

Blessed Assurance of Salvation pt. 11

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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 again to our studies this morning on Blessed Assurance of Salvation, this is part 11 of our series. We have already established that the Apostle Paul wrote this epistle from prison and knew that death hung over him, but he also knew that with great confidence he could trust his Lord and Savior and say, “...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,” or **I KNOW, I HAVE and I AM PERSUADED!** In doing so he encourages those of us who are also followers of the Lord Jesus Christ to persevere regardless what circumstances afflicts us at present and that we can also say with great confidence, **I KNOW, I HAVE and I AM PERSUADED!** When our world is turn upside down we need to be grace with that aspect of faith in Christ that will carry us so that we can say with a clear conscience cemented in an holy conviction, “*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.*” This is the aspect of, “*The just shall live by faith.*” We must again be reminded that Paul was put in prison for preaching the gospel and now encourages Timothy and those of us who follow Christ in regards to that great hope we have in Christ, that is, the ‘know so’ hope of a Blessed Assurance of Salvation. We currently in our 4th point in our series:

IV. Blessed Assurance in Persuasion: (...and am persuaded...)

Again, Paul wrote this to give consolation and encouragement to the hearts of God’s children, so that we can know without a shadow of doubt that our never dying soul which we have committed unto our God, He is well able to keep it until that day. Blessed Assurance in Persuasion is the end result of believing being mixed with faith which has been the catalyst for the past few messages.

Paul in this text has given us a glorious blessed confession of faith, a blessed creed for our souls. He sets forth for us in clear cut language what was in his heart regarding his faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul confesses with a distinguished certainty His confidence and dependence in Christ. His hope is that glorious anchor fastened in the depths of his soul which was sure and steadfast fixed with a genuine assurance that persuaded his soul in great conviction to trust His LORD. In other words Paul without shame and vacillation confesses in absolute confidence his Blessed Assurance in Persuasion, to which he was

fully persuaded, completely assured regarding his trust in resting safely in the arms of the Lord in whatever state He was in. Remember that at the end of this epistle, 2 Timothy 4 he makes these tremendous statements in verses 6 & 7 and 16 – 18, “*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith... (Can we say that when we are about to die?)*”¹⁶ *At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: (This is why you better put your trust in God alone, “...there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” [Prov.18:24] and His name is Jesus Christ) I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* Why could Paul make such unbelievable confessions? Very simple, because he was fully persuaded in what he believed and nothing could daunt his faith, personal trials both physical and spiritual or and persecution, his eyes were set yea fixed on his beloved Christ and perhaps Paul said like Job of old in Job 13:15, “*Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.*”

This is the essence of our faith, trusting God fully and completely regardless of what might come upon us. Religion and natural faith cannot do this for you, for when hardships come it'll drive you to the bottle or pills or man's psychology. What Paul is speaking about is a genuine work of God regarding salvation in the heart of man, a supernatural work of grace in the heart, this is what it means to be born again, not just residing some sinners prayer or walking down the aisle at a preachers beckoning, but being raised from the dead spiritually by the omnipotent God. This again is the work of the Holy Spirit of God in the salvation of sinners; this is what it means to truly be born again, not some decision or any religious rite performed by you, whether it be baptism or joining some church or any other religious act. This is why we can be fully persuaded in believing and trusting our God. This why Paul would write to the Philippians in 1:6, “*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*” The word confident in this text is the same Greek as persuaded in our chief text. It's another word to add in seeking to express and or define our faith in trusting solely and wholly in our God. In other words Paul can say just as easy, “*For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am (confident) persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*” In other versions it is translated this way. This is the essence of trust which is, having great confidence in a person to trust them whole heartily. Need assurance in your hearts, well you have to be fully persuaded and confident regarding God, because Hebrews 11:6 says “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” Turn to Hebrews 11 and see again how these saints of old also were persuaded in persevering to the end, notice what it says about Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Jacob in verse 13, “*These all died in faith, not having received the*

promises, but having seen them afar off, and were **persuaded of them**, and **embraced them**, and **confessed** that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” These were fully persuaded and convince with such great confidence that they fully embraced the promises of God so much so that they gladly confessed this truth by their testimony in being salt and light which was seen in their confession of being strangers and pilgrims on this earth. They died IN FAITH! How will you die, there only two ways of dying, dying in faith or dying in your sins? How will you DIE when the death angel comes for you, in faith or in your sins? The word embraced is an expression in seeking to define the essence faith. We must understand that faith is not dormant, cold, lifeless, unmoving, comatose or dead, faith is alive and working. As a matter of fact consider these following expressions are used to define what faith is:

