

Blessed Assurance of Salvation pt. 3

Pastor Jose F. Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

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“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” 2 Tim.1:12

We return to our studies this morning on Blessed Assurance of Salvation, this is part 3 of our series. We have already established that the Apostle Paul wrote this epistle from prison. He was put in prison for preaching the gospel and now encourages Timothy those of us who follow Christ of that great hope we have in Christ, that is, the hope of a Blessed Assurance of Salvation.

We set forth these seven things from this text:

- I. Blessed Assurance in Persecution:** (For the which cause I also suffer these things...)
- II. Blessed Assurance in Passion:** (...nevertheless I am not ashamed...)
- III. Blessed Assurance in the Person:** (...for I know whom I have believed...)
- IV. Blessed Assurance in Persuasion:** (...and am persuaded...)
- V. Blessed Assurance in the Power:** (...that he is able ...)
- VI. Blessed Assurance in Preservation:** (...to keep that which I have committed unto him ...)
... perseverance is meaningless without preservation.
- VII. Blessed Assurance in Preparation:** (...against that day.)

Paul wrote this to give consolation and encouragement to the hearts of God's children, so that we can know without a shadow of doubt that our never dying soul which we have committed unto our God, He is able to keep it until that day.

We opened our second point last week and we shall continue it this week:

II. Blessed Assurance in Passion: (...nevertheless I am not ashamed...)

After Paul shares with us regarding his suffering, he now makes a profound statement regarding his faith in following the Lord Jesus Christ. Even though he was suffering for Christ and for the gospel's sake, he boldly and openly says, *“...nevertheless I am not ashamed ...”* Paul is boldly saying that in spite of his imprisonment he is not one bit ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ or His gospel. Paul has a heart fully committed to the cause of Christ, He has a heart burning in passion for His Christ; yes Paul had a blessed assurance in passion. The whole essence of my message last week was on having such a strong passion for Christ that we would not be ashamed of Him, at work, with friends, at play or at home, that is, where ever

we are that we would not be ashamed of our loving Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We saw two verses in particular to help us not be ashamed:

- Hebrews 2:11, *"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause **he is not ashamed to call them brethren.**"* Even in our unfaithfulness, Christ is not ashamed to call us brethren, OH to God that we would not be ashamed of our Lord Jesus Christ who is FAITHFUL to us.
- Hebrews 12:2, *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, **despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."* Christ endured the cross despising the shame and to think that we who are called His followers would be ashamed of Him, as Paul would say, GOD FORBID! He went to the cross He despised the shame, He who endured the humiliation of the cross, despising the shame all because of His great love for us. Again as one writer puts it, *"...The Shame Men Heaped Upon Him! The Shame of Being Made A Curse! The Shame of His Companions in Death! The Shame of His Imputed Guilt—Our Shame! The Shame of His Abandonment! The shame is all gone! He who endured the cross, despising the shame for us, even unto the end, now, is set down at the right hand of the throne of God! His work is finished. He has entered into his rest. His glory is full. His soul is satisfied."*
- Then we saw the words of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself in Luke 9:23-26, *"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26 **For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed**, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels."* There is no misunderstanding what Jesus Christ is saying here, it is very clear and definite what is expressed here. He gets right to the issue at hand, what a fearful and sobering warning! One writer puts it this way, *"Now what do we know of all this? Surely this is a question which ought to be asked. A little formal church-going, and a decent attendance at a place of worship, can never be the Christianity of which Christ speaks in this place. Where is our self-denial? Where is our daily carrying of the cross? Where is our following of Christ? Without a (Christianity) religion of this kind we shall never be saved. A crucified Savior will never be content to have a self-pleasing, self-indulging, worldly-minded people. No self-denial--no real grace! No cross--no crown! Whoever will save his life," says the Lord Jesus, "shall lose it; but whoever will lose his life for My sake shall save it."* This is the whole essence of salvation, living for Jesus Christ and Him alone! We ended here last week with this verse in 2 Cor.5:15 says, *"And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."* To understand that we have but one life to live and to whom are we going to live it, for ourselves or for our Lord Jesus Christ? I can only answer for myself; I by God's grace have chosen to live for Him!

