

# Blessed Assurance of Salvation pt. 7

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*“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” 2 Tim.1:12*

We return to our studies this morning on Blessed Assurance of Salvation, this is part 7 of our series. We have been considering the third point of our outline on: Blessed Assurance in the Person.

### **III. Blessed Assurance in the Person:** (...for I know whom I have believed...)

Paul has clearly set forth that he knows and believes in that Person that has saved his soul who is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. It's Jesus Christ and Him crucified that gives Paul that hope and trust needed as he goes through his trial in prison. It was that relationship; that personal relationship with Jesus Christ that sustained Paul in all his adversities. This is why he can say with such conviction, *“...for I KNOW WHOM I have believed...”*

This has been the catalyst for our last 3 sermons on the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. We have sought to cover His incarnation, that is, God was manifest in the flesh and to understand that Jesus Christ as the Second Person of the Godhead bodily was fully 100% God robed in the flesh. We must never lose sight or neglect this truth regarding His divinity and His Humanity. When Christ came in His incarnation He was 100% God and He was 100% man, the union of the two natures of Divine and human in the person of Jesus Christ. This is known as the hypostatic union that is, He is fully God and He is fully man. He is not half God and half man, He never lost His divinity when He became man and He continues to exist as God when He became man. In other words, Jesus Christ as God did not go through any changes when He came in the incarnation. God did not cease to be God. Even at this present moment, right now in heaven, there is the God Man, Jesus Christ who is the mediator between us and God the Father! Jesus is the Word who was with God who is God and was made flesh. God's glorious attribute of His immutability teaches us that the essence of the Godhead is eternally and perpetually the same.

We have already expressed this, but we need to hear it again because this is so important that if we leave any of those two out, His humanity or His divinity it affects the aspect of our salvation. In other words, this subject/doctrine is so important that without His incarnation/humanity we could not be saved and without His divinity/deity we could not be saved. This is why again that the Apostle John put it this way in 2 John 1:7-11, *“For many*

deceivers are entered into the world, **who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.** This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and **abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.** 10 If there come any unto you, and **bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:** 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.” Let us never make light of the doctrine regarding the Person and Work of Christ and that we seek to abide in the doctrine of Christ.

We remind you again this morning that this topic of the person and work of Christ sets forth the importance of the Eternal Sonship of Christ, that is, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God by Eternal Generation. In other words He did not become the Son at His incarnation; He was, yea, He has always been the Son of God from all eternity. We looked at 1 Timothy 3:16 already where it says, “And **without controversy** great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh,** justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

Again we reiterate with great conviction and without an ounce of a compromising spirit, without controversy GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS! This is without a shadow of doubt an IRREFUTABLE MYSTERY. Outside the kingdom God, that is, outside the saved community, this is perhaps the most controversial subject in the religious world, but in the true church of the Living and True God, it is a settled issue. Among true believers there is no controversy at all. The greatest mystery in the world is the mystery of the glorious incarnation. Man refuses to believe this truth and have exchanged it for a lie. This is a miraculous and supernatural work of God that can by no means be explained by the laws of nature. This is a spiritual and supernatural work that cannot be understood by men who are lost in their trespasses and sins. As a matter of fact the Word of God itself cannot be understood without a spiritual birth, 1 Cor.2:14, “*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*” As the miraculous and supernatural work of God cannot be explained by laws of nature, no more can that which is spiritual be explained by the law of physics. This can only be understood by a regenerated heart, by those who have come in repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The hearts of these without question truly profess with great conviction, “And **without controversy** great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh** ...” There is no controversy by those in the faith, they believe that God was manifest in the flesh and confess with the Apostle John that Jesus came in the flesh.

We went to the fall of Adam and Eve in order to understand why God had to be manifest in the flesh. He had to become man to die as a man for man, but not just any man, it had to be THE GOD MAN! This is why God had to become man so that He would be the perfect sacrifice, yea the satisfactory sacrifice. In other words SATISFACTION has to be rendered to the Father and only God the Son was qualified to accomplish this work on the

cross: Isa.53:10 & 11, “Yet it **pleased** the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and **shall be satisfied**: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.” At the cross expiation and propitiation was rendered for all those whom the Son came to die for, remember Matthew 1:21 says, “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: **for he shall save his people from their sins.**”

Therefore, no soon had man sinned that God gave the first gospel promise in Genesis 3:15. From this point on we see the aspect of redemption in history, laid out for us in our Bibles, pointing us to the coming of Christ to die on the cross for sinners. Acts 2:23 clearly states that, “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”

We opened up another text to help us understand the person and work of Christ in order to give us that good hope through grace regarding our Blessed Assurance in Salvation and that is 1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”

There are 3 things we set before you last week from this verse:

1. The Procurement of Christ, “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins ... ”
2. The Provision of Christ, “...the just for the unjust ...”
3. The Purpose of Christ, “...that he might bring us to God ...”

