

“True Assurance” □ WCF 18.1c–d (TPH p929–30)

2024.05.12 Sabbath School Lesson

Hopewell ARPC, Culleoka, TN

1. Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God, and estate of salvation a (which hope of theirs shall perish b): yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love Him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, c and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.d

2. This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope; e but an infallible assurance of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, f the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made, g the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, h which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.i

3. This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties, before he be partaker of it:k yet, being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation, in the right use of ordinary means, attain thereunto.l And therefore it is the duty of everyone to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure, m that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, the proper fruits of this assurance; n so far is it from inclining men to looseness.o

4. True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin which woundeth the conscience and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God’s withdrawing the light of His countenance, and suffering even such as fear Him to walk in darkness and to have no light:p yet are they never utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, be revived; q and by the which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair.r

a. Micah 3:11 Her heads judge for a bribe, her priests teach for pay, and her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the Lord, and say, “Is not the Lord among us? No harm can come upon us.” Deuteronomy 29:19 and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober. John 8:39–41 They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father.”

Micah 3:11. Not just false security but false spiritual security.

Deuteronomy 29:19. The false security of someone who comforts himself with the comfort that belongs to repentance while he is in the midst of unrepentance

John 8:41. False security from covenant lineage or status while thinking, acting and living in contradiction to that lineage or status.

b. Amos 9:9–10 “For surely I will command, and will sift the house of Israel among all nations, as grain is sifted in a sieve; yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the

ground. All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, who say, ‘The calamity shall not overtake nor confront us.’” Matthew 7:21–23 “Not everyone who says to

Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from

Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Amos 9:10. The dying by the sword is a second curse; the blindness of self-assurance was a prior one.

Matthew 7:23. The disowning and banishment to destruction is a second curse; the believing that they were saved without sanctification is the first one, the consequence of countenancing false prophets.

c. 1John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. 1John 2:3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His

commandments. 1John 3:14–24 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. 20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. 23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. 24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

- 1John 5:13. Assurance of faith is the purpose of the book as a whole. Going on in the faith is the purpose of assurance!
- 1John 2:3. Assurance is assurance of being united to a person. John and some of his readers already had it.
- 1John 3
 - v14, John, the apostles, and some of his readers already know that they have already passed from death to life
 - v19a, they already know that they are of the truth
 - v19b, their hearts are even assured before God (which can only happen by God)
 - v21, they have confidence toward God
 - v24, God the Spirit has given them to know that God the Son not only gave them the Spirit, but dwells in them by the Spirit (and that they dwell in Him)

d. Romans 5:2–5

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through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- v2 standing in grace produces such an expectation of knowing and enjoying God's glory as can already be enjoyed
 - v5 the love of God which God the Spirit has begun pouring out in our hearts, He will never finish but always continue pouring out— even through the judgment and into all eternity!
- e. Heb. 6:11, 19. ▫ f. Heb. 6:17–18. ▫ g. 2Pet. 1:4–11. 1John 2:3. 1John 3:14. 2Cor. 1:12. ▫ h. Rom. 8:15–16. ▫ i. Eph. 1:13–14. Eph. 4:30. 2Cor. 1:21–22. ▫ k. 1 John 5:13. ▫ l. 1Cor. 2:12. 1John 4:13. Heb. 6:11–12. Eph. 3:17–18. ▫ m. 2Pet. 1:10. ▫ n. Rom. 5:1–2, 5. Rom. 14:17. Rom. 15:13. Eph. 1:3–4. Ps. 4:6–7. Ps. 119:32. ▫ o. 1John 2:1–2. Rom. 6:1–2. Titus 2:11–12, 14. 2Cor. 7:1. Rom. 8:1, 12. 1John 3:2–3. Ps. 130:4. 1John 1:6–7. ▫ p. Ps. 51:8, 12, 14. Eph. 4:30–31. Ps. 77:1–10. Ps. 31:22. Matt. 26:69–72. Luke 22:31–34. ▫ q. 1John 3:9. Luke 22:32. Ps. 51:8, 12. ▫ r. Mic. 7:7–9. Jer. 32:40. Isa. 54:7–14. 2Cor. 4:8–10.

