

“Preserved By God”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. Recognize, honor, esteem Fathers - Prayer: Lead by serving; Love their wife; be a **role model** to their children as they love, care, discipline, & guide their children; Grace & patience to handle situations.
- B. Prayer: Blessed Assurance Jesus is **mine**..Filled with His goodness, **lost in His love!**
- C. Q: Are you sure you know where you are going? Some one said, *Man's life is made up of:*
 20 years of his mother asking him **where he is going**;
 40 years of his wife asking him **where he has been**; and
 1 hour at his funeral when everyone wonders **where he is going**. Don't just wonder, **KNOW!**
 1. Q: Do you know w/out a doubt where you will spend your eternity? You can!
- D. Golden Gate Bridge Illustration: 23 workers fell to their deaths in the San Francisco Bay. After that, the city erected **huge nets** beneath the bridge. After they were in place, only a handful fell, and they were safe, & the work was completed in record time & with record safety. Why? The workers could **concentrate on their jobs** & not have to worry about **dying!**
 1. To be a **productive Christian** you need to know that your **future** is **absolutely secure**. You need to be able to **focus on the task at hand**, instead of always worrying about your future.
- E. **Imagine** a child who does not know from day to day, whether or not he is a member of the family. If he was **good** 1 day, he was in; if he was **bad**, then he was out. One day his father **loved** him, the next day, he **didn't**. I tell you that child would be an **emotional** and a **psychological** wreck.
- F. Here is one of the most awesome places in scripture; nicked-named, **Blessed Assurance!**

II. **PRESERVED BY GOD!**

- A. **BLESSED ASSURANCE!** (22-30)
- B. (22) Feast of Dedication (or Feast of the Maccabees, or **Hanukkah**, or Feast of Lights) - It was instituted by Judas Maccabeus, his brothers, and the elders of the congregation of Israel, in the year 165 B.C. in commemoration of the **reconsecration** of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, and especially of **the altar of burnt offering**, after they had been **desecrated** in the persecution under Antiochus Epiphanes.

- C. (23) Explain Solomon's porch. [roofed area w/40' tall pillars, making up its colonnade]
1. Here rabbis walk w/their students, discussing, & debating, the hot theological issues of the day.
- D. (24) Why won't "telling them plainly" help them? Because they are not His sheep(26)
1. It was not *lack of information* but *lack of willingness* to believe.
- E. (27-29)
- F. The **sheep's** relationship to the **Shepherd** is one that: **they hear** the Shepherd's voice (they **respond** to His teachings); **they know** the Shepherd (they have **relationship** w/Him & are completely **committed** to him); **they follow** the Shepherd (they are persistent in **obeying** His teachings); **they have** eternal life (they are secure in the strong protective hand of God).
- G. The **Shepherd's** relationship to the **sheep** is one that: He knows us; He gives us eternal life; He promises we'll never perish; He promises no one can snatch us from His hand, nor His Fathers.
- H. **Never Perish** – an emphatic **double negative** here. *They shall not ever perish forever!*
1. Perish literally means, that they can "*never destroy themselves.*"
 2. **No one, not even ourselves**, can take us out of the Father's hand!
- I. In Jn.10:28 the word *Never* is there **4 times** in the Greek.
1. A literal rendering of that verse is this, *And I give unto the eternal life and they shall not at all, by any means, in any case, in any place, at any time, for any purpose, whether they be male or female, perpetually or eternally ever perish!*¹
 2. The Good Shepherd has made it **His mission** that we all **arrive home safely!**
- J. **No one can snatch** - "No wolf, no thief, no bandit, no hireling, no demon, not even the devil can pluck the sheep out of this Shepherds hand!"
1. Col.3:3 **For you died, and your life is hidden *with* Christ *in* God.**
- K. **4 Qualities of Genuine Believers:** (adapted from Swindoll)
1. **Sensitive** to His voice! – Are you listening even when He speaks through your **conscience?** Through **other people?** Through a **mean employee** or **boss?** Through a **strong willed child?**
 2. **Obedient** to His Leadership! – It's one thing to **hear**, quite another to **act** on what you've heard. [**He has the right to lead us** where ever He pleases]
 3. **Confident** of their Destiny! – In where you're going when you die.

¹ Alexander Maclaren; his notes in Jn.10.

