

Blessed Assurance of Salvation pt. 10

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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 10 of our series. We have already established that the Apostle Paul wrote this epistle from prison. He 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 set forth these seven things from this text:

- I. Blessed Assurance in Persecution:** (For the which cause I also suffer these things...)
- II. Blessed Assurance in Passion:** (...nevertheless I am not ashamed...)
- III. Blessed Assurance in the Person:** (...for I know whom I have believed...)
- IV. Blessed Assurance in Persuasion:** (...and am persuaded...)
- V. Blessed Assurance in the Power:** (...that he is able ...)
- VI. Blessed Assurance in Preservation:** (...to keep that which I have committed unto him ...) perseverance is meaningless without preservation.
- VII. Blessed Assurance in Preparation:** (...against that day.)

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 able to keep it until that day. After preaching 5 sermons on our third point, Blessed Assurance in the Person, we finally opened up our 4th point on Blessed Assurance in Persuasion last week.

IV. Blessed Assurance in Persuasion: “...and am persuaded...”

Paul in this text has given us a glorious blessed confession of faith. 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 distinguished certainty His confidence and dependence in Christ. His hope is an anchor fastened in the depths of his soul which was sure and steadfast with a genuine assurance that persuaded his soul with great conviction. In other words Paul without great confidence confesses his Blessed Assurance in Persuasion, that is, he was fully persuaded, completely assured regarding his trust in resting safely in the arms of the Lord Jesus Christ. I would like to use from our 3rd point on Blessed Assurance in the Person of

Christ the phrase "...for I know whom I have believed..." I would like to borrow from that phrase in making application to our current subject on persuasion, I just love the way this reads, "...for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded..." He confesses three powerful statements of faith: "I Know...I Have...I am Persuaded, to which we enlarged on last week. In other words Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone in the OBJECT and SUBJECT of Paul's FAITH and Jesus Christ should be the OBJECT and SUBJECT of our FAITH! Notice the first of his three confessions or statements of faith:

I KNOW = This is believing being mixed with faith as we saw last week which speaks of no doubts, no second guesses, a complete assurance, I know that I know. This reminds of the words of Job in Job 19:25-27, "**For I know** that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, **yet in my flesh shall I see God:** 27 Whom **I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another;** though my reins be consumed within me." Psalms 135:5, "**For I know** that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods." In John 10:27 it says, "My sheep hear my voice, and **I know them**, and they follow me." God knows those whom He saves and it is reciprocal, we know Him because He has done something in our souls, He has birth us into His kingdom, He came to us while we were dead in trespasses and sins and made us alive! I think it is natural to say, I KNOW Him, not I know about Him, but I KNOW HIM, its personal. This is also the argument of the Apostle John in encouraging the saints who are struggling with assurance. In 1 John 5:13, "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." This again is why Paul can with a clear conscience say in great assurance, "...for I KNOW who I have believed..."

Not only does Paul say I know, but also **I HAVE!** He is speaking of possession, I have believed. He is speaking of an action in the past that has present results. The word believed is the Greek word: '**pisteou** from **pistis**' and speaks about true faith, that is, it's more than a mental assent. It gives the idea to consider something to be true and worthy of a person's trust, to accept as genuine and real. It also means to have a solid and firm conviction. The phrase "I have believed," is in the perfect tense. As though Paul is saying, "One day on the Damascus Road, Jesus came to me in a powerful way, I laid hold of Him in faith, trusting and believing in Him as my Lord and Savior and all these years later I still trust Him, I still believe in Him, I know whom **I have believed.**" In other words, I have Him as my LORD and SAVIOR, I possess Him, I HAVE HIM in my heart and it's a reality. Guess what? Even though death hung over Him, Paul could say, "Yea, though **I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:** for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4. Paul is conveying to us what was burning in his heart, it is not a feigned faith, that is, a false faith or an artificial pretentious faith full of doubts and confusion, no, no, no it is an UNFEIGNED faith, a true saving justifying faith, it's real, it's genuine and a faith that is sure and steadfast! It is **I KNOW WHO 'I HAVE' BELIEVED!** Kenneth Wuest's idea of the present tense puts it this way, "I have believed with the present result that my faith is a firmly settled one." It is like hammering a nail through a board and clinching it on the other side. It is there to stay. So, Paul's faith was placed permanently in the God whom he knew, which faith was immovable." D. Edmond Heibert says, "Paul testifies personally to that which he has asked of Timothy (v8) and explains that the secret of his attitude is a **Person**. It is his abiding knowledge of this **Person** that removes all sense of shame. The world may regard his faith in a

