

Certainties of the Bible

1Jn 2:1-5

Introduction:

1. There are a lot of things that we don't know
 - a. We don't know the future – the stock market tomorrow
 - b. We don't know why God allows suffering etc to happen
 - c. We don't know when we are going to leave this world
2. Spiritually, we live in a time when confidence is lacking
 - a. Skepticism and agnosticism are prevalent
 - b. Doubt / uncertainty are made badges of culture / wisdom
 - c. More doubt if there is a God / if He is concerned with man
 - d. There has been a wholesale abandonment of moral and religious beliefs in society today
3. The heart of man cannot be satisfied with speculations
 - a. There is little comfort in “I hope so”, “I guess”, “Perhaps”
 - b. The human heart can't be satisfied 'til it can say “I know”
 - c. The guy in the hospital with little time left in Cinti who wanted to **know** he was going to heaven.
 - d. Thank God He has condescended to our need for certainty
3. The absolute certainty of Christianity distinguishes it from human systems
 - a. The issues of life /death are too great for us to be uncertain
 - b. Only a fool would think of crossing a frozen river until he was certain the ice was strong enough to bear his weight
 - c. Personal assurance is one of our most desperate needs
 - d. A condemned criminal in a prison cell is in agony until handed his pardon
 - e. One who is not sure of his standing with God is pitiable
4. What are some of the certainties that the Bible holds for the believer?

I. We Know that Our Redeemer Lives – Job 19:25

25 For I know [that] my redeemer liveth, and [that] he shall stand at the latter [day] upon the earth:

- One of the greatest statements of faith recorded in the Bible
- This is the high-water mark in Job's faith

A. Redeeming by Christ - "I know my redeemer liveth"

1. There is plenty that Job does not know
 - a) *He does not know why he is suffering*
 - b) *He does not know why his children are gone*
 - c) *He does not know why his possessions are gone*
 - d) *He does not know why his health is gone*
2. But he does know that he has a redeemer
 - a) *"Redeemer" here is kinsman redeemer*
 - b) *He pays a price to deliver the redeemed - like in Ruth*
3. How wonderfully this shows the redemption by Christ
 - a) *He is related to us in that He took upon Him the form of man so He could be our Redeemer*
 - b) *Through the price of His blood at Calvary, He is able to deliver us from the eternal penalty of our sins*

B. Resurrection of Christ - "Liveth"

1. Christ is not dead in the grave
2. Job here gave the message of the resurrection long before it happened
3. Christ overcame the power of the grave and rose from the grave to become our Redeemer
4. When the women came to Christ's tomb they were met by two angels who announced that Christ had risen - Lu 24:6
5. This is the glorious news of the gospel - Christ is alive
6. He is alive today to be our advocate before God

C. The Message of the Gospel is the Good News of a Living Redeemer

1. This is the heart of the gospel – 1 Cor 15:1-8
2. A living Redeemer makes our faith / hope meaningful – 1Cor 15:12-17

II. We Know We Have Passed from Death to Life

1Jo 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not [his] brother abideth in death.

A. Salvation is the Transition from Death to Life

1. The unbeliever is dead in sins – Eph 2:1
1 And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins;
2. By grace we have been made alive – Eph 2:8
8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:

B. Christians Enjoy Life in Christ

1. It is a new life – 2 Cor 5:17
17 Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things...
2. This life is in God's Son – 1 Jn 5:11
11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

C. Love is the Evidence of New Life in Christ

III. We Know All Things Work Together for Good

Ro 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

A. Comprehension of this Promise – “we know”

1. Paul is not expressing his personal intuitions or opinions, but setting forth the inerrant truth of the Word of God
2. We know beyond all doubt that every aspect of our lives is in God's hands
3. God uses every circumstance to manifest His glory and for our ultimate blessing
4. Remember who wrote this – Apostle Paul
 - a) He suffered for the sake of Christ – Gal 6:17
 - b) He bore in his body scars of persecution – 2Cor 11:23