The possession of the whole world will never make a man happy and satisfied; he would go after other worlds if it were possible. Matt. 16:26 says, *“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* The one we just read to you from Luke 9:25 says, *“For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?”* The idea that I believe Christ is trying to convey is that there is nothing more important or more precious as a man’s soul. Michael Jackson and Elizabeth Taylor left millions of dollars when they died, they exchanged their souls for the profit of money and at the end it profited them nothing. Listen to the wise words of Samuel when the people wanted a king to reign over them in 1 Sam.12:20 & 21, *“And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, **but serve the LORD with all your heart;** 21 And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, **which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.**”* People go after vain things that shall not profit when death comes knocking on their doors. Not just the rich, the poor also. Proverbs 11:4 says, *“Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.”* As we heard on Wednesday night at CBC Bible Conference by brother Ron Crisp from Ecclesiastes in particular Eccl. 2:11, *“Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, **all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.**”*

This again is the whole idea of Christ’s words, listen how Mark put it in Mark 8:36, *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”* This question by our Lord Jesus Christ is so often repeated, a question so well known, a question so famous that amazingly so few take it to heart. This question of Christ ought to pound hard to the deepest recesses of our conscience, it should be like a loud trumpet in our ears that, whenever we get too fixed and tied down to this world and begin to neglect our eternal interests. There is nothing absolutely nothing; that this world can offer to profit our souls in the day of death. When the death angel comes to call for you and for me, what, tell me what, someone tell me what will this world profit me then. How often do we forget that we live in a world where everything is temporal and that we are going to a world where everything is eternal? It does not mean that we can’t have the good things of this life, there is nothing wrong with that, but when these good things drive you and it is the only thing you live for then it is wrong. Why? Because you begin to put the things of God second, third, fourth, fifth and so forth in your lives. Next thing you know you have lost sight of eternity and you begin to only live for the now, which is temporal.

Turn to Matthew 6 quickly with me: Let’s start at verse 19-21; 24-34. It’s not that we cannot enjoy the things of this world, remember God’s knows that you have need of these things, but the issue is having a right perspective on these things, that is, making sure that we are seeking the kingdom of God above all things. Why, because everything else will not bring satisfaction. Now, worldly things do bring temporal satisfaction because sin is pleasurable to the flesh the body, but remember we are talking about our never dying soul, that is, that which is eternal, thus Christ again says, Mark 8:36, *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”* Even if a man gain and conquered the whole world, what advantage would that be to his never dying soul. Alexander the Great died a sad man; he

conquered the known world at a tender age of 32 and then was depressed because there was nothing else to conquer. He gained the whole world and in his conquest he lost his own soul to depths of eternal damnation.

What people do not understand is that the pleasures of this world are deceitful and false and that all of its riches, honors, prestige and power will not satisfy the heart. No matter how much a person loves these things, they cannot keep them anyway, because as already mentioned; one day DEATH will come and then what about all these things? At that day the only thing that will matter is not how many material things I have possessed, but do I possess Jesus Christ, do I possess eternal life if not eternal damnation will follow! People spend their whole life seeking to obtain so many things, but never spend time in seeking to obtain the most needful possession: **CHRIST**! Consider this, *“The loss of the soul is the heaviest loss that can befall a man. The worst and most painful of diseases--the most distressing bankruptcy of fortune--the most disastrous shipwrecks--are a mere scratch of a pin compared to the loss of a soul. All other losses are bearable, or but for a short time, but the loss of the soul is for eternity. It is to lose God, and Christ, and heaven, and glory, and happiness, to all eternity. It is to be cast away forever, helpless and hopeless in hell!”*

