

Blessed Assurance of Salvation pt. 4

Pastor Jose F. Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

April 3, 2011

“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 4 of our series. We have already seen that we can have a Blessed Assurance in Persecution and also in Passion, or if you wish with Passion. Whether we are persecution for His name sake or the fact that we should in passion follow our Lord by denying ourselves and taking up the cross in our everyday life we can have a Blessed Assurance of Salvation in believing and trusting that He is able to keep our never dying soul which we have committed unto Him against the day. We shall look at our 3rd point on:

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

Paul says with such fervency that he has suffered for Christ and in that suffering he was not, no never ashamed of Him whom his soul delights in, that is, the PERSON of Christ, to which he says, “...for I know whom I have believed...” Notice that 3 times in this text he directly 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.”

Paul establishes 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 most important subject that is very deep and broad to which I have agonized as to how I will deal with this doctrinal truth. It 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 salvation and also the essence of His Deity and the blessed revelation of the Trinity. 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 it is perhaps one of the most important doctrines in the Bible 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 not take lightly the doctrine of the Person and Work of Christ, but with Paul and John make sure we are not

ashamed of Christ and that we abide in the doctrine of Christ. This subject is very broad which we can begin in Genesis and go all the way to Revelation.

Now, within this topic of the person and work of Christ is 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 is the Son of God from all eternity. I would like to share a very important text that is pertinent yea, perhaps preeminent to our study this morning. Please turn to 1 Timothy 3 and as you turn there I'd like to share a story regarding this text. I had read this years ago and shared it years ago, perhaps some of you might remember:

The following is copied, *"In the late 1700s Joseph Priestley, a liberal Unitarian preacher near Philadelphia, was visited by his younger brother, Timothy. Timothy Priestley was also a preacher. His older brother had once professed the faith of the gospel, but had abandoned it. While visiting with his brother, the elder Dr. Priestley (the unbelieving liberal) courteously asked his younger brother to preach for him. As the time neared, he began to fear he had made a mistake. So he asked his younger brother to choose a subject that would not be controversial. When Sunday morning rolled around, the younger Dr. Priestley stepped into the pulpit and announced as his text 1st Timothy 3:16, and read these words."*
1 Timothy 3:16) *"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."*

There is another text just as important as this one and that is in Phil.2:5-8, *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, **and was made in the likeness of men**: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*

Remember also the words of Christ Himself in His High Priestly prayer in John 17:4 & 5, *"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.**"* Then we have the opening words of this gospel in John 1:1-3, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."* There are multiplicity of verses showing forth the essence of the two natures of Christ, that is, that Jesus Christ is 100% God and 100% man. This is known as the Hypostatic Union which was coined in 431 AD in the Council of Ephesus. Whether this is the correct term or not theologians have argued hundreds of years, I used this term only to describe the union of the two natures of Divine and human in the person of Jesus Christ. He is fully God and He is fully man. He is not half God and half man, He never lost His divinity when He became man, He continued to exist as God when He became man and as one writer puts it, *"There is a union in one person of full human nature and a full divine nature."* Even at this present moment, right now in heaven, there is the God Man, Jesus Christ who is the mediator between us and God the Father! Jesus is the Word who was with God who is God and was made flesh. This helps us to better understand the words in Hebrews 1:3, *"Who being*

the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power..."

I hope that you see the preciousness of the words of Paul when he says in 2 Tim.1:12, "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." I hope that you also see the importance of our fourth point, Blessed Assurance in the Person, which clearly speaks of the Person and Work of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is again the powerful point that Paul makes in his first epistle to Timothy, "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"

Therefore, this is exactly how we are going to deal with this subject; there is indeed no controversy whatsoever that God was manifest in the flesh; this is indeed a mystery and an enigma to those who attack this precious doctrine. We don't have time this morning, but next week we'll see some of the heresies that came out in the times of the Apostles and in the early church regarding the incarnation of Jesus which even to this day continues in many cults like the Jehovah Witnesses in their attacks on the divinity and deity of Christ. Even some evangelical groups deny this glorious truth; Oneness Pentecostalism is also a dangerous group. Now you know why the Apostle John wrote in such strong language regarding this doctrine; 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 not in any form shape or manner capitulate or compromise this glorious doctrine. We shall consider 1Timothy 3:16 next week; but remember also that Paul wrote in 1 Tim.2:5 declaring, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**." There are many verses to show that the second person of the Godhead bodily became man, to be the mediator, yea the redeemer of all those whom God has saved and will save, He is also the mediator of the everlasting covenant, what Glorious Wisdom in this plan of God that the Word would become flesh, John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

