

Blessed Assurance of Salvation pt. 14

Pastor Jose F. Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

July 10, 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

As we return again to our studies this morning on Blessed Assurance of Salvation, this will be part 14 and the last of our series. I have enjoyed our spiritual journey on this text and I hope you have been blessed as much as I have. So again, Paul writes to help us when we encounter trials and tribulation we can continue in our pilgrimage walk to follow Christ, because we have the indwelling of His Holy Spirit and the precious promises in God holy Word to help sustain and grace us in our everyday life. 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. We can have great confidence in our hearts knowing that no matter what comes against us He is able to keep us now and also against that day. We have set forth seven things before you from our 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.)

We come to the last of our seven point outline:

- VII. Blessed Assurance in Preparation:** (...against that day.)

Paul again writes from that lonely and depressing Roman dungeon, but he is not confused or questioning the providence of God. He has by faith trusted God to realize that it is not about him but about God, he is practicing what he has preached! Romans 14:8, *“For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.”* 2 Cor.12:10, *“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”* 2 Cor.11:23-28, *“Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save*

one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.” One more in 2 Cor.6:3-10; let’s read this text please turn there. Paul had a clear mindset in regards to everyday life, that is, he knew how to be content as he says in Phil.4:11, “Not that I speak in respect of want: **for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**”

So Paul is coming to the end of his life, what is his mindset? 2 Tim.4:6-8, “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, **I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:** 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” All these verses makes our chief text precious and very applicable, again “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.” In other words I believe we can say with confidence and conviction that the Apostle Paul had a Blessed Assurance in Preparation, that is, he was ready against that day. He was ready to meet God; he was PREPARED to meet GOD! How about you this morning are you PREPARED to meet GOD? This again is our last installment in our Blessed Assurance in Salvation series and no doubt that Paul had a Blessed Assurance in Preparation, he was ready and he was prepared to meet God. This why he could say with great assurance, I KNOW, I HAVE and I AM PERSUADED that He is able to keep that which I’ve committed unto HIM that is UNTO GOD against that day which I believe he is speaking about that one future day where all of us will have an appointment with God and which none of us shall miss whether it’s the day of Christ, the day of the LORD, the day of judgment and or the LAST DAY!

Now, it can also mean the day of his death, that is, the day of his physical death when he was to put to death by Nero or the last day when everyone shall give an account before God on judgment day; Acts 17:31 says, “Because he hath **appointed a day**, in the **which he will judge the world** in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” In another place it says, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, **but after this the judgment.**” Heb.9:27. In Job 14:5 it says, “Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass.” There is an appointment that all of us will keep, there is a day appointed for all of us when we shall die and we will not live one day further. The word bounds in Job 15:4 speaks of not going beyond, it is marked and it is fixed, you nor I will not go one day further than has been appointed unto us by God. The whole point is this, there is a day marked, fixed or

appointed for us when we shall all die and the million dollar question is: ARE YOU PREPARED TO MEET GOD on that day? If you die without Christ it will be a day of recompense. Consider the next few verses, because the word of God is so clear that there will be a recompense for sin. Ezekiel 7:3, 8 & 9, “*Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and **will recompense** upon thee all thine abominations. 8 Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and **will recompense** thee for all thine abominations. 9 And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: **I will recompense** thee according to thy ways and thine abominations that are in the midst of thee; and ye shall know that I am the LORD that smiteth.*” Hebrews 10:30, “*For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, **I will recompense, saith the Lord...***” Why does God say I will recompense? Well, because sin must be dealt with as we are told in Ezek. 18:4, “*...the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*” In Romans 6:23 it says, “*For the wages of sin is death...*” Sin must be dealt with; the punishment for sin is eternal separation from God in the lake of fire, this is the second death of Revelation 20.

I ask you again this morning are you prepared to face God the day you die? Are you prepared to meet God in the Day of Judgment? Don't be caught like those in Matthew 7:21-23, “*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 **Many will say to me in that day,** Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*” Do you have a blessed assurance in preparation? Do you have a blessed assurance in salvation? Are you prepared to die? If you do not know Christ in the grace of salvation you are not prepared to die because if you die in that state what awaits you, is but the fury of His indignation and the awful fierceness of His anger! I don't care what label you wear, what you call yourself, what denomination you prefer and or what ism you ascribe to, if you are not in Christ Jesus when you die, the only thing that awaits you, is the darkness and judgment of God's Holy WRATH! This is such a fearful and sobering thought.

To the self-righteous religionist listen to the words of Paul in Romans 2:2-9, “*But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. 3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 **But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;** 6 Who will render **to every man according to his deeds:** 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile.*” There is a

coming day when everything shall be brought out, all our deeds, thoughts and words shall be manifested and revealed by the all-knowing and all-seeing eye of the OMNISCIENT God! Where will you hide if you are not hidden in Christ? Again, in very simple terms, are you prepared to meet God?

