

## **Foundation: Intro and Assurance of Salvation**

### **Intro**

***"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." Luke 6.46-49***

The Christian must be a builder who digs down deep to lay a foundation on solid rock. As men we must especially take the lead on this. We need a foundation to rest our life on and we need to make sure that our family is resting on that same foundation. Jesus Christ is that solid rock that we are to stand on. With all the storms and crashing waves of this culture attempting to knock us down we must have our feet on sure and immovable ground.

***Over these ten weeks we will take a deep plunge together in looking at nine foundation stones which we as believers must lay and rest our lives upon. The first as we begin is assurance of salvation.***

### **Assurance of Salvation**

Before we begin to dig let's make sure we have the important foundation stone, *Assurance of Salvation*. We must have this in order to grow and mature in the Christian faith. We must have assurance that we are a child of God.

**John 1.12: *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*** God promises to make you and I His child when by faith we receive Him into our lives. God is trustworthy. He will not let you down. He will never mislead you or misguide you. You can truly know that you are His and that you have eternal life. Assurance is a New Testament blessing...

### **THREEFOLD Confirmation...Assurance is based on:**

#### **The Word of God**

**1 John 5.9-13:...*the testimony (v. 11) = the gospel***

***These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may KNOW that you have eternal life. That you may know = an intimate belong, belonging to a house or family.*** When you have met God's requirements/conditions **according to the Word of God** you can be assured that you are a child of God.

#### **The Witness of the Holy Spirit**

**1 Thessalonians 1.5: *For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.***

**Romans 8.16: The internal witness of the Holy Spirit is important.**

**Ephesians 1.13-14: ...sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance...sealing = confirmed, marked, to impress a seal or a stamp, to prove, authenticate, place beyond doubt**

The sealing of the Holy Spirit gives assurance.

We must take Eph. 1.13 as *upon believing you were sealed* – All who believe have the Spirit; all who have the Spirit have been sealed with the Spirit; and those who have not been thus sealed are not Christians (Packer, p. 189).

### **A Changed Life**

**Colossians 1.6: (the gospel) which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the abundance and suffering need.**

Marks of regeneration – *There is fire because there is smoke (John Goodwin, the Arminian Puritan).*

**1 John 2.3-6: (Fruits of Assurance – p. 183)**

**1 Thessalonians 1.9: For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God.**

### **A THREEFOLD Commitment**

When we become a Christian it involves turning to Christ, and receiving Him as Savior and Lord, by Faith. What results from such a glorious life-change is a threefold commitment to Christ of one's intellect, emotions and will. Jesus wants all of you. Not just your emotions. Not just your intellectual commitment either. It also involves your will, as you commit your life to Christ, by faith, giving all that you are to follow Him. That is why Jesus says in **Luke 9.23**, *If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

John Owen says regarding understanding, will and affection, *The mind of understanding is the leading faculty of the soul...its office is to guide, direct, choose and lead; it is the eye of the soul. The will is a power of action: a rational appetite: rational as guided by the mind, and an appetite as excited by the affections. (That which is good and God is most good is desirable, therefore we cannot but desire Him and for Owen desire is the root and heart of love.) The affections are the various dispositional drives, positive and negative, with their emotional overtones – love, hope, hate, fear and so on – which elicit choices by drawing man to or repelling him from particular objects. No choice is ever made with some degree of affection.*

### **Intellectual Commitment**

The knowledge and facts of Christianity are crucial for us to know. We must know the contents of God's Word. We must believe intellectually in the claims of Jesus Christ.

***Facts to put our faith in:***

***First, who Jesus Christ is.***

He is God. **John 10.30-33; 14.8-9** (Discuss Trinity)

Who do you say that He is and why?

***Second, why Jesus Christ came.***

Our problem of sin (**Romans 3.23; 6.23**)

To die, be buried and to raise again (**1 Corinthians 15.3-4; 2 Corinthians 5.21**)

***Third, how great a salvation.***

By grace alone through faith alone (**Ephesians 2.8-9**).

Your sins are forgiven (**Colossians 2.12-14**).

You became a child of God (**John 1.12-13**).

You received eternal life (**1 John 5.11-13; John 17.3**).

***John 10.28-30: I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 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. I and the Father are one.***

**Emotional Commitment**

An emotion is a feeling or reaction to a specific act, event or experience. Emotions are definitely a part of who we are, but we should not depend on them. Feelings can deceive us, so we should never seek mere emotional experiences.

\*Our faith must be placed in the person of Jesus Christ and His Word, not in our feelings!

Our assurance is based on the absolute authority of God's Word. We know the **facts** about Christ and His Word; we have **faith** in Christ and His Word and then following that comes **feelings**, which is the result of our experiences.

**Our Will**

**John 7.17:** We must be willing to obey the truth.

**Psalm 73.25-26:** *Whom have I in heaven but You (mind)? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and heart may fail (feelings), but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever (will).*