

REDEEMED Series Road Map

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| 1. Introduction | 8. *Irresistible Grace | 15. Sanctification |
| 2. *Unconditional Election | 9. Regeneration | 16. Good Works |
| 3. Predestination | 10. Union with Christ | 17. Assurance of Salvation |
| 4. *Total Depravity | 11. Saving Faith | 18. *Perseverance of the Saints |
| 5. Atonement | 12. Repentance | 19. Perseverance |
| 6. *Limited Atonement | 13. Justification | 20. Glorification |
| 7. Effectual Calling | 14. Adoption | * = <i>Doctrines of Grace (T.U.L.I.P.)</i> |

Redeemed #55 – Assurance Part 3

Book Recommendation: none

JC Ryle wrote:

There are two points in religion on which the teaching of the Bible is very plain and distinct. One of these points is the fearful danger of the ungodly; the other is the perfect safety of the righteous. One is the happiness of those who are converted; the other is the misery of those who are unconverted. One is the blessedness of being in the way to heaven; the other is the wretchedness of being in the way to hell. (JC Ryle, *Old Paths*, p447)

1 - Assurance – 3 legs of support

First Support: Assured by the Promises of God

Second Support: Assured by the Evidence of our Salvation

- a) Obeying God’s commandments – Love God & love your neighbor
- b) Christlike Character – Fruit of the Spirit
- c) Doing good works – intentional works towards others to show the love of Christ

Third Support: Assured by the Testimony of the Holy Spirit

John Calvin wrote:

Now we possess a right definition of faith if we call it a firm and certain knowledge of God’s benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit. (John Calvin, *Institutes of The Christian Religion*, Book 3, Chapter 2, Section 7)

Rom. 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” **16** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. **18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Martin Luther suggested that we feel the weight of condemnation because “we are much more aware of God’s wrath than we are of his favor, therefore the Holy spirit is sent into our hearts.” (Schreiner/Caneday, *The Race Set Before Us*, p304-305)

John Calvin

For as God alone is a fit witness of himself in his Word, so also the Word will not find acceptance in men’s hearts before it is sealed by the inward testimony of the Spirit. (Calvin, Institutes 1.7.4, quoted in Schreiner/Caneday, *The Race Set Before Us*, p305)

For Assurance Strugglers

Ask yourself these questions:

1. What did God promise in His Word?
2. When I read those promises, does the HS testify to them being true? Does he testify to me being a child of God?
3. What evidence of saving faith is there in my life? Do I exhibit fruit of the Spirit, love for others, good works?

2 – Assurance: Ephesians

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

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Eph. 1:6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

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Eph. 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

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Eph. 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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Assurance

Eph. 1:15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, **16** I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **18** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might **20** that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **22** And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

1 Peter – Similar statement

1Pet. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Listen to Sinclair Ferguson:

Lack of assurance is often caused, like the sense of inferiority, by being too taken up with ourselves. But our assurance does not lie in what we are, be we great or small. It lies in what God has done in his plan of salvation to secure us to himself. 'Believe God's Word and power more than you believe your own feelings and experiences,' wrote Samuel Rutherford to a correspondent. 'Your Rock is Christ, and it is not the Rock which ebbs and flows, but your sea.' The more we know of the strength of our Rock, and understand that we have all the blessings of the Christian life secure in him, the more steadily assured we will be and the greater will be our joy. (Sinclair Ferguson, The Christian Life, p23-24).