Turn with me to Exodus 12:12 & 13, "*For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt **I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.** 13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: **and when I see the blood, I will pass over you,** and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt." When you die, if God does not see the blood of Christ applied to the door posts of your heart, He will not pass over you but will assuredly execute judgment upon you, but on the other hand if God sees the blood of Christ applied to the door posts of your heart, HE WILL PASS YES PASS OVER YOU! YES! AMEN and AMEN! We are given a powerful illustration of this by the prophet Amos, please turn to Amos 4:12, "*Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.*" What a challenge by the Prophet Amos, prepare to meet thy God! God has been pleased to allow us to live another day, but can we answer that question that hangs over us this morning, are you prepared to meet GOD?*

Now it is interesting to note that before Amos makes this profound statement he reminds them of the goodness and longsuffering of God. 5 times in 6 verses he warns them and reminds them that they were not prepared to meet God, look in verses 6,8,9,11 and 11, "***...yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.***" This is where God brings them to the point of taking account of the sobering and solemn expectation of being prepared to meet HIM! He reminds them of those physical judgments He had sent them to turn their hearts. In verse 6 God reminds them of the famine He had sent them, in verse 7 He reminds them of how He had withheld the rain in time of harvest. In verse 8 how they went city to city looking for water and verse in 9 how He had afflicted them with judgments of nature and the palmerworm, in verse 10 the pestilence the sword for the young men and in verse 11 He tells them, "*I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.*" Now, because of all these things did not soften their hearts but hardened them, God says I WILL bring judgment upon you, "*Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.*" Thus, because none of my former ways turned your hearts, therefore a more terrible judgment I will bring upon you, thus the advice is: "***...PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD...***" In other words, if you humble yourselves and return unto me, God says, it will be well with your soul, but if you rebelliously and sinfully refused to return to me, it will be judgment for your selves. There is no difference between Amos time and our time and the message is still the same, "*Except you repent ye shall likewise perish!*" The sad thing is

that many will say to God and to the Gospel message like Pharaoh did in Ex.4:2, *“And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.”* The only difference in the phraseology will be, *“...Who is the LORD; that I should obey his voice, I know not the LORD, neither will I let my sins go.”* Yes, man still raises their fists at God and say, *“I will not have this man reign over me!”* If this is your obstinate and rebellious heart this morning; then you are warned also; **PREPARE TO MEET THE GOD OF SINNERS!**

Oh my dear ones do you know what it means to be prepared. We prepare for the holidays, for Thanksgiving, for Christmas, for our birthdays and so forth. We prepare for the future by buying an insurance policy in case of death, we prepare for retirement. Some go to school to prepare them for the future, I am not saying these things are bad, I'm just saying that if we can prepare for physical things, then why don't we prepare for spiritual things! Some prepare for death in purchasing a funeral plot, some prepare their taxes to the penny, and some prepare a great resume for a job, but in the end of all these things what is more important is **ARE YOU PREPARED TO MEET GOD?** This will be the only thing that matters when you die, have I made preparations to meet GOD? I don't care how much money you have in your banking account when you die, you will not be able to take it with you because there is nothing that you will be able to take with you at death. 1 Tim. 6:7, *“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”* Job 1:21, *“...Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither...”* Ps.49:6, 7 & 17, *“They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; 7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him... 17 For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.”* This reminds me of the parable of the rich man in Luke 12:16-21, please turn there. What solemn words our Lord sets forth here in warning us to prepare ourselves to meet God, this man prepared for all his physical needs, but neglected to prepare for his spiritual needs in being prepared to meet God face to face. Again I ask, **ARE YOU PREPARED TO MEET GOD** this morning? When you die it will be too late, oh to God that you would take heed to this important and most sobering thought, am I prepared to meet God? There is no middle ground when a person dies, they either go to heaven or to hell, and there is no purgatory. Consider the words of Isaiah 45:22, *“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”* Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ, Jesus says clearly in John 8:24, *“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”* Jesus clearly states in John 14:6, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* This is the only way of being prepared to meet God and that is coming to Christ for salvation, that is, repentance towards God and faith in the LORD Jesus Christ! How about you this morning are you willing to be prepared to meet God, then even now this very moment come to Christ, do not hesitate, do not wait any longer, come to Christ right now. Isaiah says clearly in

Isaiah 55:6 & 7, "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." John 6:37, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Yes, no doubt that Paul had a glorious Blessed Assurance in Preservation that he could say with a clear conscience 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." Let's end with this poem I wrote on "One Day."

ONE DAY!

1 Samuel 27:1, "And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day..."

ONE DAY we shall all die

And to eternity we shall fly

We shall have our final breath

That shall plunge us to our death

ONE DAY our allotted time shall be gone

And we shall see our last morning dawn

Where shall we go when we die?

As our bodies in the ground will lie

ONE DAY we will from this life depart

And in eternity our time will start

Do we know where we shall go?

To heaven above or hell below

ONE DAY death shall call upon us

Have you in your soul ever discussed

Where you will spend eternity?

May this be to you a reality?

**ONE DAY we shall all stand before God
While our bodies lie in that clay of sod
I hope you are prepared to meet Him that day
Or certainly for your sins you shall pay**

**One day we shall give an account
Because our sins continual to mount
May you be found that day in Jesus Christ alone!
Because it is His blood that can only atone**

**ONE DAY those who are saved by His grace
Shall behold Him with joy face to face
When He shall come to take us away
What a blessing shall that be ONE DAY!**

Psalm 17:15, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

Pastor Jose F. Maldonado