



ZION PRESBYTERIAN

*"Go therefore and make
disciples of all the nations..."*

WWW.ZIONPRESBYTERIAN.COM

November 21st , 2010
Morning Service

Jess Stanfield
Teaching Elder

The Certainty of Perseverance

There is something more sure in life than death and taxes. The saving work of our Lord Jesus is the only thing we as Christians can and should be sure of. This is 'The Rock' on which the Church is built, all other else is sinking sand. John shows us in his epistle how this assurance will manifest itself within the life of a believer, how it will cause a person to love God, love the Law, and love his brother while at the same time develop a natural hatred of sin. John does not say a saved person doesn't sin rather he says a saved person will not abide in sin, or continue to sin. This person will long to become closer to God and more obedient to the Word. This type of change only comes to the Elect when God effects it.

We as fallen men are not able to do this on our own, in fact, we are bound to do the opposite. So if our assurance of salvation is on anything other than the one given in the Gospel it will fail like the seeds sewn in rocky ground. The path of salvation is narrow and unchanging and given plainly in the Gospel. The path to destruction meanders wide, constantly turning and changing to make us more comfortable.

As you listen to this sermon see if you can find any areas in your life where you are not abiding in Christ. Have you changed your doctrine to match your ways rather than change your ways to match His doctrine? Remember there is one one Savior and only one way to Salvation.

Scripture References

1 John 5:17-19 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not *leading* to death. (18) We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. (19) We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

John 1:11-13 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. (12) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:1-8 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; (2) this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." (3) Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (4) Nicodemus *said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" (5) Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (8) "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Ephesians 4:17-19 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, (18) being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; (19) and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

Psalms 119:129-136 p Pe. Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul observes them. (130) The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. (131) I opened my mouth wide and panted, For I longed for Your commandments. (132) Turn to me and be gracious to me, After Your manner with those who love Your name. (133) Establish my footsteps in Your word, And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me. (134) Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Your precepts. (135) Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And teach me Your statutes. (136) My eyes shed streams of water, Because they do not keep Your law.

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.