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Thanksgiving 2022; Philippians 1:6
GPBC
11.24.22

I want to share a message this morning from our November Treasure Verse. Let's say the verse together.

Thankful for the Things We Can Be Sure Of

Paul says, "And I am sure of this..." You know when you get right down to it, there really is not much in this life of which you can be absolutely certain. People change. Things happen. The unforeseen occurs. Life is filled with uncertainties. We make our plans and at any given moment an event that seems small and insignificant or large and global can disrupt, alter, or even cancel our best laid plans.

Even when we think about our list of things to be thankful for, many of those items are blessings that are temporary. They come and go. What we're thankful for this year, we may not have next year. What we lack this thanksgiving, we may have in abundance next thanksgiving. So much of life is uncertain.

But for those who truly believe and love the Lord, there are things, there are blessings, that we can be sure of – and for those we give thanks to God today.

1. We can be sure that if we have embraced Jesus as Savior and Lord, that is a work of Almighty God, by His wondrous grace. Paul writes, "that He who began a good work in you." The context makes it clear, the good work to which he refers is the divine work of new birth, salvation.
 - a. The Bible says salvation is of the Lord. That means it cannot fail. You see if salvation is by men, we couldn't be certain that it would last. We could only be certain to make a mess of it. But if salvation is of the Lord, it cannot fail.
 - b. If salvation is of the Lord, then it's a gift. Once received, it cannot be taken away or voided. Eph 2 says we are saved by grace through faith and that not of our works, it is the gift of God so that no one can boast. If you love Christ today, God has done a work of grace in your heart! We can be sure of it, and we are thankful for it.

2. We can be sure that if God has saved us by His grace, He will keep us.
 - a. Paul says, “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.”
 - b. Aren’t you thankful this morning that God keeps us? That no one can snatch us out of His hand? That if God is for us who can be against us? That there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus? That nothing can separate us from the love of God? That those who He predestines, He also called, and those He called, He also justified, and those He justified, He also glorified?
 - c. If you have trusted Jesus, you are held this very moment in the hand of Almighty God! You may have lost your way, but God has not lost you! You may be disheartened, but you are not disowned.
 - d. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast. When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast. I could never keep my hold through life’s fearful path; for my love is often cold; He must hold me fast. He will hold me fast. He will hold me fast. For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.
 - e. We are thankful today that God keeps us.
3. We can be sure that if God has saved us in Christ and keeps us in Christ, we will one day dwell with Christ forevermore.
 - a. Paul writes, “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” God doesn’t drop the ball at the 1 yard line. He has saved you for glory. He is keeping you for glory. He will take you to glory!
 - b. The next holiday on the calendar is Christmas. If you believe that Jesus came once to save you from your sins, you can be sure He will come again to receive you into glory.
 - c. Jesus said, “If I go away, I will come again to receive to myself, so that where I am you may be also.” We can be sure of it and so we are so very thankful for it.

Thankful for the things we can be sure of. The only way we can be thankful for these things is if we are sure of them, and the only way we can be sure of them, is if Christ is Lord of our lives! If you are not sure of your salvation, you can be this Thanksgiving, and you can have more to be thankful for today than you ever imagined. A New heart. A new life. A new beginning. And a new home in heaven. Cling to Him today. Love Him today. Surrender to Him today and be thankful!