

## Blessed Assurance

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Larry: Baby Dedication 3rd service. [Jason & Karina Caldwell. Baby Krystian Yannin]
- B. Slide3-6 Larry: 1st Responders. Men's Breakfast. VBS (event). VBS (volun/stage).
- C. Slide7 Wed Night Gen.13 (Ab & Lot separate)
- D. Prayer: *Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine. Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

### II. Intro: Blessed Assurance

- A. We continue with the beautiful scriptural imagery of *the Good Shepherd and His sheep*, being a picture of deepest intimacy.
  - 1. We will go in and out through Jesus, our door. *We come in to the sheepfold and find safety and protection. We go out to find pasture and provision.*
  - 2. So this second 1/2 of chapter 10 carry's the same theme...Shepherd/sheep, but...it's 2 or 3 months later.
- B. Here's 1 of the most awesome encouragements; nicked-named, *Blessed Assurance*.

### III. Slide8 BLESSED ASSURANCE (22-30)

- A. Slide9 (22) Feast of Dedication (*Feast of the Maccabees, Hanukkah, Feast of Lights*) - A leader named *Antiochus Epiphanes*, in 175bc desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem.
  - 1. A Jewish family called *Maccabeus*, in the year 165bc, revolted against their Seleucid overlords. When the priest rededicated the temple, the priest only found enough oil to burn the temple lamps/menorah, for 1 day...but it lasted 8 days. **Hanukkah** then is a commemoration of this miracle, thus the lighting of the menorah for 8 days in winter.
- B. Slide10 (23) Explain Solomon's porch. [roofed area w/45' tall pillars, w/beautifully detailed cedar ceiling, making up its colonnade]
  - 1. Here rabbis walk w/their students, discussing, & debating, the hot theological issues of the day.
- C. (24) Why won't telling them plainly help some of them? Because they're not His sheep (26)
  - 1. It was not lack of information but lack of willingness to believe.

2. On the other hand, He does tell them *plainly* here (*My Father, Son of God* in vs.25,30,32,36,37,38)

D. **Slide11a** (27-29) **Once Saved, Forever Following** (...always saved)

E. This is one of the most precious assurances in all of Scripture. Here Jesus answers two questions which, at one time or another, trouble the mind of every Christian:

1. **Slide11b** How can you tell a **true Christian** from one who merely **claims** to be a Christian?

2. Can a **born-again follower of Christ** ever lose his or her salvation?<sup>1</sup>

3. **Slide11c** Vs.27 answers the **first** question. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* [So, the True Christian: is attracted to what Jesus has to **say**. They **believe** that what He **says is the truth**. They long to **hear more**]

a) They are attracted by the voice of **Jesus**. *Not the preacher's voice. Not the voice of the worship team. But the voice of the Shepherd himself.*

4. Jesus goes on to say, *and I know them, and they follow Me.*

a) The true sheep of the good Shepherd are personally, individually welcomed by him (*I know them*). They feel His acceptance. They know they belong. They feel the shepherds strong arms around them as He **lifts them and carries them over the rugged terrain of life.**

5. And because they are **known** by Him, *they follow Him.*

a) They **obey** the good Shepherd *and do* what He commands. [Ralph Waldo Emerson, *what you do speaks so loudly, I can't hear what you say*]

b) Oh, they'll be *wayward and willful* at times, **and** they will occasionally *lose their way*. **But** the Good Shepherd will **seek** them and **find** them and *they will follow.*

6. **Slide11d** Now He answers #2. Can a **born-again follower of Christ** ever lose his or her salvation? His answer...**NO!**

a) Eternal life is a quality of life that is assured, guarded, protected, and guaranteed by God himself. *28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will*

<sup>1</sup> Ray Stedman, John, pg. 285-287.

*snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*

b) The Gk text is so strong it literally says, *they shall never perish forever*. [the sense of the word *never* is *forever into eternity, for a limitless time*]

(1) What if He said, *I give them life for 20 years, they shall never perish for 20 years, and no one can snatch them out of my hand for 20 years. What would that mean?* They would be **safe for 20 years**.

