

# Blessed Assurance of Salvation pt. 6

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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 6 of our series. We have been considering the third point of our outline on: Blessed Assurance in the Person.

## III. Blessed Assurance in the Person: (...for I know whom I have believed...)

Paul has stated that he has suffered for Christ and that being in prison and suffering for Christ's sake he was not ashamed in whom his soul delights, that is, the PERSON of Christ, to which he says, “...for I know whom I have believed...” We know that Paul 3 times in this text speaks of his Lord and Savior: “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.”

We have already established that we have opened up one of, if not the most important of all doctrines in the word of God and that is the Person and Work of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a subject that covers both His humanity and His divinity. This is so important that if we leave any of those two out, His humanity or His divinity it affects the aspect of our salvation. In other words, this subject/doctrine is so important that without His incarnation/humanity we could not be saved and without His divinity/deity we could not be saved. This is why again that the Apostle John put it this way in 2 John 1:7-11, “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.” Let us never make light of the doctrine regarding the Person and Work of Christ and that we seek to abide in the doctrine of Christ.

We remind you again this morning that this topic of the person and work of Christ sets forth also the importance of the Eternal Sonship of Christ, that is, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God by Eternal Generation. In other words He did not become the Son at His incarnation; He was, yea, He has always been the Son of God from all eternity. We looked at 1 Timothy 3:16 last week, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

**God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

We saw that the Second Person of the Godhead bodily, Jesus Christ was manifest in the flesh and also put to death in the flesh and so now God can be the just and justifier of all those who believe. God forgives our sins on the basis of His Son, because His Son made complete satisfaction on the cross. God does not forgive just to forgive, no He forgives on the basis that satisfaction was render for His Holy Justice and therefore He is now free to justify sinners.

Payment had to be made for sin and this is why God had to be manifest in the flesh. We ended by going back to the garden in regards to the fall of Adam and its consequences in Genesis 3:1-15. Time ran out as we considered verse 21 and saw what the Lord did for Adam and Eve, “*Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*” What a glorious type of what Christ would accomplish for us. There were four things that we saw there:

1. In order for sinful guilty person to approach a holy God he needs a suitable covering: 1 Timothy 6:16, “*Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*”
2. The aprons of fig leaves which Adam and Eve made were not acceptable to God. They are but a type of mere religion. Mark 11:13 & 20, “*And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. 20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.*”
3. That God Himself must provide the covering. God must become man to provide the suitable offering. The covering is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ; it is the imputed righteousness of Christ. Isa.61:10, “*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*” Luke 15:22, “*But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.*” 2 Cor.5:21, “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*”
4. The necessary covering could only be obtained by death. Heb.2:17, “*Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*” Phil. 2:8, “*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*” 1 Peter 3:18, “*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*”

Heb.9:12, *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”*

We know that the word of God is quite clear as to the consequences and effects of the fall towards all of us. Keep your finger here and let us read regarding the effects and consequences of the fall in Romans 5:12-21. Back to Genesis 3:21, the Lord provided a substitute for them in that animal which he clothed them with the coats of skin. We are not told what kind of animal it was, but I think it was a lamb which of course typifies the Lord Jesus Christ. What Adam and Eve saw and experienced was the death of this poor creature, they saw blood for the first time. This animal was put to death for their transgressions, for their sins. This animal died in their place, in their stead. This animal was a substitutionary sacrifice for their sins. For the first time Adam and Eve saw and experienced reality of death by sin, they realized the high price and effects of sin, SIN PRODUCES DEATH!

- Ezekiel 18:20, *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die...”*
- Romans 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death...”*

This is why God had to become man so that He would be the perfect sacrifice, yea the satisfactory sacrifice. In other words SATISFACTION was rendered by the Son to the Father at the cross: Isa.53:10 & 11, *“Yet it **pleased** the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and **shall be satisfied**: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”* At the cross expiation and propitiation was rendered for all those whom the Son came to die for, remember Matthew 1:21 says, *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: **for he shall save his people from their sins.**”*

Therefore, no soon had man sinned that God gave the first gospel promise in Genesis 3:15. From this point on we see the aspect of redemption in history, laid out for us in our Bibles, pointing us to the coming of Christ to die on the cross for sinners. Acts 2:23 clearly states that, *“Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”* I would like to look at one more verse in considering The Blessed Assurance in the Person and that is 1 Peter 3:18, *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”* There are 3 things that I would like to consider from this verse:

1. The Procurement of Christ, *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins ...”*
2. The Provision of Christ, *“...the just for the unjust ...”*
3. The Purpose of Christ, *“...that he might bring us to God ...”*

