

# Blessed Assurance of Salvation pt. 13

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*

As we return again to our studies this morning on Blessed Assurance of Salvation, this will be part 13 of our series. I did not finished my last sermon last week because time had elapsed and instead of concluding my sermon this morning from last week on Blessed Assurance in the Power, that is, trusting God because He is ABLE to keep that which by faith we have committed unto Him against the day, I have decided to go on to my next point. You can read the rest of my sermon from last week from my uploaded notes in PDF on [sermonaudio.com/hdgbc](http://sermonaudio.com/hdgbc). I want us to look at our next point #6, Blessed Assurance in Preservation. 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.)

## VI. **Blessed Assurance in Preservation:** (...to keep that which I have committed unto him ...)

What assurance must have been implanted and rooted in the heart of the Apostle Paul, perhaps that he could say with David in Ps.57:7, “My heart is **FIXED** O God, my heart is **FIXED**...” What caused Paul to persevere or what was it that caused Paul to continue to endure, that is, to persevere while he was in the dirty, smelly and dark dungeon of his prison hole? Before we answer this question, let me just say that the Christianity that Paul had and preached is so different than the nominal Christianity of our day which would be upset and mad that God would allow something like this to happen to them. Saying something like, “well is this how you repay me for serving you all these years?” “Thanks for nothing God; I thought it was all about peace and joy, that is, nothing but comfort and ease in this thing called Christianity.” Sad, but this is the concept of what is preached from many

pulpits regarding Christianity, that God wants you healthy, wealthy and happy, but this is not the Christianity of the Bible, this is nothing but hedonism, nothing but pleasure seeking and self-indulgence, it's all about me, about the great and wonderful plan you have for my life God. So a trial comes in the lives of these nominal Christians and they do not want anything to do with God. This is exactly what Christ warn about in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13 on parable of sower; in verses 20 & 21, "*But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: **for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.***" Mark's account in 4:16 & 17, "*And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, **when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.***" Luke's account in 8:13, "*They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and **in time of temptation fall away.***" The word temptation here in Luke 8:13 is the Greek word, '**peirasmos**' basically means to be tried when we are going through a trial, that is, being in an affliction or adversity, in trouble, it has the connotation of God sending a trial into our lives to test or proof our love to Him. Remember also the words of Jesus Himself in John 16:33, "*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. **In the world ye shall have tribulation:** but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*" John 14:27 Christ says, "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*" We must remember that God promised to save us from our sins not to always deliver or save us from affliction. As a matter of fact the next 4 verses I will use all have the same Greek word '**peirasmos**' as in Luke 8:13 for temptation:

- (1) James 1:12, "Blessed is the man that endureth **temptation:** for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."
- (2) 1 Peter 1:6, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold **temptations.**"
- (3) 1 Peter 4:12, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to **try** you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."
- (4) 2 Peter 2:9, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of **temptations**, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." My dear ones the same God that knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations has the SAME POWER to reserve the lost who die in that state unto the day of judgment to be punished. Remember we ended last week's message by saying that the same POWER God uses to save a sinner is the same POWER that will punish the sinner who dies outside of Christ. Thus, we need to believe and trust in the PROMISE of GOD and in the POWER of God as we saw last week, that we can have Blessed Assurance in the Power of God knowing He is ABLE!

So we ask again what was it that caused Paul to continue to endure, that is, to persevere while he was in the dirty, smelly and dark dungeon of his prison hole. Again as David would say in Ps.112:7, "*He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: **his heart is fixed,** trusting in the LORD.*"

Well our primary text gives us 7 reasons as to why Paul's heart was fixed in trusting his God even it that wretched dark dungeon, HE HAD:

1. Blessed Assurance in Persecution: (For the which cause I also suffer these things...)
2. Blessed Assurance in Passion: (...nevertheless I am not ashamed...)
3. Blessed Assurance in the Person: (...for I know whom I have believed...)
4. Blessed Assurance in Persuasion: (...and am persuaded...)
5. Blessed Assurance in the Power: (...that he is able ...)
6. Blessed Assurance in Preservation: (...to keep that which I have committed unto him ...) perseverance is meaningless without preservation.
7. Blessed Assurance in Preparation: (...against that day.)

So again, Paul writes to validate and reassure the hearts of God's children that when we encounter trials and tribulation we can continue to persevere because we have the promises of God to help sustain and grace us in those turbulent times. We have the tender mercies of God to carry us, that is, we can depend on His power and strength to aid us when we go through difficult times. To know with great confidence in our hearts that no matter what comes against us He is able to keep us now and also until that day.