We saw last week in first point that by procurement we mean that Christ purchase salvation for all those whom the Father had given Him from the foundation of the world, that is, Christ obtained eternal redemption for all those whom He died for! See Hebrews 9:12, “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.” The word obtained has various meanings and one of them is procured, that is Christ secured, He acquired, achieved, He gained, He obtained the possession of salvation for all those whom He saves! In other words, Christ did not die to make salvation possible, that is, that He tried to do all He could and now it’s up to man, NO, HE PROCURED, HE OBTAINED eternal redemption for us! He secured, purchase eternal redemption for His people, ““And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: **for he shall save his people from their sins.**” (Matthew 1:21)

Secondly we want to consider:

## **2. The Provision of Christ, “...the just for the unjust ...”**

This my dear brethren is the whole essence of Christianity, that the Righteous and Holy Christ, the JUST One would die for depraved hell deserving sinners who are unjust before God. In other words the greatest and wondrous of all God’s work is the blessed work of

Redemption. Creation as profound and glorious it was subjects to the greatest work ever which is, God sending His only begotten Son to be the only provision for sinners, this is why it is called the good news. The good news that God did not leave us to ourselves there in Genesis 3, but scheme a wonderful and glorious plan to save sinners. Notice the words in Hebrews 2:9-17. I'm so thankful that Jesus Christ became man and not an angel. When we look at the whole scheme of redemption, that is, when we consider everything that was done for our salvation even every step in the path of our blessed Savior's humiliation was foreordained in the eternal purpose of God. He who was the darling of heaven became the hatred of man; the Son of God undertook immeasurable sorrow, indescribable anguish and unspeakable pain as He bled and suffered the shameful death of the cross. Who would ever imagine such a wicked thing as this, that created man would slay, yea murder its creator? Who would even envision the HOLY Son of God nailed to the cursed tree, covered in His own blood and the spit of that irate mob? Isa.52:14 says, "As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men." God allowed all this so that His Son would be made sin for sinners should cause us to realize the depths of His love for us. We must like Isaiah be astonish that all this was the work of God's own hand. It causes us to be in awed with holy reverence to consider that my crucified LORD did this because of His great love for us. How can you fathom the thought that God the Father allowed His Son to suffer such a death? Again the hymn by Charles Wesley, "And can it be," describes this:

**And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Savior's blood!  
Died he for me? Who caused his pain!  
For me? Who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

I think Charles Wesley hit it on the nail when he asked the question, died he for me who caused his pain. To consider that it was my sins that cause His pain, but He willingly died for me? What made that necessity? Wesley makes another interested phrase:

**'Tis mystery all: th' Immortal dies:  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all" Let earth adore,  
Let angels minds inquire no more.  
'Tis mercy all let earth adore.**

This is also the concept of the Apostle Paul in Eph.2:1-10. Why was it necessary for God to allow His own Son to die? Why was it important for Jesus Christ to suffer, the Just for the unjust? Was there no other way for the Sovereign God of the universe to save sinners? What

necessitated the death of God's beloved Son? What caused God to pour out His wrath upon His only begotten Son? When we consider the whole scope of salvation the only answer is that the JUSTICE OF GOD HAD TO BE SATISFIED! Because God is a Holy God, sin must be dealt with, sin must be punished, "the soul that sinneth must die," "the wages of sin is death." Justice must be executed upon sin. Satisfaction had to be made in order for God to save anyone. God was under no obligation to save anyone because salvation is altogether the free gift of His SOVEREIGN GRACE, but because He purposed in Himself to save man from the ruins of fallen depravity. Therefore the only way for God to save sinful man was that the justice of God had to be satisfied. This is why the JUST had to die for the unjust. The only thing that could ever satisfy the justice of God is the precious blood of Christ. The only substitute that could satisfy all the holy demands of God was Jesus Christ, the JUST for the unjust! Because of this glorious work by Christ in undertaking our place as a substitute in fully and completely satisfying God's justice, God can now freely forgive sinners, He can be the just and justifier of all those that believe. For disobedience sinners Christ rendered perfect righteousness and perfect obedience to the law of God for all those who put their trust in Him. For the sinful He died, for the guilty He died, for the ungodly He died, yes HE DIED as the JUST for the unjust in order to bring us to GOD! Jesus Christ became obedient unto death, He voluntarily became our substitute, when He cried from the cross, "It is finished," He fulfilled everything needed for us to be saved! The fact that He was resurrected from the grave proves that the Father was fully and completely satisfied in every aspect of His offering for sin. Jesus Christ died as the JUST for the unjust!