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All right, so we're continuing in the first article of Listen to confession 18, which is uh, on Assurance. Last week, we considered the danger.

Of false Assurance. So, that was the first two uh parts of that first article. And uh, you had the scripture proofs under there underfootnote Um, footnotes A and B. And that was although Hypocrites and other unregenerate men May vainly deceive themselves. With false hopes and carnal presumptions. Of being in the favor of God and the State of Salvation, which hope of theirs shall perish.

So, that's what we heard about last week, and if If you knew that which it's true, not everyone. Uh has Assurance Assurance is something that the Christian grows up into which we'll hear about in the in the third article. Of this chapter, not everyone has assurance. And there's such a thing as false Assurance.

Which is an extremely dangerous thing. Uh we might be tempted to say, well, why should I seek Assurance? If I can just be self-deceived and if it's so dangerous and if I don't need it to be saved, Then why should I seek it? Why why would I want it?

And then you might listen to uh, to those who say well and especially since if you have Assurance, you're not going to want to obey God because you'll think well I'm safe. I don't need to obey God. Which of course, is a very fleshly way of thinking, and if that's how you are using the doctrine of assurance and, um, you may be certain that you don't have the reality of assurance.

But the reason that we ought to seek it and that we know it's good is because God says that he desires for us to have it and God tells us reasons that it's good to have. Uh and so we must always be careful. Uh, using our logic. Uh, When we come to a opposite, conclusion of what God says, And this happens all the time in the Christian Life.

Uh, one example that comes readily to mind are those who say you shouldn't tell Believers things that they should do. Because if you tell Believers things that they should, if you tell people, things that they should do a unbelievers will uh be tempted to try to get saved by doing those things and B Believers will either think they stand by doing those things, or they'll be crushed with depression because they can't do those things.

So just don't tell Christians what they should do. Well, that all sounds very logical and reasonable, especially in connection with some important doctrines. The great problem with that is God fills his word with telling Christian things they should do. And so we must be careful of logic that leads us to an opposite conclusion than God.

The Holy The spirit of Christ through his Apostles. Uh, and, of course, God tells us things that we should do to throw us upon in onto, Christ's Independence. And to see the fruit that he is producing and, uh, to anticipate Heaven, desire, uh, sanctification, all the more and, uh, to feel the plague of our either a million good.

Reasons. That we should be told that we should do. And, Uh, praise God. Also, we ought to desire assurance. We ought to seek Assurance. We ought to make good use of assurance. And so yeah, yes, last week's portion the first half of uh, article one. False Assurance is a real thing and it is a great danger and praise God.

We should therefore be warned against it. But the continuing Uh, now and the rest of Article one, and which we'll be looking especially at first John Uh, in Romans 5 as we consider, Yet, such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus. And love him in sincerity. Endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him May in this life.

We certainly assured that they are in the state of grace. Now, you can already uh, here in the way that that is worded. Uh, how obvious and good that that is Um, How could you come to believe in the Lord? Jesus except that it was uh by being in the state of grace?

How could you love him in sincerity? It didn't come from you. It came from his grace. Uh, where does the Endeavor to walk in all? Good conscience before him not just Uh, to be seen by men, like we heard about the false, religion and false righteousness. Towards all of us are tempted.

But to actually want to please God and to be satisfied with nothing less than that which pleases him. Not just that which makes us feel a little bit better about ourselves. Where would that come from except by his grace? Uh, and so He's? Hinting at Um, where Assurance comes from which will especially get to Uh, in Article 2.

Uh yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus and love him in sincerity endeavoring to walk in all. Good conscience before him. May in this life be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace. And may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Okay.