This is a very, very important doctrine to understand that Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity became flesh. God had to become man in order to save us, Jesus Christ as God had to undertake the punishment of those He saves. Jesus is the vicarious substitute for all those whom He saves! He had to become flesh to accomplish the atonement in order to make application of the atonement. This is why this is a vital and very important doctrine that we cannot err on, for our eternal destination lies on this great truth! Listen again to the words of Paul to Timothy in 1 Tim.3:16, "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.” Notice all the following verses that substantiate this glorious doctrine, I have them in front of me I’ll read them to you, you can write the verses down and check them later:

- John 6:51, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and **the bread that I will give is my flesh**, which I will give for the life of the world.”
- Romans 1:3, “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David **according to the flesh**.”
- Romans 8:3, “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, **God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh**, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”
- Hebrews 2:14, “Forasmuch then as **the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same**; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”
- Hebrews 5:7, “Who in **the days of his flesh**, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.”
- Hebrews 10:20, “By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, **his flesh**.”
- 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.”
- 1 Peter 4:1, “Forasmuch then as **Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh**, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.”
- 1 John 4:2 & 3, “Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God**: 3 And every spirit that **confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God**: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”
- Again 1 Timothy 3:16, “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”

The word of God is quite clear on this subject, for from the beginning it was the mutual hope of all those who believed in the coming Messiah, that at some point in time the promise seed would break into human history. From Adam to Noah to Abraham to Moses to David to Isaiah to Daniel to all the way to the last prophet Malachi believed and hope in the promise seed who would make atonement for the sins of His covenant people. Now, by no means do I suggest that these believers clearly understood the doctrine of the atonement, the doctrine of Christ’s incarnation or even the hypostatic union of divinity and humanity. I don’t think that the Old Testament saints understood or saw things the way we do. We have the light of the New Testament to be able to fully grasp what God intended in the accomplishment of redemption. How much did Isaiah understand chapter 53? How much did Abraham understand in Genesis 22:8 & 13, “And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself** a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 13 And Abraham lifted

up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering **in the stead of his son.**” Then of course we have the last book of the Old Testament in Mal.3:1 it says, “Behold, the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.” How much did they understand, I’m not sure how much, but they knew a redeemer was coming, He who was the Messiah, the promise seed would come as a matter of fact Simeon says this in Luke 2:25, “And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, **waiting for the consolation of Israel:** and the Holy Ghost was upon him.” Then we also have Anna the prophetess who after she had seen the infant Jesus, “And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and **spake of him to all them that looked for redemption** in Jerusalem.” They knew something of the coming Messiah because prophet after prophet spoke of the coming Messiah the promise REDEEMER! That they did not understand fully we know because when Christ spoke to His disciples after His resurrection He opened their understanding, that they would understand the words written in the Law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms. Luke 24:44-46, “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, **that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.** 45 **Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,** 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day.”

Again, the Old Testament clearly prophesized of the coming of the Messiah, in Genesis 3:15 we have our first gospel promise called the “Proto Evangelium” in Latin. Immediately after the fall of Adam and Eve, even though God was pronouncing judgment regarding the fall and the curse that followed, He also graciously and compassionately gave a blessed promise to deliver sinners through the offspring of Eve. Amazing in one mysterious sentence He addressed Satan the Serpent and the woman, in divulging the plan of salvation. Gen. 3:15, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” A **promise** was given that one from the woman’s seed, which we know was Christ, would deal a death blow in a victorious and utter defeat of Satan, which also included a defeat over death and sin. We know that all this happened at the cross, where Satan bruised Christ’s heel, that is, caused Him to suffer, but Christ also bruised Satan’s head in a glorious triumphant victory! Here we see the Sovereignty of God who put enmity between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. In this **promise** we must understand, that it **supersedes any and all succeeding promises** which underscore’s 3 important things:

1. God must become man.
2. The fulfillment and completeness of Christ’s victory.
3. The invaluable or immeasurable cost to which this victory must be secured, that is, the death of God’s own Son.

