

FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 50: SEALING AND ASSURANCE

Main Idea: *The Christian life is one of continually hearing God's Gospel and promises for those who believe in his Son, seeing Jesus as glorious and His work complete, and continually resting on His faithfulness and ability to work out in our lives what he has said he will bring about: the salvation of dead, broken, enemies of God, as we were.*

I. How Can We Define Assurance?

"Yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in a state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God; which hope shall never make them ashamed. 2. This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion, grounded upon a fallible hope; but an infallible assurance of faith, founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made, the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God: which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption."

-Westminster Confession Chapter XVIII Articles I-II

II. How Are We Assured and Sealed?

A. What We Must Behold & Believe

1. John 6:53-40; John 5:24
2. Acts 2:22-24; 36-41
3. Acts 16: 30-31

B. What Happens When We Believe?

1. Ephesians 1:13-14
2. Ephesians 4:30
3. Romans 8:14-17

C. Grounds for Assurance

1. 1 John 5:10-14
2. 1 John 4:13-15
3. 1 John 3:19-24

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III. Growing In Assurance

A. Must One Have Assurance (Feelings, Clarity, Understanding) to Be Saved?

1. The Language of 1 John 5:13

“This infallible assurance does not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties, before he be partaker of it: yet, being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation in the right use of ordinary means, attain thereunto. And therefore, it is the duty of every one to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure, that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, the proper fruits of this assurance; so far is it from inclining men to looseness.”

-Westminster Confession Chapter XVIII, Article III

2. Doubt Is Not Incompatible with Faith, But Doubt Left Ungrounded Is Dangerous

3. A Picture of Faith

- i. Romans 4:3-5
- ii. Romans 4:16-24

4. Faith Is Active and Must Be Applied

- i. Romans 10:11-13
- ii. John 6:37

B. How Do We Grow In Assurance?

1. We Approach God’s Word Rightly

- i. 1 John 5:10-11
- ii. John 5:24; Acts 10:43
- iii. Romans 10:17; 1 Timothy 3:15-16

2. We Examine Ourselves Soberly

- i. 1 John 5:1
- ii. 1 John 3:16
- iii. 1 John 2:3
- iv. 1 Corinthians 2:10-16

3. We Cry Out to God, In Faith, Persistently

- i. Hebrews 12:1-2
- ii. James 1:2-8