Blessed Assurance

Hebrews 10:19-22

Introduction

- 1. "Assurance" is one of those great Bible words.
 - A. Assurance Defined: "The act of assuring", "A statement or indication that inspires confidence", "A guarantee or pledge", "Freedom from doubt."
 - B. Hebrews 10:22: "FULL ASSURANCE" meaning with entire confidence; lit. A "full-carrying."

 Colossians 2:1-3

1Thes 1:5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

Heb 6:10-12 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but **imitate those who through faith** and **patience inherit the promises**.

C. A form of the word assurance is also found in Romans 4:21.

Rom 4:21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

- 2. We are living in even more uncertain times.
 - A. We don't have the assurance of: health, job, peace, security, or tomorrow.
 - 1) Therefore, we have worry, fear, doubt, unrest, & sorrow.

- 3. We need assurance -- Our Assurance is in Jesus Christ!
 - A. Song Blessed Assurance ("JESUS IS MINE").

John 16:33 "...but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- B. We have the "Full Assurance of Faith" (Rom 10:17).
 - 1) Our full assurance is based upon the faithfulness of God.
 - 2) To have this full assurance we must know certain things.
- 4. 1 John has been called the book of assurance.
 - A. John repeatedly reminds Christians of what they should know.
 - B. How can we know things?
 - 1) We know some things through our senses. 1 John 1:1-3
 - a. John actually saw Jesus. We can see, feel, and touch the wonders and beauty that He created. We have "full assurance" that Jesus lives!
 - 2) We know some things by faith.

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

C. What do we know from the Bible that gives the Christian assurance?

The Christian Knows God

1. The Christian knows that God exists.

I Jn 2:3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

- A. There is evidence of God in the created universe.
- B. There is evidence of God in the Bible.

2. The Christian knows God in a personal, real, & meaningful way.

A. The Christian has fellowship with God.

I Jn 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

B. The Christian has a Father in heaven.

I Jn 2:1-2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

C. The Christian is loved by God.

I Jn 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

D. The Christian talks to God.

I Jn 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

E. The Christian hears God.

John 8:47 "He who is of God hears God's words...."

F. The Christian has God dwelling in him.

I Jn 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

G. The Christian knows God if he obeys God.

I Jn 2:3-5 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this **we know that we are in Him**.

1) The Blessed Assurance comes through obedience.

Heb 5:9 ".....He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him"

The Christian Knows That He Is in the Lord

1. We must be in Christ.

A. We find salvation "in Christ"

2 Tim 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

B. We are a new creation "in Christ"

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

C. We are redeemed from sin "in Christ."

Col 1:12-14 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

D. We are the children of God "in Christ."

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

E. We find all spiritual blessings "in Christ."

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

2. There is only one way to get "in Christ" --- Baptism.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

3. Therefore, we must be "in Christ" to have Blessed Assurance!

The Christian Knows That He Has Eternal Life:

1. God has stated that life is just a brief moment in time.

James 4:13-14 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; where you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Ps 90:10-12 The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

2. God has promised eternal life.

I Jn 2:23-25 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us-- **eternal life**.

3. God has assured the faithful Christian of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- A. Truly, this is "Blessed Assurance" Full Assurance.
- B. But there are still some who still live with false assurance.

Conclusion

- 1. In this world of fear, doubt, unbelief, & uncertainty, God's people have Blessed Assurance.
 - A. Christians can sleep at night, because they walk in the light.
- 2. You can have this Blessed Assurance when:
 - A. You know God.
 - B. You know that you are in the Lord.
 - C. You know that you have eternal life.

Invitation

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Richard Thetford - October 1997 (Re-accomplished June 2005)