 1. The assemblies are designed to edify -- Heb. 10: 24 - 25; Col. 3:16; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 14: 26
 2. My brothers and sisters in Christ are to restore me to fellowship with God when I fall -- Gal. 6:1

3. We are to have care one for another -- I Cor. 12:25
3. The commandments of God shows God's concern for my salvation.
 - (1) God has not given us any commandment which is impossible for man to obey -- I John 5:3
 1. Consider what man must do to be saved -- hear, believe, repent, confess and be baptized.
 - (2) Consider man's condition for maintaining the salvation which God gives him.
 1. After we have been baptized, God does not want us to sin, but he does not require that man live a sinlessly perfect life after baptism in order to be saved -- I John 1:8
 2. What God has required is for the Christian to repent of his sins and confess them to God in prayer when he sins -- I John 1:9; 2: 1- 2; Acts 8:22
 3. God has made provisions for man through the shed blood of Jesus Christ to be forgiven --I John 2:1- 2
4. Those who are considered worthies before me:
 - (1) ELIJAH
 1. He was so pleasing to God that God did not allow him to die.
 2. God sent down a chariot of fire and took Elijah in a whirlwind into heaven -- II Kings 2:11
 3. James said, "*Elijah*" -- "*a man subject to like passions as we are*" -- James 5:17
 - (2) DAVID
 1. He is described as a man after God's own heart -- Acts 13:22
 2. David was not a perfect man by any means -- Psa. 51: 1 - 3
 - (3) PETER
 1. He denied the Lord -- Matt. 26: 69 - 75
 2. He failed to stand up for the truth at Antioch -- Gal. 2: 11-14
 - (4) PAUL
 1. I Cor. 9: 27; II Tim. 4: 6 - 8

CONCLUSION

1. God's care for you and me -- I Cor. 10: 13
2. These precious promises to me assure me that I can be saved.
3. I can live the life of the righteous and die and go to heaven -- II Pet. 1: 10 -11
4. There is no reason for men to lack confidence in their salvation.
5. I have every reason to rest assured that I shall be saved by Grace through Faith.