Therefore, we can have a glorious Blessed Assurance in Preservation, to know without a shadow of doubt our Great God will keep us, that is, preserve us in order that we might persevere. Please understand that perseverance is meaningless without preservation. We only persevere because He PRESERVES US! Ps.37:28, "*For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; **they are preserved for ever**: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.*" 1 Thessalonians 5:23, "*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and **soul and body be preserved blameless** unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Jude 1:1, "*Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and **preserved in Jesus Christ**, and called.*" Psalms 121:7, "*The LORD **shall preserve thee** from all evil: he **shall preserve thy soul**.*" Paul knowing he is about to die makes this wonderful statement in 2 Timothy 4:18, "*And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and **will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom**: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*"

Paul in our chief text tells us again 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.*" The word keep in this verse is the Greek word, '*phyllassō*' which basically means to guard, to protect, to safeguard, to watch over or keep watch by having an eye upon, to be kept from being snared away, to preserve from being lost or perishing both physically and spiritually and to be protected as a military guard or sentinel. To keep an eye upon to protect in order to remain safe indicating keeping with vigilance because phyllasso gives the idea of a shepherd keeping

watch over their flock to keep them safe from ferocious wolves. What a blessed picture of the GOOD SHEPHERD keeping watch over HIS SHEEP! Consider the words of Peter in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:4 & 5, “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but **saved** (phyllasso) Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.” God did not spare the old world when He opened up the floodgates of heaven and earth, but saved, preserved, kept Noah securely in the ark and remember the ark is also a type of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are kept and preserved by Christ. This is the whole concept of Jude in Jude 24, “Now unto **him that is able to keep you from falling**, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” We know that the book of Jude is a warning against apostasy and thus Jude closes this short epistle in assuring all those who trust in Christ, that they are absolutely secure in His hand and in the hand of His Father because they are preserved by the grace of God for the glory of God.

Remember that Peter also make a powerful statement in his first epistle chapter 1:3 - 5, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you**, 5 Who are **kept by the power of God** through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” The same power that saved us is the same power that keeps us. It takes omnipotent power to save us and it takes omnipotent power to keep, it is by the POWER OF GOD! Nothing else will do, religion, the flesh, the will cannot, but the omnipotent power of God will keep us. No matter what comes against us, God will keeps, no matter how weak the flesh is, no matter how strong sin can be, no matter how loud Satan roars, no matter if our enemies come against us the omnipotent and mighty hand of God will keep and protect us, man cannot keep us, church can't keep us no not anyone but God Himself, He alone is the only one that can keep us. We are kept and preserved in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ gives great assurance and security to all those whom He saves, He makes two blessed statement regarding this in the Gospel of John, 6:37-39, “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me **I should lose nothing**, but should raise it up again at the last day.” John 10:27 - 30, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and **they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand**. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and my Father are one.” This reminds me of that blessed Psalm 121 please turn there. 6 times we see the Hebrew word ‘**shamar**’ is used in regards to God keeping and preserving us. It is interesting to note that every occurrence of the Hebrew word ‘**shamar**’ is in the Septuagint translated with the Greek word ‘**phyllasso**,’ the Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Hebrew. Thus, 6 times the Greek word ‘**phyllasso**,’ is used here in Psalm 121. The same as in 2 Timothy 1:12, “...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.”

Spurgeon makes this point about Ps. 121, “As a shepherd keeps his sheep — by feeding them, by supplying all their needs, and also by guarding them from all their adversaries. He keeps the flock with

vigilance so that it is not diminished either by the ravaging of the wolf or by the straying of the sheep. As a king keeps his jewels. God hides His people in the casket of His power, and protects them with all His wisdom and strength... Think of God's eyes as never wearying of His people. Infinite patience! God is never forgetful of His people for a single moment. God is always ready to show Himself strong on behalf of those who trust Him. God is never asleep in the sense that He ceases to consider us. You and I, in thinking of one thing, often forget another; but it is not so with God." In 1 Samuel 2:8 & 9 we have the same thing in the Hebrew and Greek, "He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them. 9 **He will keep the feet of his saints**, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail." This is also used of Adam as God commanded him to be the keeper of the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2:15, "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and **to keep it.**" As impotent as was Adam to keep the garden we also are as impotent to keep ourselves, this is why we must look to God to preserve us and keep us.

I also want to look at another verse in Genesis that uses the same Greek word as in 2 Timothy 1:12 and that's in Genesis 28:15, "And, behold, I am with thee, and **will keep thee in all places whither thou goest**, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."