Now these are That's understandable, all by itself. But, This is uh, using theological categories. There's There's learning that is hidden behind the way that this is phrased. We are to think of ourselves either. As in the state of death or in the flesh. Or in the state of grace or light in Jesus Christ.

But we are not yet in this life in the state of Glory. Okay, so some of you may have read Thomas Boston's human nature in its fourfold state, very useful, little, uh, little book. Boston is a father of the ARP. Uh, one of the Historically incorrectly named but it's stuck, uh, seceders.

And, It's Four. The Fourfold State have Latin names, don't be scared off by that. Um, but the first is Adam, and his wife are the only ones who are in it. Eve was never in it because she didn't get the name Eve while she was still in it and that is paste, picari able to sin.

And if you, you all have had Latin. Um, you can hear that actually if you know, any Latin-based languages, you can hear that. And, Than when we fall, we become

Unable not to sin. Okay, and then when you that's the state of death and then the flesh In the state of being made alive, regenerate in the state of grace. We are actually Posse non-bakari Able to not sin. We actually genuinely love God. It's mixed with sin. But there's genuine good that comes out of the believer.

Genuine good that comes from the life of God in us. Faith itself is a genuine good that comes from life. That the Holy spirit gives you. It's not a prerequisite uh, for good. If there any prerequisites, we would all just stay dead forever, because there is no good in us.

Um but Posse Pase non-bakari. So that's describing truly believing in the Lord. Jesus. Loving him in sincerity endeavoring to walk in all. Good conscience before him. These are things that are signs of life. Uh, you think of, you know, the the scientists who is dying to fight signs of Life on the moon, or signs of Life, uh, on Mars and if they ever find like, and Chemical chain that almost looks like an amino acid.

It is going to be the biggest news in the secular world for, for ages. Well, This is real sign of real life. Truly believing in the Lord. Jesus, loving him in sincerity endeavoring to walk in all. Good conscience before him. That's what this article is calling the State of Grace, but there's one more state that is coming.

And that's the happy one non-posses fakari. Unable to sin at all. That's what we're looking forward to at our death. Uh, had a few conversations recently because we're almost to it now in your shorter. Catechism lessons kids my favorite. Catechism question. Uh uh well favorite answer number 37? The Souls of Believers are at their death made perfect in Holiness.

Okay, that's the state of Glory. And that is connected here in this. Uh, in this confession article So they're, they're using important theological categories. That have been hashed out as as Christ's elders and ministers by the help of his Spirit have guarded against errors of various kinds throughout the ages.

But it's stated in such a way that it reads. Very clearly and easily even for the beginning believer. Praise God. So, May in this life, be certainly ensured that they are in the state of grace. And may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Now who has been listening the various times that we have come upon this word hope and especially in Romans chapter 5, Is anyone able to tell me the difference between the way, the New Testament uses the word hope?

And the way Americans today ordinarily use the word hope. Dave. Say, the American history. Hope is. Maybe a good possibility. I think in the Bible the word hope is he's done. Exactly, exactly. So the American says I hope meaning it's up in the air. Right. Like Dave said, good possibility.

The Bible uses hope to talk about enjoying already being sure, already of something that isn't yet. So, we don't hope for what we already see. But hope is a certainty. And so we Rejoice not

in wishful thinking that maybe we could get there. We have a 94 chance. No, we rejoice in the certainty that we shall be.

Glorified, we shall be non-passe. Picari we shall be unable to sin. We can we can not imagine right now you and I what that will be like. To give full expression. To yourself. In all of your affections in all of your actions without any possibility of sin. What? Unreserved energetic activity, the glorified believer is going to be capable of Because we do not have that which remains from our flesh that which we are concerned about that, which we are halting.

That which keeps us halting so that we it doesn't come flying out of our hearts. Quite often right out of our lips. But we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed. Okay, so there's a parallel there. The false assurance that we heard about last week of the one who assures himself, even though he is in Rebellion against God and serving himself and living, according to his own desires, That hope will always perish.