crucified Jesus a thing of folly and a just cause for shame, but his personal relations with this **Person** prevent any such feeling. This **Person** will never put him to shame. He has permanently put his trust and confidence in **Him** (perfect tense), has been trusting **Him** all along, and is trusting **Him** now in the face of impending death. It is his settled, fixed assurance "that he is able to guard that which I have committed to **Him**." The Greek is literally, "that he is able to guard my deposit." He has unshaken confidence in **His** ability to do what he trusts **Him** to do. **He** is able effectively "to guard my deposit." Paul's phrase, "I have believed," is in the perfect tense but also in the passive voice. One more quote on this, Charles Spurgeon, "I know the Person into whose hand I have committed my present condition, and my eternal destiny. I know Who he is, and I therefore, without any hesitation, leave myself in His hands. It is the beginning of spiritual life to believe Jesus Christ...Jesus was a distinct Person to the apostle, so real as to be known to him as a man knows a friend. Paul knew nobody else so well as he knew his Lord." The problem with most people is that they are trusting in what they have done, I've said a sinners prayer, I walked down the aisle, I shook the preachers hand, I joined the church, I - I - I. No, it's not what I HAVE DONE, but what Jesus Christ has done and my trust, my faith and my belief is in HIM ALONE! Again, the problem with most people is that they try to keep their own souls, something they themselves cannot do. The only way to enter heaven is to entrust your soul into the hands of the only Savior of sinners and that is Jesus Christ. Paul says with great assurance, "...for I KNOW who I have believed..."

Thirdly, Paul not only says, I know and I have, but also "**AM PERSUADED**" or "I am persuaded." Paul had mixed his believing with faith that it spiritually equaled an experimental PERSUASION. "...and am persuaded..." he says. This speaks of a permanent and abiding trust in His Lord and Savior. The phrase and am persuaded is also in the perfect tense, that is, that which happened on the road to Damascus is still presently abiding, in other words, Paul had a Blessed Assurance in Persuasion. May God give us a faith that is being fully persuaded towards Him even against all odds! This reminds me of the last two stanzas of, Hail Sovereign Love or A Hiding Place:

Should storms of sevenfold vengeance roll,
And shake this earth from pole to pole;
No flaming bolt **could daunt my face**,
For Jesus is my hiding place.

A few more rolling suns at most,
Shall land me safe on Heaven's coast.
There I shall sing the song of grace,
To Jesus Christ, my hiding place!

We saw last week on the importance of mixing believing with faith, which Paul had no doubt truly done, which gave him a settled persuasion, to which he did not question the validity of his trust in Christ and could assuredly say, I know, I have and I am persuaded? How about you, can you say this? We are reminded again in Hebrews 4:1&2, "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." In other words, Paul entered into this rest that is spoken of here in Hebrews 4, because he had mixed believing with faith which equaled being persuaded. We

saw last week how that all those that came out of Egypt when they crossed the Red Sea, had a seemingly believe that they confessed in Ex.14:27-31, “*And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. 29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. 31 And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.” Well, I’m sure that most of us would confess that they probably had a saving, justifying faith. But we saw that this was not true and that they only had a mental acknowledgement, because when it was all said and done, this is what God said about this group that came out of Egypt, Deut.32:20, “*And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.*” In real simple terms, they did not mix believing with faith, they were not persuaded as to who was the true and living God and did not enter into that eternal rest. We are also challenged in this 21st century regarding the importance of a true saving justifying faith as they were on mixing believing with faith, in other words to have that saving justifying faith in our souls so that we can say with the Apostle Paul, I KNOW, I HAVE and I AM PERSUADED!*

How about you, are you persuaded that the God of this Bible is the only True and Living God? Are you persuaded that He is able to save your soul? Then why don’t you bow the knee to Christ and own Him as your Lord and Savior. Because you are not really persuaded, you are not convinced, you might be convicted but you are not convinced; you just have a mental acknowledgement as to the God of the Bible. May God be pleased to open your eyes to behold the LORDS of LORDS and KING of KINGS with the eye of faith in trusting, believing and being fully and whole heartily persuaded regarding the only SAVIOR of sinners! This is what Noah had to do as we saw last week, Noah had to lay hold of God by believing, trusting and being persuaded that God was who He said He was. Noah had to truly and solely trust God by being fully persuaded, because Noah knew that “...*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.*” Heb.11:6.

Then of course verse 7 or Hebrews 11, “*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*” In this one verse of Hebrews 11:7, we see 3 applications of faith, (1) Objective Faith, (2) Subjective Faith and (3) Functional Faith. (Use illustration of a bicycle (1) **objective:** pedals, 2 wheels, a chain, a seat and handle bars etc., (2) **subjective:** a bicycle is for cardiovascular exercise and to help me stay in shape, (3) **functional faith:** this is a machine or piece of equipment to help get me from point A to point B.) “*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet (this is objective faith), moved with fear (this is subjective faith), prepared an ark to the saving of his house (this is functional faith); by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*” This is important in understanding the aspect of faith in it

being active and working, because faith is action it is alive and not dormant and dead. I want us to understand this as we consider Noah's faith.