The top of this needful ladder reached heaven and we are told that the one who stood above it was Jehovah/Yahweh-Elohim, the LORD God of Abraham and Isaac. God is confirming, ratifying and renewing the covenant made to his fathers which now He made with Jacob and we know that when God saves a sinner He remembers, enters and renews the everlasting covenant. God covenants with a sinner in the grace of salvation. To every sinner God saves He renews that glorious covenant, the everlasting covenant that is made in the precious blood of Christ. Heb. 13:20 & 21, "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." It is the blood of the everlasting covenant that we find our hope and security in Christ, yes, He is that ladder set upon earth, but reaching the glories of heaven and God stands above it to covenant with Jacob. We preached on the Seed of the Ladder about a year ago and saw that the seed of verse 13 had reference also to our Lord Jesus Christ. God fulfilled His promise in giving Israel the land, but the promise of the seed is also speaking of Jesus Christ. Galatians 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." Galatians 3:29, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." I spoke on the **The Security of the Ladder**, where again it says in Genesis 28:15, "And, behold, **I am with thee, and will keep thee** in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for **I will not leave thee**, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of." The LORD God, Jehovah/Elohim or Yahweh/Elohim, that is, Jehovah/Yahweh is God's name to emphasize His self-existence as the immutable, eternal covenant keeping God and Elohim is God's

name to emphasize His creative and sustaining omnipotent power! Notice again the powerful words of verse 13, “*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.” The phrase, “...and said...” means that God spoke to Jacob and blessed him tremendously not only in the voice of Sovereignty but also in the voice of Security, yea in Great Comfort, again, GOD SAID to Jacob, “*And, behold, **I am with thee, and will keep thee...I will not leave thee...**” What words of blessed assurance, here we have a wretched rascal, a deceiver, a supplanter, a liar, a sinner, wow, that sounds like old Joe Maldonado, but God came to Jacob in mighty grace and saved his soul and filled him with glorious promises and with great security. Here also we see the glorious doctrine of the Preservation of God, which is the reason we persevere, it is only because: **He is the one that KEEPS US!** We must understand that those whom God saves, HE will keep to the end! Our converts go back to the world, but the converts of God always persevere. I remember years ago, the ones I let to the Lord, by the means of a sinner’s prayer; would go back to the world after a while. I could not understand that, I was very confused until God opened my eyes to His glorious truth. Then I started to see and realized that those who God saved persevere! Those who God saves will persevere. Now, the Bible clearly teaches the preservation of God’s elect in Christ. In other words those born again by the power of the Holy Spirit will most certainly persevere in faith, because we are preserved in Christ by almighty grace. Notice again the clear words of God to Jacob, Genesis 28:15, *And, behold, **I am with thee, and will keep thee** in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for **I will not leave thee**, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.” The promises are quite plain, **I AM** with thee, **I WILL** keep thee and **I WILL** not leave thee! It says in Eccl. 4:12, “...a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” God gives Jacob a 3-fold promise cemented in immutable omnipotence, purposed in Sovereign love and ratified in infinite wisdom and sustained by His supreme power! This 3-fold promise is what sustained Jacob the rest of his life and this is what sustains us also. You see if God ever left us to ourselves, we would be lost without hope, but thanks be to God He does not, He keeps His promises. There is not one of God’s elect that shall ever perish. (If time Psalm 73:23, “*Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.*” not so much that we hold to Him, but that He holds on to us.) God preserves us and we persevere! Perseverance is the end result of preservation, the believer continues in faith. Preservation is God keeping and sustaining His power! Perseverance is the believer being held by the hand of Christ by faith, but preservation is Christ holding the believer by the hand of grace.***

We read earlier in John 10:27-29 where it says, “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and **they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.** 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. 30 I and my Father are one.*” Now it is very clear that God’s

sheep hear His voice and follow Him, God knows them and He gives them eternal life to which they shall never perish. What part of eternal life and SHALL NEVER PERISH does a person not understand? Again, it is very clear and plain, shall never perish, Christ adds neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand and no one shall be able to pluck them out of the Father's hand.