But the, the true Assurance. Of the one who perceives that he's in a state of grace because God is graciously, working in you. That hope will never make you ashamed. And that's one of the things that answers the the question already. And come to the scripture proofs in a moment, but you can hear how that?

That. You know, whoever calls on the name of the Lord will not be put to shame. And I don't even see that as one of the scripture proofs that They've listed here.

Believe Romans 9 quotes it from. Uh, from the Old Testament, as well. But That answers a question of. If false Assurance exist, and that's so dangerous. Why would I seek true assurance? And the answer is because Trish science exists. And it's so sure. And so good. All right, so first John 5 13.

Is the first scripture that they give us behind. Uh, yet such as truly believe may certainly be assured that they are in the state of grace. And it turns out, That giving Christians Assurance pointing them. The to the way and the test and the fruit of true assurance is the purpose of an entire book of the Bible.

So first John 5 13, says these things I have written to you, who believe in the name of the son of God. That you may know. That you have eternal life. And that you may continue to believe. In the name of the son of God. Okay. So the the stated purpose, the Holy Spirit through the Apostle, the holy spirit's own stated purpose.

For first John, is that you may have Christian Assurance. Okay, so Immediately we we refuse now, to listen to The Armenian, to listen, to the papists, to listen to our own, internal logic that is afraid of false Assurance and therefore, Uh, our flesh would be reluctant to seek true assurance.

If God says that one of the purposes or that the purpose, the great purpose of one of the books is the Bible is that we may have Assurance. Then a Assurance is real and B, we ought to seek it. Okay, there's Yeah, if it's not real and you ought not seek it, then you just care first John right out of the Bible.

You, you do your best, uh, Martian early church heretic, Some of you know, Thomas Jefferson and his redacted Bible. Uh, of which there was very little left and it was the word of Thomas Jefferson, not the word of God because it was only the stuff that he approved of.

Uh and we we always must be careful with whatever is hard or difficult in the Bible. So we refuse to listen to anyone. Who says that Assurance is either not real or dangerous. To seek

because God says, he writes to us, Um, the spirit says, by the Apostle, John that he writes particularly first John 5.

First John, the letter first, John, these things I have written to you, who believe, in the name of the son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And that means, of course right now in this life, He doesn't write to them so that when they get to heaven, they will know that they have eternal life.

No, he's writing to them while they are on Earth. So that they may know already in this life. That they have eternal life and The rest of verse 13 there. And that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. So, Assurance does not. Uh make the believer to say repentance and Faith are unnecessary because I'm safe.

Now, I got my to get out of hell, free card. One saved, always saved. You know, put that bumper sticker on the vehicle of my life and now I can do whatever I want. He says that knowing that you have eternal life actually encourages you and strengthens you to continue in faith.

That the fact that this is real, the fact that it is from God, the fact that it is working, the fact that it will be perfected all of those things. Encourage you to keep doing it. I don't think. You know, the one other competitive. A swimmer in the congregation that I know of.

Isn't here, I'm sure it applies to running as well, but if you are Uh, running. Uh say and it is a fairly long race. But you have those metrics in your mind, you have the stages of the race in your mind and there's that hump in the middle of the race, where you know, what you are going to do for the rest of the race.

And you know, that you have enough the the that felt certainty and it's not actually a certainty, you still tripping, full or whatever. But that felt certainly certainty actually gives you a boost and you are mentally enabled to finish at least. I hope it's true for runners. It's true for distance swimming.

Um, You know, that on the blocks? The Christian who has Assurance of Faith. Isn't just sure that it works hypothetically theologically for others. The Christian that has Assurance of Faith is assured by God about your own personal condition. That God is the one who gave you this Faith. God is the one who gave you this life.