In all this we see the Divine Initiative of God in preparing, sustaining and maintain all of this until the fullness of time was come and God would become man. Gal.4:4, *“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.”* I cannot tell you the many times Satan sought to destroy this lineage, that is, seeking to prevent the continuity of the Redeemer’s seed. Victory would lie within the SEED of the woman and it was providentially kept in the fulfillment of many prophecies regarding the first coming of Christ in His birth in Bethlehem. Gal.3:16, *“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”* This promise involved all nations, notice the

words God to the Patriarch Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, *“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**”*

Remember promises made to the ‘seed’ after Genesis 3:15 must be interpreted within the context of that first gospel promise regarding our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words the first gospel promise is the framework of Soteriology and therefore supersedes any Eschatological or Ecclesiastical promises and Genesis 3:15 is Soteriological. Therefore any successive or succeeding promises must be interpreted and or understood within that first gospel promise. If you miss this important truth, you will be off in the rest of the Bible. If a person understands the first 3 chapters of Genesis, they will understand the rest of the Bible, if a person does not understand the first 3 chapters they will be off in the rest of the Bible.

God continues to give revelation and light to Abraham and his sons. In Genesis 12 and verse 7, *“And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, **Unto thy seed** will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.”* Then the promise was confirmed and made with Isaac in Gen.26:3 & 4, *“Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and **unto thy seed,** I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; 4 And **I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.**”* Then in Genesis 28:13 & 14, God makes it also with Jacob. *“And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”* Now, I understand that this promise along with the ones given to Abraham and Isaac there is a reference to the land. Thus, within these promises there is a two-fold application, one physical and one spiritual, but we must understand again that there is something better that supersedes the land and that is, the seed also represents the Lord Jesus Christ, in other words the spiritual

supersedes the physical. Now, so that we will not miss this, notice what Paul says regarding true proper hermeneutics in 1 Cor.15:45-48, “*And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.*” It is the natural first then spiritual and it does not go back to physical. This is where many allow their eschatological position to predominate over their soteriological position; we must always consider that which is soteriological first. Just a few examples; the physical tabernacle first then the spiritual tabernacle, the church; then the physical temple first then the spiritual temple Christ, we are born in the flesh first and then born in the Spirit.

We will look at this word blessed in a moment, but for now, there is again a twofold blessing set forth here, one physical and the other spiritual. The land was given to the seed of Abraham, but in that seed also included Jesus Christ and therefore the spiritual supersedes the essence of the physical land. Now, I know this type of interpretation upsets a lot of people and in particular Dispensational Pre-mils. It is not my point to get into an eschatological discussion here, come Wednesday night where I am at present dealing about the Second Coming of Christ and open to any and all questions regarding this issue my interest for the present moment again is the application of the gospel where we shall the Person and Work of Christ.

I want us to turn to the third chapter of Galatians and consider what Paul wrote in Gal.3:8 & 9, “*And the scripture, **foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith**, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, **In thee shall all nations be blessed**. 9 So then **they which be of faith are blessed** with faithful Abraham.” The blessing is seen and found in the gospel not the land. Let me just back up a little here, look at verses 6 & 7, “*Even as **Abraham believed God**, and **it was accounted to him for righteousness**. 7 Know ye therefore that **they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham**.” In these 4 verses, twice a particular word is used to describe a group a people. The pronoun, ‘they,’ describes a certain group of people. Who are these people described by the pronoun they? Are they just Jews or does it encompass Jews and Gentiles? In the seed is included all the elect of God, both Jew and Gentile which makes up **the Israel of God**. So that you will not think that I am pushing my view on eschatology or that I am being presumptuous in my description of the pronouns they, look as Isaiah 54:1-3, “*Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD. 2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and **thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles**, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.” Now, I know that I have already dealt with this, but I feel that I need to repeat myself again. In the seed is included all the elect of God, both Jew and Gentile which makes***

up the Israel of God. Amazing that between 2 of the most glorious chapters in the Bible, chapters 53 & 55, we find chapter 54 speaking about enlarging the tents and curtains of the Jews to include the Gentiles. Isaiah 53 speaks about the great work of the atonement of Christ in behalf of sinners and then in Isaiah 55 we see the blessed gospel proclamation to all. In Isaiah 55:1-3, “*Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. 3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and **I will make an everlasting covenant with you**, even the sure mercies of David.” Perhaps we can say; that the aspect of the seed and covenant are the means God uses by working these together hand in hand in the effectual work of salvation of God’s elect presented in the gospel. Whether we are called His seed or His covenant people it describes the elect people of God, that is, The True Israel of God.*