This is a DIVINE PROMISE: *"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish."* Jesus Christ makes an unconditional promise! In this promise, like the promise of the blessing, like the promise of the covenant, this promise takes into consideration all things, all possibilities, all circumstances and all times. He says, I GIVE unto them eternal life and because of this effectual giving, they shall therefore NEVER PERISH! The same "I" that spoke in John 10:28, *"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish."* is the same "I" that speaks in Genesis 28:15, *And, behold, **I am with thee, and will keep thee** in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for **I will not leave thee**, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."* It is the same omnipotent God, the same Savior. The promise is "I" that is "I" ALONE give unto them eternal and they SHALL NEVER PERISH! But what if these sheep fall into sin? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" What if their faith is so weak? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH." What if they remain babes in Christ? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" What if one day, they are weak or ashamed to witness? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" What if they deny you like Peter? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" What if they are sorely tempted? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" What if their hearts get cold? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" What if they lose their first love? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" What if their vision for spiritual things gets dim? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" What if they fall? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" What if they sin again? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" But what if they fall seven times? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" What about seventy? "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" You can continue to ask questions, but the answer is always the same: "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" It is very clear and very plain, I give unto them eternal life and "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" Oh, what hope, what mercy, what grace, what forgiveness and what assurance we have in Christ Jesus. Oh dear people if you are outside Christ, don't you want to experience the blessing of the forgiveness of sins? Don't you want to have peace with God? Don't you want to hear those glorious words, "THY SINS BE FORGIVEN THEE SON?" "THY SINS BE FORGIVEN THEE DAUGHTER!" Don't you want to have your sins forgiven and here those blessed words, I GIVE UNTO THEE ETERNAL LIFE AND YOU SHALL NEVER PERISH! Don't you want to hear those blessed words: YOU SHALL NEVER PERISH! Don't walk out of this auditorium this morning without settling this issue with God, or dear sinner friend, come to Christ even now, come in repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, do it even NOW! This promise to the sheep of God means that not one, no not one,

not even one shall perish. This is for all who come to God, in saving mercy. In you repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have a promise, YOU WILL NEVER PERISH! Again, the same person that says "I" of Genesis 28 makes the same promise here in John 10. When God saves a sinner, not one sin can ever sin away the grace of God given you in Christ, because where sin abound, grace does much more super-abound! Just look to the journals of history of God's people, Noah's fall after the flood did not alter the grace of God. Abrahams lie about his wife Sarah did not make the grace of God weak. Judah's deception will not get him cast out. Lot's awful fall did not make him less righteous before God. Moses striking the rock twice did take away God's grace. David's adultery didn't cause him to perish. Hezekiah's foolishness did get him throw out. Samson's deception by Delilah will not cost him to perish. Jonah's disobedience did not cause him to be cast out? Peter's denial of Christ did not cause him to lose the grace given to him. Why? Because "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" Pastor Joe, does that give us a license to sin? I'll make it very simple, listen very carefully, **anyone who believes that they have a license to sin; has no grace in his soul and is still in awful blindness and darkness of sin!** I don't share this so that you can go out and sin, but to encourage you, that even in our short comings, our failures, when we are in unbelief, when we sin, when temptations overcome us and so forth, in all our weaknesses when we stumble and fall, the promise is still: "THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!" This does not make you go out and be sinful, no, or to turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, no, no but it causes you to be more HOLY! Romans 6:1 & 2, "*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*"

God preserves us therefore we persevere!

The decree of God shall never be reversed: THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!

The power of God shall never be overthrown: THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!

The promise of God will always be fulfilled: THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!

The purpose of God will not be frustrated: THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!

The work of Christ on the cross cannot be cancelled or abolished: THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!

The word of God will not be nullified: THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!

The sovereignty of God shall never be thwarted: THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!

The justification of the believer cannot be reversed: THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!



The punishment of Christ upon the cross shall not be in vain: **THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!**

The justice of God shall remain satisfied: **THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!**

King Jesus shall never be dethroned: **THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!**

The sheep of God shall never be lost again: **THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH!**

What about you this morning, do you have this promise: **YOU SHALL NEVER PERISH?**  
Do you have this hope: **YOU SHALL NEVER PERISH?** Do you have this salvation where in: **YOU SHALL NEVER PERISH?**

We have glorious promises that are given to us by God, 2 Peter 1:4 "*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises ...*" I repeat these last few verses as we conclude:

- 1 Peter 1:3-5, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you,** 5 **Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.*"
- John 6:37-40, "*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath **given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.** 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and **believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.***"
- Jer.32:40, "*And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, **that they shall not depart from me.***"
- Jude, 24 & 25, "***Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,** 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*"

God said to Jacob, "*And, behold, **I am with thee, and will keep thee...**for **I will not leave thee...***" This is exactly what God says to all those whom He saves, **I AM** with thee, **I WILL** keep thee and **I WILL** not leave thee! Oh I plead with those of you this morning outside of Christ, come to Christ; come to that ladder that its top reaches HEAVEN! Come even now in repentance towards God and faith towards Jesus Christ, so that you can hear these words the rest of your life: "...**I AM** with thee, **I WILL** keep thee and **I WILL** not leave thee!" To those who know Christ as their LORD and Savior rejoice in the utmost blessings given to us by GOD! Psalms 68:19, "*Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.*" Thus, we can have a BLESSED ASSURANCE IN PRESERVATION with Paul, 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.*" Let us pray. Let sing John 10:27-30