

B2B - Assurance of Salvation

(1 John 5:1-12; John 10:22-30 & Matthew 6:25-34)

11-Feb-2018

Recap

[PowerPoint 1-B2B]

This is 3rd part of our 9 week B2B series

In part 1 we discovered the principle of sharing our faith in Jesus - with others - who would in turn pass on their faith to others

And our memory verse was - 2 Timothy 2:2

[PowerPoint 2a-2 Tim 2:22]

Can anyone remember the memory verse?

[PowerPoint 2b-2 Tim 2:22]

Memory Verse – 2 Timothy 2:2

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others (NIV)

Take the teachings that you heard me proclaim in the presence of many witnesses, and entrust them to reliable people, who will be able to teach others also (GNT)

Then in week 2 (last week) we talked about why we need faith in Jesus

We talked about some Bad News and some Good News

And we said it was best to share the Bad News first - then people would appreciate the Good News

[PowerPoint 3-Bad news - Separation]

The Bad News was that we all sin and fall short of God's perfect standards- and our sin separates us from God - and breaks our relationship with God -and leaves us spiritually dead

[PowerPoint 4-Good News - Bridge]

And the good news was that God sent His Son Jesus - to live on this Earth and die a cruel death on a cross to take away the punishment of our sin - and then rise from the dead - so that His death and subsequent resurrection from the dead - became a bridge back to God -

So for all who believe in Jesus - Jesus is the Bridge to Eternal Life

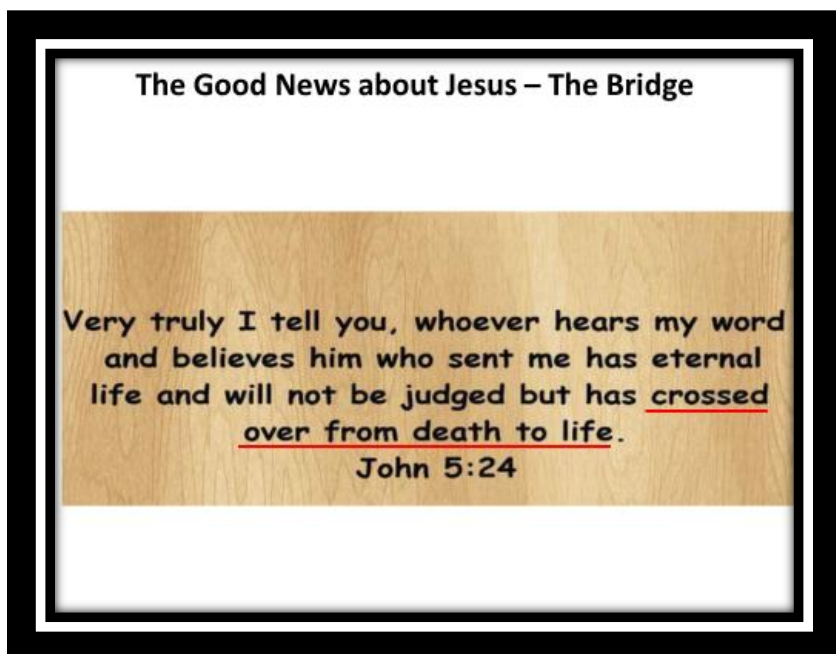
And this led to us having 2 more memory verses

The crossing the bridge memory verse - from John 5:24

Anyone remember that verse?

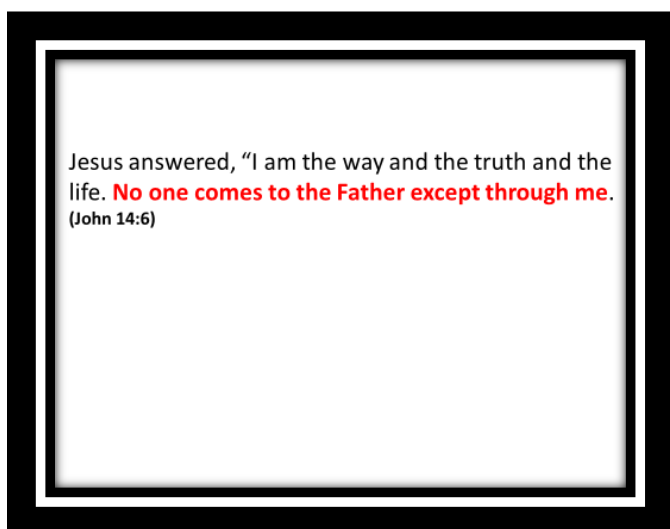
[Very truly, I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life]

[PowerPoint 5-Bridge verse]



And the 2nd memory verse was the exclusive claim Christianity makes - from John 14:6

[PowerPoint 6-John 14:6]



Intro

So now that we have established how to become a Christian

This week - we're asking ourselves - how do we know we really are a Christian?

[PowerPoint 7a-Intro-Assurance Definition]

How can we be sure and certain we are saved from the punishment of sin and how can we be sure that we will go to Heaven when we die?

Is it a feeling we have - or is it something more concrete than that?