If we return to Galatians chapter 3 it gets much clearer, for example look at verses 13 – 16 of Galatians 3, “*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 That **the blessing** of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; (This ‘**BLESSING**’ is in reference to Genesis 12 and any and all subsequent references to that blessing, which was renewed with Isaac and then Jacob in Genesis 28) that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. 15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. 16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, **And to thy seed, which is Christ.**” This is clear application that the reference to the seed with its subsequent blessing is found in CHRIST, not so much the land!*

I want to reiterate that the promises were made to Abraham and his seed, but this included all the elect of God. Remember, this concept of all the elect inclusive transcends the time of Abraham, it began in Genesis 3:15, “*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” Genesis 4:25, “*And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, **hath appointed me another seed** instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.” We also know that the everlasting covenant was made in eternity past before the foundations of the earth. The seed is inclusive of Gentiles, remember also that all those who God saved from Adam to Abraham were Gentiles, thus, Gentiles were already included in the seed when God gave it to Abraham. All of us here this morning that name the name of Christ, that profess salvation in Christ Jesus are Gentiles, we’re Gentiles and if we are in Christ we are included in the seed, in the promise, yea in the covenant!**

Let’s go back to Galatians chapter 3 and look at the last few verses 26 – 29, “*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**” This*

is so clear and unambiguous or unmistakable in any form, shape or manner. The details are very clear, lucid and transparent in the application, “...**if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**”

To show more clearly that the spiritual blessing supersedes the physical blessing of the land, notice the words of Peter in Acts 3:12-26. The blessing is the gospel of the grace of God, the blessing of salvation is in the forgiveness of sins. This is clear, so evident by anyone who studies the word of God objectively.

Turn quickly to Hebrews 6:13, (9-14) and following... The Apostle Paul again uses Abraham as a pattern, why? Because Abraham is the father of all believers, the blessing and the promises were made to him are ours also, because ALL the PROMISES of God are in Christ Jesus and are yea and in HIM AMEN! Notice Paul's word to the Romans in chapter 4, Romans 4:1, “*What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?*” Romans 4:11 & 12, “*And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: 12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.*” Romans 4:16 - 18, “*Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.*”

The blessing is again Jesus Christ Himself, that's why when God promise in Gen.12:2 & 3, “*And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*” It also included the GENTILES and the land, but it is the SPIRITUAL BLESSING of FORGIVENESS of SINS in JESUS CHRIST that SUPERSEDE the LAND! The blessing is therefore the gospel where with all the families of the earth shall be blessed, i.e. by the gospel going out to the four corners of the earth. This is why we need to not only support our missionaries also to pray for our missionaries, as they seek to take the gospel throughout the whole earth. Yes, in the gospel we see the glorious PERSON and WORK of our Lord Jesus Christ. This has been the glorious promise since the beginning in Genesis 3:15, that the gospel would be a blessing to all people in all nations, therefore all the families of the earth; that is the nations would be blessed by the glorious gospel of Christ. When you see everything that God has wrought for the salvation sinners, it manifests His great glory and love in saving sinners. For from the beginning this was the whole essence of the promise of the seed finally brought to fruition in the PERSON and WORK of CHRIST!

Therefore Paul can say with great confidence in 2 Timothy 1:12, “*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,*” for he knew what Christ had done for his soul and thus encourages Timothy and those of us who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that we can trust and believe that He is able to keep our never dying souls which we have committed unto Him against that day. Paul had a Blessed Assurance in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ. How about you, where do you stand this morning?

Let's Pray

Let's Sing: Majestic Sweetness Sits Enthroned