4. **Secure in the Shepherds strong hands!** – Secure in your relationship w/Christ. Secure in the unpryable, interlocked, strong, majestic, hands of almighty God.
- Do you think Satan can pry even one finger loose? No way!
 - Like a child trying to snatch a coin from her Fathers grasp.
- L. (29) **The Father has a stake in our preservation. Why?** Because the sheep were a **gift** to Christ from the Father! [Would the Father take back a gift from the Son?]
- M. (30) **I & My Father are one** - *one* is neuter in the Greek: it means **a unity**, **not one person**.
- They are **not identical persons** but separate persons who are of **identical nature**.²
- N. **Can I share 8 other reasons why I hold to this so strongly, for True believers?**
- God's Promise** - *Nothing can separate us from the love of God* (Rom.8:38,39)
 - God's Perseverance** (His not mine) He is the **Convictor**, He is the **Convertor** and He is the **Completor!** He always finishes what He starts.
 - God's Predestination** - Those who receive Christ are predestined to go to Heaven Rom.8:29. He **saw** it, He **planned** it, He **predestined** it and He **brought** it to pass. He sees us as already being in Heaven. *Think about it!* That which is **settled in eternity can never be undone in time!**
 - Our Perfection** - Heb.10:14 **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.** He made us perfect by His sacrifice. [Not perfect for a time, but perfect forever!] **As a Christian, I did not get a fresh start, I got a new life. Not a new beginning, a new nature!** We are not perfect in the flesh! Only in the soul! If I step out of line, I will be chastened, but I will still be viewed as perfect by the Father. We are not saved by good works and we cannot lose it by bad ones.
 - Our Position** - 2 Cor.5:17 **When a person receives Christ, he becomes a new creation.** They literally become a part of Christ. **The only way that a believer can lose his relationship with the Father is for the Son to do so first.** That is a total impossibility! **Illus:** Noah and his family were secure because of their position (In the Ark)! **Noah probably fell many times in the Ark, but he never fell out!** He was in the place of safety. We, as believers, enjoy a greater measure of safety than Noah!
 - Our Possession** - Jn.5:24 We were given **eternal life** when we were saved. Not "*10 year life*", not "*until I sin life*". We possess it right now, not at death! It is the present, eternal possession of every child of God!

² Shepherd's Notes; pg.54

7. **Christ's Prayer** - Jesus never prayed a prayer that wasn't answered. Jn.17:24 **Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me.** He prayed for your **keeping** & for your **home going**. Therefore, you can **rest assured** & **walk secured** in the knowledge that you are **saved** by the grace of God & **secure** in the love of Christ.
8. **God's Power** - Read 1Pet.1:3-5. God's power is greater than any other **and** it is that power that **keeps us saved!**
- O. **How can we ever doubt His Upholding Grace?**
- P. **YOU, BEING A MAN, MAKE YOURSELF GOD!** (31-39)
- Q. (31) With stones in hand, this Jewish jury declares His sentence.
1. Instead of being **compliant sheep** they remain **rebel goats** & continue to **butt heads like stubborn nanny goats**.
- R. (32) **Jesus picks up where He left off regarding the discussion of his identity.**
1. He appeals to His works & His words, claiming that only the Messiah could perform the deeds He has done.
- S. (34-36) **You are gods** – from Ps.82:6 speaking of the judges (*Elohim*) of Israel.
1. Lit. *“the mighty ones, or gods.”*
 - a) Even the **judges** of Israel, acting as God's representatives, were called god's.
 - (1) **The Jews should have seen that Jesus was far superior to them.**
 2. Jn.10:34-36(NLT) **Jesus replied, "It is written in your own law that God said to certain leaders of the people, 'I say, you are gods!' And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those people, who received God's message, were called 'gods,' why do you call it blasphemy when the Holy One who was sent into the world by the Father says, 'I am the Son of God'?"**
- T. **MANY BELIEVED!** (40-42)
- U. (41) **John performed no sign but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true** -
1. Oh to have said at your funeral, **“He was a good man. He never performed miracles, but he told me about Christ, which led me to know Him for myself.”**
- V. (42) Their faith throws into dark relief the stubborn unbelief of the leaders at Jerusalem.
1. By **faith**, they stepped through **the Door**, **out of** the Jewish religious fold, & **into** the **liberty & eternal life** **Christ alone** can give.

- W. **Your Eternal life is:** assured, guarded, protected, & guaranteed by God Himself.
1. Could He have said it any clearer or stronger?
- X. If you struggle with your salvation, are you placing the focus on what **you're** doing with & for God; **or**, are you looking at what **He** has finished & completed for you?
1. **Read Ps.97:10-12** – He Preserves...He Delivers!
- Y. Here's a *closed eye exam*: You can score a 1-5 (5 highest)...be honest w/yourself.
How **Sensitive** am I to Christ's voice? How **Obedient** am I to Christ's leadership?
How **Confident** am I of my destiny? How **Secure** do I feel in Christ's care?
- Z. **Prayer:** Blessed Assurance Jesus **is mine!**...**I in my Savior** am happy & blest!