

## Hebrews 6:9-18

31-Dec-2017 · Hopewell ARP · Culleoka, TN

Introduction: The Lord wants us to be sure, because assurance of faith helps us press on and progress in faith (cf. 1Jn 5:13). How, then, can we seek this assurance? Serving and Savoring.

### 1. Serving, vv9-12

#### a. The centrality of love

- i. "Beloved" (v9). The apostle loves with the Lord's love. The firmness of the threat makes this tenderness all the more precious (cf. 2Cor 12:7-10, Heb 12:5-14). This is the character of our God toward us.
- ii. "Labor of love" (v10). What is it? Past and ongoing service to the "saints." The word 'saints' reminds us that this is love not just to people but to people who are identified with Christ. We love Him because He first loved us, and we love one another out of our love for Him (cf. 1Jn 4:19-5:2). This is why it would be "unjust to overlook" this—if the love is genuine, it is the evidence of having been made right with God.

#### b. Assurance through the exercise of love

- i. "Work and labor," v10
- ii. "Have ministered and do minister," v10
- iii. "Show the same diligence," v11
- iv. "Do not be sluggish," v12
- v. The main thing here is exercise, not examination. It is in the soil of action that the crop of assurance grows!

### 2. Savoring, vv13-18

- a. It is impossible for God to lie, v18 ... and it's almost irrational for God to swear, since there is no one greater than He, v16
- b. But still He swears an oath (v13-14, cf. Gen 22:16-18)
- c. Two immutable (impossible to change) things: God's counsel/promise, and God's oath. He cannot change His mind about saving all who are in Christ, and He has given words and signs of covenant oaths to stake His name and His character on our salvation
- d. Why? "to show more abundantly" so that we will have "strong consolation" in which to "lay hold of the hope set before us"
- e. We must respond to Him by
  - i. Savoring His promises—by dwelling upon the certain words of Scripture
  - ii. Savoring His oaths—displayed now not in sacrifices of bulls and goats, appointed by God for the certainty of believers, but the very blood of Jesus Christ Himself: (a) **Baptism**, The washing of His blood and pouring out of His Spirit signified in baptism. (b) **Lord's Supper**, The covenant meal, complete with the Cup that is the New Covenant in His blood. These are forms of covenantal assurance, pointing to and united with the oaths of the living God Himself. God has commanded them as a help unto our weakness; we must savor them!

Conclusion: Serve and Savor! Seek that assurance that helps us press on in faith and progress in faith. Serve the saints. Savor the promises and oaths of God unto you!