The posh word for being sure and certain that we are saved from the punishment of our sins, by Jesus' death on the cross - and certain of our hope of living in Heaven with God forever - the posh word for this is - **Assurance**

Assurance definition:

[PowerPoint 7b-Assurance]

Having full confidence in something

Having freedom from any doubt

Having certainty about something

Evidence for Assurance (1 John 5:1-12)

So when it comes to our faith in Jesus - what does Assurance mean then?

Well - it means we can have full confidence that Jesus has saved us from the punishment of our sins and has saved us from going to Hell

It means we can have freedom from any doubt that Jesus has done this for us - and that there's no need to doubt this fact

And it means we can be certain we will live into eternity in Heaven

There's a story of a man who once came to the American evangelist - D. L. Moody [1837-1899] and said he was worried because he didn't feel saved by Jesus. So Moody asked the man, "Was Noah safe in the ark?"

"Of course he was," the man replied.

Moody said "Well, what made Noah safe, his feelings or the ark?"

The man got the point. "How foolish I've been!" he said. "It is not my feelings that make me safe; it is Jesus who saves me!"

If you've ever listened to any of Col Buchannan CD's - as well as the songs he sings - Col talks to the children - and tells a Biblical truth to them [say something like "God is everywhere"] - and then the children say "Prove it"
 Then Col says in the Bible-God says this [in Psalm 139-v7-8 *⁷Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*] - you see Col uses the Bible as his proof or evidence...

So what evidence or proof do we have for our Assurance that we are saved by Jesus

Well - we have the same evidence - God's Word - the Bible!

That's where our first NT reading comes in - from 1 John 5:1-12 - if you'd like to turn there now...

Let's see what **evidence we have for our assurance** that we are saved by Jesus
 [PowerPoint 8a Evidence-v1]

In v1 - our faith in Jesus means we are **born of God**

Born of God means God is our Heavenly Father and we are one of God's children - adopted into God's family

And the evidence of us being in God's family is that we will **love God** and **love His children as well** - so basically we will love each other

[PowerPoint 8b-v2]

And how do we know we love God's children?

See v2 - By **loving God** and **wanting to follow His rules** for living

[PowerPoint 8c-v3]

And the proof that we love God - is in v3 - the proof is **keeping His rules**

And the rules that God has given us - are fair and reasonable rules - that bring good order - and please God - so they're not troublesome to keep

And there's more evidence of our assurance that we are saved by Jesus

And that is - that our faith in Jesus brings us victory over the world's sinful ways
- see v4-5

[PowerPoint 8d-v4-5]

That's only possible because sinless Jesus is able to overcome the sinful world - by dying for the sin of the world - and having the sin of the world dumped on Him - and so our faith in Jesus connects us to the only one who can break the hold that sin has on this world

And so by being connected - to the only one who can get rid of sin - means by association with Jesus - the sinful world can't get a grip of us anymore

I hear you say "Proof it" - how can Jesus do this - how can He overcome the world?"

If you've ever been to court or watched a court trial on TV

For a case to be proven

There needs to be eye-witnesses

In fact in v6-9 John says there are 3 witnesses

[PowerPoint 9-Evidence-V6-9]

See v7-8 - The 3 witnesses are - The Holy Spirit, water and blood

What does John mean by Holy Spirit, water and blood - being witnesses?

He means - Jesus came into this world as a human being by the power of God's Holy Spirit

His was a miraculous birth - God Himself came and dwelled with humans

At the start of Jesus' ministry - Jesus was baptized in water in the River Jordan - not to wash away His own sin - because Jesus is sinless - but to demonstrate that He came with water to wash away our sins - He came to cleanse people of their sin - and to give people heavenly water - that heavenly water is Jesus Himself. When people drink Jesus spiritually (by praying, reading His word, connecting with Him) - they will never thirst again spiritually because He continually feeds people with His heavenly water - water that wells up into eternal life

At Jesus baptism - the Father, Son and Spirit were all present to witness the start of Jesus ministry

God's Holy Spirit then comes and lives inside all who believe in Jesus

And the Holy Spirit is a witness that testifies the truth to believers - as we read and study and meditate on God's Word

The Holy Spirit testifies

The truth about Jesus' birth - a miraculous birth - from Heaven

The truth about Jesus' death - pouring out His blood on the cross for sins to be forgiven

And the truth about Jesus being the only way to be forgiven of sin and the only way to eternal life

A triple testimony: the Holy Spirit, the Baptism with water, and the Crucifixion with blood - are the three witnesses John's talking about - who testify Jesus' life-saving mission - and these three witnesses are in perfect harmony with each other So in a courtroom sense - they emphatically give evidence and assurance that our faith in Jesus - sets us free from sin and gives us eternal life

[PowerPoint 10-Evidence v10]

And so in v10 - John puts it plainly

We have a **choice** - we accept this triple evidence and believe in Jesus as the Son of God - or we reject the evidence and don't believe in Jesus the son of the God. Rejecting the evidence - John warns - means we are making God out to be a liar - and that is really offensive to God

And so we're left in v11-12 with a plain statement of God's testimony or evidence

[PowerPoint 11-Testimony]

¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

This is one of our memory verses today

It's like a mathematical equation

The Son = Eternal life

No Son = No Eternal life

The bottom line for us - is this

If we believe in Jesus death and resurrection we are assured of forgiveness and eternal life - no need to doubt - we can be certain - a rock solid guarantee
 Look at what John goes on to say in v13 [Which we didn't read in our Bible reading] - look what John says is the reason for him writing all this down. He says in v13: **¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹**

So that we may know we have eternal life - not so we might have it or could have it - but so we know we have it.