1. Faith is, believing in Christ. 2. Faith is trusting in Christ. 3. Faith is coming to Christ. 4. Faith is looking unto Christ. 5. Faith is calling upon Christ. 6. Faith is receiving Christ. 7. Faith is drinking of Christ. 8. Faith is eating of Christ. 9. Faith is resting in Christ. 10. Faith is embracing Christ. 11. Faith is fleeing to Christ. 12. Faith is committing our souls to Christ. 13. Faith is laying hold of Christ. 14. Faith is obeying Christ. 15. Faith is being persuaded of Christ. 16. Faith is leaning on Christ. 17. Faith is growing in Christ. 18. Faith is resting in Christ. 19. Faith is knowing Christ. 20. Faith is walking in Christ. 21. Faith is following Christ. These 21 are not in any particular order nor have we exhausted what faith is, but I'm just trying to show that faith is not passive, it is active, it is alive, it is living, faith is not cold, formal or dormant, it is a living, saving and justifying faith.

Now we know that the Biblical definition of faith is: Hebrews 11:1, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” Now when God saves a sinner this is what I believe or think happens at salvation in regards to mixing faith with believing: Faith is having a complete knowledge of our guilt, our sinfulness and our self-righteousness which leads to a complete and total surrender of the soul in committing our souls to God. This causes us to look away from ourselves and look only to God; this is also the essence of repentance in turning from ourselves, from our sins and turning to God ALONE! Let us understand that believing mixed with faith includes repentance. Repentance and faith work together in the aspect of conversion. We renounce ourselves and any religious ritual to trust only on Christ and in Christ, we deny ourselves completely and renounce all our wretched self-righteousness and look solely to the person and work of Jesus Christ. From our hearts we believe and rely only in trusting Christ and understanding that faith in Christ is also faith in the declaration of the gospel concerning Christ. (Rom.10:9-13) We receive God's testimony concerning Christ. Notice again the words of the Apostle John in 1 John 5:10-13, “*He that **believeth on the Son of God** hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 **He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the***”

Son of God hath not life. *13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”* Faith in Christ also believes God’s testimony or record of Christ. This all comes together in salvation, don’t ask me how, I don’t know, because it is a supernatural work in the heart by God, I just know it happens. It goes beyond just having a mental assent or a mere acknowledging that there is a God. Faith is that complete and full confidence and persuasion in the person of Christ, the awful acknowledgement of our sins in renouncing ourselves, being completely undone, condemned by His Holy Law and thus fully and completely trusting God for all of our salvation. One writer, I believe it was E. Cole said, *“Saving faith is a conviction respecting the veracity of God, a believing acceptance of His word, a complete trust in the Person and Work of His Son, a heartfelt trust in Christ for the salvation of the soul.”* This is the faith and persuasion expressed by Paul in saying, *“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded (confident) that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”*

We can talk about Paul, Peter, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Sarah in the Bible, but I ask what about you, where will you go when you die? Do you have a true saving faith that embraces the Word and is fully persuaded? There all died in faith, how will you die, in faith or in your sins? I admonish you this morning, lay hold of Christ for salvation; there is no salvation outside of Christ, come in repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ so that you can say with Paul, *“...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.”* I’ll end with the quote I put on face book yesterday by J C Ryle, *“Just as you cannot have the sun without light, or ice without cold, or fire without heat, or water without moisture—you will never find true faith without true repentance, and you will never find true repentance without lively faith.”* I pray that by faith you will see your sins and call upon the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.