We are again warned by our Lord in regards to the awful guilt and danger of being ashamed of Jesus Christ. He says again in verse 26 of Luke 9, *“For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.”* Listen to the warnings of this writer, *“There are many ways of being ashamed of Christ. We are guilty of it whenever we are afraid of letting men know that we love His doctrines, His precepts, His people, and His ordinances. We are guilty of it whenever we allow the fear of man to prevail over us, and to keep us back from letting others see that we are decided Christians. Whenever we act in this way, we are denying our Master, and committing a great sin...The wickedness of being ashamed of Christ is very great. It is a proof of unbelief. It shows that we care more for the praise of men whom we can see, than that of God whom we cannot see. It is a proof of ingratitude. It shows that we fear confessing Him before man who was not ashamed to die for us upon the cross. Wretched indeed are they who give way to this sin. Here, in this world, they are always miserable. A bad conscience robs them of peace. In the world to come they can look for no comfort. In the day of judgment they must expect to be disowned by Christ to all eternity, if they will not confess Christ for a few years upon earth...Let us resolve never to be ashamed of Christ. Of sin and worldliness we may well be ashamed. Of Christ and His cause we have no right to be ashamed at all. Boldness in Christ's service always brings its own reward. The boldest Christian is always the happiest man.”* Amen and AMEN! Christ makes this very clear! He succinctly laid down the essence of being a Christian, we must forsake ourselves by denying ourselves and then we must forget ourselves by taking up His cross and then we are to whole heartily follow HIM!

This is perhaps the hardest part of being a Christian but nonetheless the most important aspect of our Christian walk, because it's not what we say but what we do. Our Lord Jesus Christ instructed us on the essence of true Christianity. I hope that my next statement does not offend any, that not my intention, I'm just making appoint, that is, again, the most important aspect of our Christian walk, **is not what we say or what we display but what we do**. Our Lord Jesus Christ instructed us on the essence of true Christianity and it's not wearing a cross or displaying crosses all over our house, it's not wearing a dove or wearing a fish, or putting Christian stickers on our cars, these are but superficial things. Christianity is

doing what Christ commands us to do. John 14:15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." And in John 14:23 he again says, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Everybody wants to talk about the love of God, but let me ask you a question, how is the love of God perfected in us?

The answer is found in 1 John 2:3-5, "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." It's not what we say; it's not what we display, because it's in what we do!

Christ is interested in our doing not in what we display in our homes, cars or clothes. Listen, I have Scripture verses on the walls of my house, but I need to understand that, that is not what makes me a Christian. In other words what does it profit me if I have verses all over my house or crosses and doves and if I treat my wife ugly and mean. What if I act like the Devil at home, then what do all these superficial things do for me, nothing, because it is not in what we display but what we do! Christ is interested in our obedience, Luke 6:46 says so clearly, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" He also tells us in Matthew 7:24-27, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." It's real simple, people make it hard, preachers make it hard, Christ simply says, whosoever hears these words of mine will either obey or will not obey them. You read what the Scriptures say and you have an option; obey or obey not! The end result will be seen, not in what we say or what we display, but in what we do! This is as simple as it can get.

Again, there are 3 important things that we as Christians must do. Christ says that if we come after Him, we must incorporate these 3 things into our lives, **(1) deny ourselves, (2) take up his cross and (3) follow him!** "And he said to them all, If any **man** will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

We must have a fixed faithfulness, a permanent passion, a decided determination, a lasting love and a dedicated devotion in denying ourselves, taking up his cross and seeking to follow our Lord Jesus Christ! You see, the best way to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength is to deny yourself, take up His cross and follow Him supremely! This is the whole essence of Christianity!

Consider A.W. Pink's quote, "Then said Jesus unto His disciples, if any man will"-the word "will" here means "desire to" It signifies "determine to." "If any man will or desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross (not a cross, but his cross) and follow me." Then in Luke 14:27 Christ declared, "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple." So it is not optional. The Christian life is far more than subscribing to a system of truth or adopting a code of conduct, or of submitting to religious ordinances. Preeminently the Christian life is a person; an experience of fellowship with the Lord Jesus and just in proportion as your life is lived

in communion with Christ, to that extent are you living the Christian life, and to that extent only... The Christian life is a life that consists of following Jesus. O that you and I may gain distinction for the closeness of our walk to Christ."