One of the clear pictures in the whole Bible in regards to substitution and or the Just dying for the unjust is the story of Barabbas. It is a clear illustration of the how the innocent died in the place of the guilty and he who was guilty was set free and He who was guiltless was condemned and put to death.

This story is recorded by all four gospels. In the days of Israel's bondage to Rome, there was a custom that was practiced regularly. On the day of the Passover the Roman governor would release a guilty prisoner. This was Pilate's ace up his sleeve to allow Jesus to go free without comprising himself before his superiors. So Pilate asked the people whom he should release, Jesus, the Savior or Barabbas, who was a notorious criminal and murderer. Pilate last effort to release Christ failed because the people desired the criminal over Jesus. Turn to Matthew 27:15-26. Here you have a wicked prisoner who had committed as least three crimes. He was put in prison for murder, sedition and robbery. They bring out this wicked murderer and give the Jews the option to choose between Barabbas and Jesus. The people in their hardened unbelief and sin and who were so thirsty for blood; chose Barabbas! Don't get too puffed up in you self-righteousness, if you were there, you would have cried out with the mob that day, crucify Him, crucify Him! If you say within your heart, no I wouldn't do that, I beg you; you better examine your heart. If you have not bowed down the knee to Christ as Lord of your life, your cry is still Barabbas today! Self-righteousness has put many sinners in hell. If you don't understand what I am saying, please speak to me after the services. Now, in their choice, in their free will, they DESIRED Barabbas over Jesus Christ. They freed the

guilty and bound the innocent to die the cruel death of the cross. Barabbas is set free and Jesus Christ is crucified. Barabbas is spared and Jesus Christ condemned. In other words, Jesus Christ died in Barabbas stead, in Barabbas place. Jesus took the punishment that was deserved by Barabbas and was set free. This is called substitution where one dies in the place of another. The guilty is set free and the innocent is put to death in his place, the Just for the unjust.

We are no different that Barabbas in God's eyes, we all stand before God guilty and condemned. We deserve to die for the punishment of our sins, but God in His mercy and grace sent a mighty substitute to suffer our punishment. Our sins condemned us to die, our sins damn's us to hell, eternal death is our due, and we are all in the position of Barabbas by nature. All of us are sinful therefore guilty, condemned, we have all trampled underfoot the law of God and deserved God's judgment, but when we were without hope and without strength in due time Christ died for the ungodly! Jesus Christ the JUST died for the unjust, this is our only hope and plea, Jesus blood and His righteousness. It boils down to this, either Christ has paid for your sins or you will pay for your sins. We will all die one day and you will die in your sins or you will die in Christ. Either Christ gave full satisfaction for your sins or you will pay for you sins for all eternity in hell?

I plead with you this morning, look to Christ and embrace Him by faith as your substitute. There are no second chances at death; there is no mercy or grace at death. The person that dies without Jesus Christ will perish forever without any hope. As one writer puts it, quote, *"Is there therefore no hope for a sinner like Barabbas? Must all the guilty forever perish? Will God not have mercy? Is there anyway whereby God can be faithful to his holy law and yet pardon sin? Is there any means whereby God can both satisfy his justice and let the sinner live? God will not show mercy at the expense of his justice. But he will show mercy if justice can be satisfied in a Substitute. Blessed be the name of the Lord, there is hope for sinners, for the Lord God has found a Substitute!"*

Thanks be to God a substitute has been provided for poor hell deserving sinners. Can you imagine for a moment as the Roman guards take Barabbas back to his prison cell. Then a soldier comes later and unlocks the prison door and takes the keys and unlocks Barabbas shackles from his hands and then his feet and looks at him and says something like this, "Barabbas, you are free to go. Jesus of Nazareth will die in your place." This is what we mean by substitution, Jesus died in the place of Barabbas, in his stead. This substitute is the only substitute that God will accept.

**Romans 3:24-26** *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (26) To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."*

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

**1 Peter 3:18** *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”*

One writer says, *“It is not possible for the law to punish my Substitute and punish me too. Not one soul for whom Jesus Christ died shall be found in hell. The cross of Christ can never be discovered a miscarriage. The blood of Christ cannot be spilled in vain. — “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied.” This is real substitution. Any doctrine that teaches that God will both punish Christ and punish those for whom Christ died is not substitution and is not the gospel.”*

When God saves a sinner that sinner is set free from the penalty and condemnation of justice, that is, that sinner is now a saved sinner:

- **No Condemnation.**
- **No Guilt.**
- **No Punishment.**
- **No Eternal Death.**
- **No Hell.**

Saved for all eternity, eternally secured! The opposite is true of those who die without Christ, no, not set free but condemned for all eternity

I plead with you again, come to Christ for salvation: Repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

LET'S PRAY