B. Completeness of this Promise – “all things”

1. Here is the extent of the believer's security - it is as limitless as its certainty is absolute
2. "all things" is utterly comprehensive, having no qualifications or limits
3. Paul is not saying that God does not allow harmful things to befall us - he is saying that the Lord takes all that He allows to happen to us and ultimately turns those things into blessings
4. God's Word is for our good - Acts 20:32
5. God's faithfulness is for our good - Phil 4:19
6. Our suffering is for our good - Gen 50:20

C. Condition of this Promise – “love God”

1. These are the recipients of the promise
2. It is only for God's children that all things work together for good
3. Those who love God
 - a) *Nothing more characterizes the true believer than loving God*
 - b) *Love for God means that we love the things that He loves and hate the things that he hates*
 - c) *Love for God means that we want to obey Him - Jn 14:21*
 - d) *True love for God is sensitive to His will and His honor*
4. The only ones who will love God are those whom He has called - Jn 6:65
5. God's choice precedes man's choice and makes man's choice possible and effective

D. For Believers, All Things Work Together for Good

1. Set-backs may be stepping stones to greater things
2. God can turn odds into opportunities
3. Our disappointment may be God's appointment

IV. We Know that When this Body Decays We

Have an Eternal Dwelling with God – 2 Cor 5:1

1 For we know that if our earthly house of [this] tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

A. We Know That Death is Not a Termination

1. It is not a termination but a junction
2. Death is not the end, but the beginning

B. This Body is Not Permanent

1. Paul calls it a tabernacle (tent)
2. Tents are not very secure
3. You can't bolt the door against intruders
4. Tents get old and brittle and begin to leak

C. The Christian's View of Death is Not Shrouded in Mystery and Doubt – Phil 1:21

1. There will be conscious existence, not annihilation
2. There will be conscious companionship with Christ
3. There will be conscious blessedness – “far better”

V. We Know That One Day We Shall See Christ

Face to Face and Be Like Him – 1 Jn 3:1-3

A. We Know that Christ is Coming Again

1. Acts 1:10-11
2. John 14:1-3

B. We Shall Be Like Him

1. Purification of character – sinless and perfect
2. Glorification of the body
3. Satisfaction in heart – Ps 17:15

C. He is Able to Keep Our Souls – 2Tim 1:12

Conclusion:

1. Do you know for sure that you are saved
 - a. Or are you hoping to make it to heaven
 - b. Our assurance is based on the trustworthiness and integrity of God who has promised
2. Rest on the promises of God in His Word
3. Don't let "I hope so" be good enough.
4. 1Jn 5:13 – These things have I written that ye may know that ye have eternal life.

How Much Knowledge

A young university graduate crossed a large river on a barge. An elderly, worn, gentleman was driving the barge. The university student asked the old man three questions: "Do you know anything about physics?"

"Nope," replied the old man.

"Then 1/3 of your life has been wasted! Do you know anything about philosophy?"

"Nope," replied the old man.

"Then another 1/3 of your life has been wasted! Do you know anything about social sciences?"

"Nope", replied the old man.

"Then another 1/3 of your life has been wasted!"

Suddenly, the barge hit a large object, took on water rapidly, and overturned. Both men were thrown into the water. The old man cried out to the young student, "Do you know anything about swimming?"

The young man replied, "No!"

The man called back, "Then your whole life is wasted!"

We may have a tremendous amount of knowledge, but without a knowledge of Jesus Christ, we are nothing (cf: John 20:31).

Preached at Rupert Missionary Baptist – March 2007
HBC#144 – June 2011

17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

2Cor 11:23 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.

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

Php 1:21 For to me to live [is] Christ, and to die [is] gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this [is] the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

1Co 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then [is] our preaching vain, and your faith [is] also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith [is] vain; ye are yet in your sins.

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: **but we know** that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Ac 1:10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Joh 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.

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

2Ti 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.