

Certainties Of The Christian Life

No. 106

Introduction.

- I. In 1895 a New York preacher preached a sermon about the fast living of his day. He talked about the bicycle craze and said, "This speed is not good for us. It will develop a generation of nervous and high stung creatures." A few year later the automobile came along. The first automobiles ran about 15 miles per hour." Many prominent doctors said that was a dangerous speed and would result in heart failures for numerous people. But today our cars run 70 or 80 miles per hour and we travel on airplanes five or six hundred miles per hour and we think nothing about it.
- II. But the preacher in 1895 was right in one way - we are living at a rapid pace.
 - A. Life is a question of doing something fast and getting somewhere in a hurry. This rapid pace is causing most people to be nervous and anxious and frustrated. This rapid pace is also causing men to be full of doubt and uncertainty. Most people today are not sure about anything and often say "I am not sure. I do not know."
 - B. The Christian does not have to have this uncertainty. While there are some things he cannot know, there are many things a Christian can be certain about.
- I. **He Is Saved** - The Christian can be certain he is saved.
 - A. It is wonderful to be saved. It is more wonderful to know it. And the Bible tells us we can know it.
 1. Paul knew it. Listen to him as he says. (2 Tim. 1:12).
 2. There was no doubt in Paul and there does not need to be any doubt in us. We should not say as many do when they asked if they are saved, "I hope so, I think so, I guess so, I don't know." We can know we are saved.
 3. **Now how can we know that we are saved?** One thing is certain we cannot go on feeling or conscience. Paul, who had been the chief of sinners, said. (Acts 23:1).
 - B. We can only know that we are saved if we have carried out the instructions of God's word.
 1. We can know we are saved if we have **believed in Christ**. (1 Jn. 5:13).
 2. We can know we are saved if we have **repented of our sins**. (Lk. 13:3).
 3. We can know we are saved if we have **confessed Jesus Christ**. (Matt. 10:32).
 4. We can know we are saved if we have been **baptized for remission of sins**. (Mk. 16:16; Tit. 3:5).
 5. We can know we are saved if we **keep the commandments**. (1 Jn. 2:3).
 6. We can know we are saved if we **do good**. (1 Jn. 2:29; 3 Jn. 11).
 7. We can know we are saved if we **love not the world**. (1 Jn. 2:15).
 8. We can know we are saved if we **love the brethren**. (1 Jn. 3:14; 4:7; Jn. 13:35).
 9. We can know we are saved if we **daily confess our sins** to Jesus and humbly depend on His blood

to wash away our sins. (1 Jn. 1:7, 9).

10. We can know we are saved if **His Spirit dwells in us.** (1 Jn. 4:13).

C. These scriptures certainly do not uphold the doctrine commonly known as “once saved always saved.” But they do teach that the faithful Christian can have glorious confidence that he is saved.

1. In the words of David, “Let the redeemed of Jehovah say so.” (Psa. 107:2).

2. Let us sing the words of this sweet hymn.

“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchased of God; Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.	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.”
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II. **All Things Work Together For His Good** - The Christian can be certain that all things work together for his good. (Rom. 8:28).

A. Observe the great confidence Paul taught Christian can have. He did not say, “We think all things work together for our good,” but he said, “We know all things work together for our good.”

B. This is sometimes a hard verse to understand. We have a great disappointment. A loved one dies, we suffer loss of health or financial ruin and we say, “What is good about this?”

C. It is very important that it be stressed here that Paul did not say that all things that happen to us are good or seem good. He assures us that God makes all things works together for our good. He takes our sorrows, our disappointments, our heartaches and works them all together for our good and His glory.

1. There have been many Christians who have cried out when trouble and sorrow came, “This can’t be good—I am suffering too much.” But the years past and God worked out His purpose and they later said, “That was the best thing that ever happened to me. It hurt, oh it hurt, but God made it turn out for my good.”

2. **Joseph is a classic example of what I am talking about.** Joseph must have been a happy man. He was a favorite son of a loving father. He had everything to make life pleasant. Then one day his jealous brothers seized him and mistreated him and finally sold him into slavery. Surely his heart must have been heavy as he was taken down into Egypt. He knew that he would not see his father again. He knew instead of being a favored son, now he would be nothing but a slave performing menial tasks. Things looked mighty black for him. He had nothing to look forward to. Then the time came when he was thrown into prison because he refused to commit adultery and because he wanted to do right in God’s sight. I imagine someone going up to his cell door and saying, “Cheer up, Joseph, all things work together for good to those who love God.” He sadly replies, “That may be true, but I can’t see it now. I am really in trouble. And to make matters worse, I have done nothing wrong.” But several years go by. No longer is he a slave. No longer is he in prison. He is the second greatest man in Egypt, his power is next to that of the king. As such he saved a nation and saves his own family and is reunited with his father. He then says to his brothers concerning the tragic things that had happened, “Ye meant it for evil against me; but meant it for good..to save much people alive.” (Gen. 50:19). He had come to realize that God can make tragic

things work together for our good.