This again is the essence of our Christian walk. If you have not put my message together, if you have not connected the dots, let me help you. You see, the heart of the matter is, if we live the life that we are called to live, that is, to deny ourselves, take up His cross and to follow Him, then we will not, no never be ashamed of Him. How can you be ashamed of Him if you deny yourself? How can you be ashamed of Him if you take up His cross? And how can you be ashamed of Him if you follow Him? If we do these things that Christ calls us to do, we shall never, no never be ashamed of Him! Notice what A. W. Pink says again, *"The first step toward a daily following of Christ is the denying of self. There is a vast difference, brethren and sisters, between denying self and so-called self-denial. The popular idea that obtains both in the world and among Christians is that of giving up things which we like. There is a great diversity of opinion as to what should be given up. There are some who would restrict it to that which is characteristically worldly, such as theatre-going, dancing, and the racecourse. There are others who would restrict it to a certain season when amusements and other things which are followed during the remainder of the year are rigidly eschewed at that time. But such methods as those only foster spiritual pride, for surely I deserve some credit if I give up so much. My friends, what Christ speaks of in our text (and O may the spirit of God apply it to our souls this morning) as the first step toward following him, is, the denial of self itself not simply some of the things that are pleasing to self, not some of the things after which self hankers, but the denying of self itself. What does that mean-"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself?" It means in the first place, abandoning his own righteousness; but it means far more than that. That is only its first meaning. It means refusing to rest upon my own wisdom. It means far more than that. It means ceasing to insist upon my own rights. It means repudiating self itself. It means ceasing to consider our own comforts, our own ease, our own pleasure, our own aggrandizement, our own benefits. It means being done with self. It means, beloved, saying with the apostle, For me to live is, not self, but Christ. For me to live is to obey Christ, to serve Christ, to honor Christ, to spend myself for Him. That is what it means. We must let self be repudiated, be done with. In other words it is what you have in Romans 12:1, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice unto God."*

You want to live a life in which you will not be ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ, you must love the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, with a Fixed Affection, with a fixed passion, with a fixed devotion by denying yourself, taking up His cross and follow Him whole heartedly. There are no short cuts in Christianity, but we can have a blessed assurance in our passion towards our Lord Jesus Christ. Again Paul clearly instructs Timothy, *"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."* 2 Tim.1:12. May this encourage you to follow the Lord whole heartily by not being ashamed of Christ! That you can say with Paul this morning, I am not ashamed because I KNOW whom I have believed, that is, I KNOW HIM, I KNOW THE PERSON OF CHRIST, HE IS MY BELOVED, HE IS THE CHIEFTEST AMONG TEN THOUSAND HE IS ALL TOGETHER LOVELY and I am totally convinced and persuaded that He is able to KEEP my never dying soul which I have committed unto HIM! If that does not motivate you not to be ashamed of Him, then SHAME ON YOU! He emptied Himself for you, He took all the suffering and pain for you, He was humiliated for you, He was slapped, spat upon, beaten to a bloody pulp, His beard was plucked, whipped 39 times, a painful crown of thorns was placed upon Him. He suffered the wrath man

then in those 3 hours of darkness He suffered the wrath and justice of God. Jesus Christ endured the cross despising the shame because of the joy that was set before Him, because He would bring many sons unto glory, He left the glories of glories to come and die on the cruel cross for the salvation of our souls and to think that we would be ashamed of HIM, God help us, because Christ powerfully says: *“For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.”*

As I conclude this morning let me end by saying, I don't know where you are this morning, but if you are outside Christ, give Him your heart, give Him your devotion, give Him your allegiance, give Him your life and follow HIM. Do it now. What are you waiting for, you are going to die one day and it will be too late to love or follow Him. Do it now while you are still breathing and have life! If you profess to be a Christian and you have left your first love, come to Him in repentance and ask Him to forgive you and give you a heart to follow Him and to never be ashamed of Him. David had to do this in Psalms 51:7-12, *“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”*

Let us therefore never be ashamed of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, but follow Him with our all our hearts with a FIXED ALLEGIANCE cemented in a holy passion. Let us pray.