## 1. The Procurement of Christ, “*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins ...*”

We will only look at the first one this morning. By procurement we mean that Christ purchase salvation for all those whom the Father had given Him from the foundation of the world, that is, Christ obtained eternal redemption for all those whom He died for! See Hebrews 9:12, “*Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*” The word obtained has various meaning and one of them is procured, that is Christ secured, He acquired, achieved, He gained, that is He obtained possession of salvation for all those whom He saves! In other words, Christ did not die to make salvation possible, that is, that He tried to do all He could and now it’s up to man, NO, HE PROCURED, HE OBTAINED eternal redemption for us! He secured, purchase eternal redemption for His people, ““*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*” (Matthew 1:21)

Notice the words of John 17:1-5, where we have Christ’s High Priestly prayer, this is the Lord’s Prayer, but in 1-5 it says, “*These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*” John 6:37, “*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*” Christ suffered for sins, that is, Christ suffered for all the sins of His people, it was effectual and nothing was left undone. Jesus Christ suffered for sin, because of sin so that He would put away the sins of His people by the sacrifice of Himself. Christ did not suffer for any sin of His own, He did no sin, He knew no sin, but He suffered as a vicarious substitute for the sin of His people that were imputed to him. In John 19:30 as Christ was about to breathe His last breath, He cried out, IT IS FINISH: “*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*” He finished the work the Father has given Him to do, He suffered and paid for our redemption in full, nothing was left undone. Christ died for sins fully and finally! You see, the Son of God suffered so that we who deserved all the unmitigated wrath of God might go free. He who was perfect HOLINESS willingly suffered for unholy depraved sinners. Charles Wesley hymn, “And can it be,” describes this:

And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Savior's blood!  
Died he for me? who caused his pain!  
For me? who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

How can it be that God Himself would die for me, me the one that caused His pain, but Christ lovingly, obediently and willingly suffered for sinners! Wesley hymn continues:

He left his Father's throne above  
(so free, so infinite his grace!),  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!

Again, this is why Paul can have blessed assurance in the person of His beloved Christ, “*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*” Paul says, for I know WHOM, that is the person of Christ, this Christ died for me, He took my place, my penalty, He suffered the wrath of God for me, He died for my sin fully and finally. Col.2:13-15, “*And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*” In other words, the judgment and penalty for my sins PAID IN FULL!

Peter says that “*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins ...*” In other words Christ death for sins was ONCE FOR ALL. Never to be repeated, but for all times the payment has been rendered! Another blessed hymn puts it this way, Horatio Spafford’s “It is well.”

My sin, O, the bliss of this glorious thought,  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Christ took my sins and nailed it to the cross once and for all and I bear them no more.

- Romans 6:10, “*For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*”
- Hebrews 7:27, “*Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*”
- Hebrews 9:12, “*Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*”
- Hebrews 9:28, “*So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*”

Christ died once and for all which was unlike the sacrifices on the priests in the Old Testament who repeatedly offered their sacrifices, but Christ’s sacrifice was complete and final and will not be repeated. The work of the atonement is finish and it is there that we must

look to Him by faith. Yes, Christ was put to death once and for all never to be repeated ever again. He took all our sins upon that cruel cross, He endured the awful pain and wrath for sin, Phil.2:8, *"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Heb.12:3, *"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."* Jesus Christ endured the God-forsaken darkness of death for us, so that we who were dead in trespasses and sins might have life. Remember that when He died on the cross the veil was rent in two from top to bottom to open immediate access to God, Christ suffered on the cross once and for all, the just for the unjust for the purpose of bringing us to God. He satisfied all the holy demands of the Father; He was the JUST penalty for sin which was required by the law in order to bring us to God. If you are outside Christ this morning you have no excuse for not coming to Christ. Provision has been made, it is your willful rebellion against God and it's your obstinate heart that will not bow down to Christ. It cost God His only begotten Son and you are willing to enter eternity without this precious and permanent provision made for sinners by Christ. I have a message from God for you this morning:

The gospel has its two effects, or two results of the gospel. The gospel saves or it slays, the gospel converts or it condemns, the gospel humble the heart or it hardens the heart, the gospel will justify or it will judge you without mercy: Romans 2:3-5, *"And thinkest thou this, O man...that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."*

God will judge all those who reject and spite His message of the gospel. Thus, I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM GOD THIS MORNING:

- Except you repent you shall likewise perish.
- Except you are born again you will not enter the kingdom of God.
- Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Remember last year I brought a sermon from Judges 3 where we saw that the result or effect of Ehud's message was fatal to the ears of king Eglon, oh to God that this morning the message is a sweet odor or aroma to your soul and that you embrace the gospel by coming to God in repentance and in faith to Christ. Except you bow the knee and confess the tongue that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, you shall be judged worthy of death as king Eglon. Do not walk out of this auditorium without getting your heart right with God especially when:

1Peter 3:18, *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..."*

LET'S PRAY

LET'S SING "And Can It Be."