7. **Once Saved, Forever Following** [eternal life **starts** now/@ salvation, **end?** never]

F. **Slide12 Never Perish** – literally means, that they can *never destroy themselves*.

1. In Jn.10:28 the word **never** is there **4 times** in the Greek (quad-promise) [see]

2. **Slide13a** Alexander Maclaren gave as a rendering of 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!*<sup>2</sup>

3. **The Good Shepherd** has made it **His mission** that we all **arrive home safely**.

G. **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. **Slide13b** Col.3:3 **For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

H. (29) **The Father** has a stake in **your preservation**. **Why?** Because the sheep were a **gift** to Christ from the Father. **Would the Father take back a gift from the Son?**

I. (30) **I & My Father are one** - *one* is neuter in the Greek: it means **a unity**, **not one person**.

1. They're **not identical persons** **but** separate persons who are of *identical nature*<sup>3</sup>

J. **So**, **The sheep's relationship to the Shepherd** is one that:

1. **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).

<sup>2</sup> Alexander Maclaren; his notes in Jn.10.

<sup>3</sup> Shepherd's Notes; pg.54

K. The **Shepherd's** relationship to the **sheep** is one that:

1. 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.

#### IV. Slide14 **YOU BEING A MAN, MAKE YOURSELF GOD (31-42)**

- A. (31) With stones in hand, this Jewish jury declares His sentence. (they *knew* what He was saying)
1. Instead of being **compliant sheep** they remain **rebel goats** & continue to **butt heads** like stubborn nanny goats.
- B. (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.
- C. (34-36) **You are gods** – from Ps.82:6 speaking of the **judges** (*Elohim*) of Israel.
1. Even the **judges** of Israel, acting as God's representatives, were called god's. One that sit as **judge** has a great responsibility when they say, *this 1 lives, this 1 dies, this 1 stays incarcerated*. They have God like powers.
    - a) 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'?**
    - a) **His point:** you can't accuse me of *blaspheme* calling myself *Gods Son*, because if the scriptures use *elohim/judges*, **and** Scripture is inerrant, **then** since I am under **divine orders** (set apart/consecrated) **and on God's mission** (sent into the world).
- D. (36) **I said, I am the Son of God** - Jesus explicitly identified Himself as *the Son of God*.
1. John's *sonship language* emphasizes *Jesus' divine origin*.
  2. It also links His role as Son of God with the **power** and **privileges** associated with the Davidic Messiah. **See, Kingship & divine sonship** were interrelated concepts in the ancient Near East. *The king ruled as representative of the god and wielded the power and authority bestowed by the god.*

- E. **Slide 15 8** other reasons why I hold to this so strongly, for *True believers*?
1. **God's Promise** - *Nothing can separate us from the love of God* (Rom.8:38,39)
  2. **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.*
  3. **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**.
  4. **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.*
  5. **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.*
  6. **Our Possession** - Jn.5:24 We were given **eternal life** when we were saved. Not a *10 year life*, not a *until I sin life*. We possess it right now, not at death. It is *the present, eternal possession of every* true child of God.
  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** - 1Pet.1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

God's power is greater than any other **and** it is that power that **keeps us saved**. **How can we ever doubt His Upholding Grace?**

F. **Slide16 Believer** your Eternal life is: *assured, guarded, protected, & guaranteed* by God Himself.

1. Could He have said it any clearer **or** stronger?
2. 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?

G. **Prayer:** (Blessed assurance) Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels, descending, bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest, Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

H. \* **Parable of the sower:** [seed fell on hard path/birds ate. seed fell on stony places/no depth. seed fell among thorns/choked. seed fell on good soil/yielded a crop to diff degrees] Mt.13

1. **Superficial Heart.** The devil himself snatches the seed.
2. **Shallow Heart.** The flesh counterfeits religious feelings.
3. **Shared Heart.** The things of **this world** smothers the growth.
4. **Successful Heart** doesn't lack...*Understanding, Depth, or Weed Killer.*
  - a) These are *true believers*...They evidence a **changed** life. They evidence **fruit** in their lives.