That's assurance!

Assurance leading to Promises (John 10:22-30)

That evidence of assurance we've just talked about leads to certain promises

[PowerPoint 12-Promise]

So please turn to our 2nd reading John 10:22-30

The passage describes a conflict between the Jews and Jesus.

The Jews are having trouble accepting Jesus' claims to be God's chosen One to save the world from sin. God had promised in the OT - a Chosen Messiah to save the people. But these particular Jews were struggling to accept Jesus' claims to be God's Messiah.

So Jesus spoke plainly to them

From v25 - He's told them the truth about who He is but they don't believe Him and even the healings and miracles Jesus' did testify about who He is - but still these Jews don't believe Him

Then in v26 - He gives them the plain reason why they don't believe Him - because they are not His sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd but these non-believing Jews are not Jesus' sheep

Why?

Because if they were - in v27 - they would listen to Jesus teaching - they would listen and hear the voice of Jesus - their Good Shepherd - but their ears are plugged and they're not hearing Jesus' words. We have people in our community like that today - don't we?

And still in v27 - Jesus knows who His sheep are - and they believe Him and they desire to follow Him - and follow His teaching

And so Jesus makes certain promises to His sheep [which includes us] - in v28:

- a) Following Jesus guarantees His sheep eternal life
- b) Following Jesus means His sheep will not perish in Hell
- c) Following Jesus means His sheep have ultimate protection - no one will snatch Jesus' sheep out of His hand - and neither can anyone snatch Jesus' sheep out of the Father's hand - Jesus' sheep are in the safest pair of hands - the Father's hand and Jesus hand

These are amazing promises from Jesus

We are safe in His loving hands from now into eternity

Praise God!

(pause)

But what if we still sin - which we surely all do?

[PowerPoint 13-Promise if we sin]

Are we still assured of being safe in Jesus arms?

Well - we have another promise

Please turn to 1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

What a promise!

When we sin - we can return to the Lord and confess in genuine repentance - He will forgive us and purify us!

Our Response to Assurance (Matthew 6:25-34)

So we've heard clear evidence that we have assurance that our faith in Jesus saves us from the punishment of sin and guarantees us forgiveness and eternal life

And we've heard 2 promises -

First - that no one can snatch us from Jesus and the Father's hands

And Second - that if we confess our sins - we are forgiven and purified of all unrighteousness

This should bring us immense joy and peace - knowing we are safe for eternity

So surely we can respond to this wonderful grace today - can't we?

That's where our third passage today comes in

From Matthew 6:25-34

Please turn there now

[PowerPoint 14-Response]

And the gist of this passage is that

We've just established a future with God is safe and secure into eternity

That's assurance

So if God's taken care of the BIG THING - our salvation - and we're safe

Why do we need to worry or be anxious with the little things?

Jesus' point is that if God takes care of the birds - who aren't tied down to any job description - and yet God looks after them.

Doesn't it stand to reason that if God sees us as more valuable than the birds He's taken care of - isn't God going to take care of the details in our lives too

Worrying never makes us grow any taller or add any extra time to our lives

If God looks after nature and produces a remarkable array of the most beautiful coloured flowers - and gives that careful attention to them - won't He attend to all our needs too?

What Jesus is doing in this passage is stopping people being preoccupied with "getting" and respond to God's love for us by being involved in God's "giving"

So our response has to be as in V33 our other Memory Verse today:

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Jesus wants us to seek God's Kingdom first!

What does that mean?

It means seeking to do what Jesus would want us to do

- Loving others - not ourselves
- Sharing our faith
- Seeking and praying for more disciples in His kingdom
- Teaching and encouraging one another - as Proverbs 27:17 says - iron sharpens iron

- Realizing 2 are better than one (Ecclesiastes 4:9-11) - and so helping others to grow in their love for Jesus and modelling a life that is lived in thanks to Jesus and growing more like Him - so that others are attracted to become more like Jesus too
- Being involved in God's Kingdom Work of making disciples (Matthew 28:16-20) and passing on what we know about Jesus to reliable people (2 Tim 2:2)
- And as 2 Peter 3:15
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect

Challenges

So let me leave us with 2 challenges today

[PowerPoint 15a]

- a) Examine what areas of our life are God's Kingdom work - and what areas of our life are taking away from God's Kingdom work. What changes do we need to make? What priorities need to change?

[PowerPoint 15b]

- b) Spend time - preparing our testimony (written or verbally) - so we're ready to share our faith - when someone asks "how did you become a Christian" or "why are you a Christian?"

Let's pray