III. **God Cares For Him** - The Christian can be certain that God cares for Him.

- A. One cold afternoon, near the end of the day, a **little was shivering in the reception room of a doctor's office**. His clothes were ragged, and he was hungry. The physician asked, "Who are you, son? What can I do for you?" The child replied, "Don't nobody care what happens to me."
- B. Like this child there are times when all of us feel neglected, discouraged and unwanted. In moments of despair we often cry out as David did. (Psa. 142:4).
- C. But the Christian can be certain that God cares!
 - 1. Listen as I cite some comforting passages that emphasize God's concern for us. (Psa. 55:22; 84:11; Matt. 6:25, 26; 1 Pet. 5:7).
 - 2. How comforting it is to know that God cares for us! How comforting it is to know He will take care of us.

IV. **Jesus Will Never Forsake Him** - The Christian can be certain that Jesus will never forsake him.

- A. Jesus was often forsaken. His townsmen rejected Him. His brothers and sisters refused to believe on Him. Judas betrayed Him. Peter denied Him. All of the apostles fled when He was on the cross. And even for a short time on the cross God for some unknown reason forsook Him in the height of His agony. Jesus cried out. (Matt. 27:46).
- B. Although Christ was forsaken, He will never forsake us. (Heb. 13:5).
 - 1. **A man tells about sailing across the Pacific Ocean many years ago.** The trip took 11 days, but for 10 days they ploughed through a furious storm that shook the boat. It was so dark that they could hardly see their way. The passengers were anxious and scared. But one voice calmed their fears and everyone came to listen for that voice. It was the voice of the man in the crow's nest. Every hour he would cry out the time and say, "All's well!" "All's well!"
 - 2. And as we are shaken by the storms of life, if we will but listen, we can hear the voice of Jesus saying, "All is well, I am still on My throne. I love you and am watching over you. I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will bring you through all these difficulties."

V. **He Has A Better House** - The Christian can be certain that he has a better house. (2 Cor. 5:1).

- A. Every day our bodies are decaying. Every day we are getting older. But Paul said, "That's all right. Find comfort in the fact that when this old body is gone that God will give us a better one. He will give us a body, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." What a glorious promise!
- B. In the resurrection we will shed these old corruptible bodies and receive a new body that is perfect in every way. This new body will not know pain or death or disease or sorrow or any of the other things that trouble us here. This glorious body will ascend to spend eternity in the Eternal City that is more beautiful and more perfect than I could ever describe to you.

1. **One year at Christmas time three little girls were looking into a show window**, and a man nearby listened to their conversation. Two of the girls were describing everything in the window to a third girl. They told her about the dolls, the trains, the teddy bears. You see, the third little girl was blind. The man who was looking on said to himself, "It's no use, girls, you will never be able to describe all the beauty and color in that wonderful window."
2. I feel the same way when I try to tell you of Jesus and heaven. No matter how long I preach, I could never tell you how wonderful they are. But some day all the earthly scales will fall from our eyes and we shall see Jesus as He is, and the glorious treasures of heaven will be ours.

VI. **Pays To Be Ready For Jesus** - The Christian can be certain it pays to be ready for Jesus.

- A. The **Emperor Napoleon once ordered the Royal Guard to meet him** for inspection at dawn. In order to reach the place of inspection these soldiers marched until after midnight in the rain. They arrived with their uniforms wet and muddy. They spent the balance of the night cleaning up and getting ready for inspection. When they faced Napoleon at sunrise their uniforms were spotless and their bayonets glistened. The Emperor was great moved. He said, "I am proud of you, my soldiers. After a weary march, you stayed up all night to be ready to meet your Emperor."
- B. Oh, beloved, one day we are going to meet our Savior. It will be a wonderful day if we are ready to meet Him. It will be the most glorious moment of our lives to hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of the Master." It will be marvelous to know that we will be with Him forever.

Conclusion.

- I. Beloved, all of these certainties belong to the Christian. It is wonderful to be a Christian. It is wonderful to belong to Christ. It is wonderful to be an heir of heaven.
- II. These certainties are available to all men. Jesus died for every man and He will save every person who will surrender his life to Him. We urge you to come to Jesus now as we sing His song of invitation.