Noah believed God, Noah had faith in God and Noah was fully persuaded of God, that is, Noah could say along with the Apostle Paul, I know, I have and I am persuaded! Now Noah lived in one of the most if not the most wicked times in the history of our world, it was so wicked that God decided to destroy it. God in His mercy, compassion and longsuffering gave them 120 years to repent and get their hearts right with Him. We know the story; God had to destroy the race of the Noah's time. 2 Peter 2:5 says; "*And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.*" 2 Peter 3:6 says, "*Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.*" These two New Testament texts among others give proof to the fact that the world of Noah's day was destroyed by a world flood and only 8 survived. But in the midst of this wickedness that was a man who believed God, trusting God and was persuaded regarding His God. For 120 years he preached righteousness because he was persuaded that God was able to do exactly what He said He would do. "*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*" He was warned of God of things not seen as yet and by faith he moved in fear and prepared an ark to the saving of his house. This again it is essence of faith, Heb.11:1, "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" Noah had to act on faith regarding things he had never seen. His faith was active; notice the action in the middle of verse 7, "...MOVED WITH FEAR..." This phrase is one Greek word, '*eulabeomai*' it's a compound word from *eu* which means well and *lambano* which means to take hold of, combine it means to give careful concerned, to take heed by being moved with fear or reverence for someone or something. Of course this is speaking of Noah's reverence; which cause him to move or act in fear in the building of the ark. Puritan Thomas Watson says, "*When the soul looks either to God's holiness, or its own sinfulness—it fears. But it is a fear mixed with faith in Christ's merits; the soul trembles—yet trusts. Like a ship which lies at anchor, though it shakes with the wind, yet it is fixed at anchor. God in great wisdom couples these two graces of faith and fear. Fear preserves seriousness, faith preserves cheerfulness. Fear is as lead to the net—to keep a Christian from floating in presumption; and faith is as cork to the net—to keep him from sinking in despair.*" This action is seen in its accomplishment; faith prepared or built an ark. When I spoke on the life of Noah years ago I had outlined verse 7 in the following way:

- I. **NOAH'S REGENERATION** (*By faith Noah...*)
- II. **NOAH'S REVELATION** (*...being warned of God of things not seen as yet...*)
- III. **NOAH'S REVERENCE** (*...moved with fear...*)
- IV. **NOAH'S RESOLUTION** (*...prepared an ark to the saving of his house...*)
- V. **NOAH'S REBUKE** (*...by the which he condemned the world...*)

VI. NOAH'S RIGHTEOUSNESS (*...and became an heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*)

VII. NOAH'S RAINBOW (Gen.9:16, "*And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant...*")

The fourth point in my outline, prepared an ark to the saving of his house we see Noah's Resolution. Noah was resolved to build an ark, by faith he was determined with a firm steadfastness that left no room for doubt, but being fully persuaded by a faith cemented in grace that kept and sustained him. This resolution was founded upon Noah's revelation from God, "*...being warned of God of things not seen as yet...*" This all began because Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord; God bestowed His love and mercy to Noah. Even in perhaps the most wicked generation that ever lived, grace was still effectual and freely given to Noah. God moved powerfully in saving Noah and making him a different person. Noah never got over it, it help him maintain his testimony in his generation. Noah's regeneration is seen in the faith that sustained him for 120 years in the preparing of the ark for the saving of his family, "*By faith Noah...*" There is no question in my mind that Noah had a blessed assurance in persuasion, he was fully persuaded, that he could without a shadow of a doubt say, I KNOW – I HAVE – I AM PERSUADED and this is seen in his life, it was not lip service, it was heart service through and through.

Well, we can go on and on about Noah, but what about you this morning, where do you stand with God. Have you bowed the knee to Christ as Lord, have you confessed Him as Lord of your life? Have you come to God in repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? God will destroy this world one more time like He did in Noah's time, but not with water, but with fire, will you be ready? I'm getting ahead of myself, but it is okay, our chief text says, "*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.*" Paul says that he is persuaded in committing his soul to God because He is able to keep it against that day, which I believe Paul is speaking of that day where God will destroy this world with fire in awful judgment against all those who believe not the gospel. Paul had a blessed assurance in preparation; his soul was prepared to meet God. Thus, are you prepared to meet God? What keeps you from coming to Christ? What sin is so important to you that will drag you to hell? What sin are you willing to go to hell for? What sin will keep you from heaven? 1 Timothy 1:15 says, "*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**; of whom I am chief.*" Jesus Christ Himself says in Matt.9:12 & 13, "*But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for **I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.***" Jesus Christ came for the purpose

of saving sinners and gives this fearful command, "*I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*" John 8:24.

We can talk about Paul, Noah or Jesus, but I ask you in closing, where will you go when you die? There's a heaven and there's a hell with nothing in between, so where will you go when you die? 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.*" Can you say with Paul, I KNOW – I HAVE – I AM PERSUADED?

Let's pray. Let's sing page 224 in the red hymnal.