God is the one who gave you this seal. And you become certain that you will finish because he is faithful. In God's Providence, we actually get to hear a little bit about that in the sermon next hour. But, Assurance enables you to continue. It is a means by which God gives you more resolve and more strength, not less Uh so that is yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus and love him in sincerity endeavoring to walk in all good conscience beforehand, May in this life, be certainly assured.

Uh, that they are in the state of grace. And First John 5 13 which comes as a conclusion to the book as a whole does build upon things that he had said. Uh, earlier in the book. So, We're back too far. First John, two, three. Now by this we know that we know him.

If we keep his Commandments. Now, think about the logic there. We know that we know him if we keep his Commandments. Okay, this is very similar to what we heard from the Lord. Jesus just a few weeks ago, in Matthew 7, 23. When he said depart from me, I never knew you you workers of lawlessness.

Uh, the way that they should have known that. Jesus didn't know them. Was because they were what? Workers of lawlessness. They're disobeying the Commandments of God. Now, if he says, keeping his Commandments, Assures us makes us certain That we know him. Where does that mean? The Commandment key thing came from?

If you could come to genuinely, keep his Commandments in any other way. Then the logic of First John 2, verse 3 wouldn't work, would it? If you could come to genuinely, keep his Commandments from your own good intentions. From your own intelligence and being convinced that his Commandments are the best way to live and the most profitable for me.

Uh, from your own strength. If the unregenerate, man. If the man who is not in a state of being made alive by God's, grace could genuinely keep God's Commandments then the logic of First John 2, verse 3 wouldn't work. Because you might be keeping his Commandments by some other way.

Then knowing him. Okay, so In order to, in order to have this, this doctrine of true assurance. We need to know. Uh, we need to have Jesus's definition of keeping his Commandments. We need to have Jesus's definition of his law. Are you remember in Matthew 5, a couple months ago, kids, where Jesus kept saying you have heard it said, but I say to you And what did he keep doing?

He kept taking something that they thought was capable. And showing them that the actual requirement of the law of God is entirely unkeepable to them. So that when they do come to start loving and obeying God and loving their neighbor, the way that that God's law says to, there's only one conclusion, these must be children of the Father in Heaven.

These are getting life and righteousness and goodness somewhere, other than themselves. They're getting it from God, the Father in God, the son by the work of God. The spirit. And so if you are genuinely keeping God's commander, you love him. And not perfectly, but at all. You love him.

And you are keeping the first table of a lot out of love for him and you love your neighbor and even your enemy and especially your brother. The only way that that happened is because, you know, him And so first, John 2, verse 3, says, now by this, we know that we know him.

If we keep his Commandments. And we could continue in first, John 2, but, uh, we'll move on to First John 3. We're not going to be able to, Go into as much detail. In chapter 3 and chapter five. But beginning, in verse 14, we know that we have passed from Death to light, Okay, this is where the theologians get their categories.

They don't just like invent theological ideas. No. Well, there are theologians, who do that? The ones we follow. Didn't do that because if they did we wouldn't follow them. Um, We know that we have passed from, Uh, non-posse non-pakari. Unable not to sin death. To. Parsley, non-picari able not to sin.

Remember, this is two chapters after saying what If we say that, we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. We call not a liar. Okay. So we know that we have passed from Death to life because we love the Brethren. Here's another thing. That only comes by being alive. That suddenly Christians are the best people in the world, do you?

The Godly ones in the land are your delight. That's from Psalm 16. Well, to whom are the one the to whom are the godly ones who are in the land, they're Delight. Or the ones who have God as their inheritance. Who are sure that the lines are set for themselves in Pleasant places.

That God has given himself to them and that that is guaranteed. So, we know that we have passed from Death to life because we love the Brethren. He does not love his brother abides in death is still in the second of the four states. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer.

And you know that no murderer has eternal life. Abiding in him. By this, we know, love because he laid down his life for us and we also ought to lay down our lives for the Brethren. So whoever has this world's goods and sees his brother in need chocolate's heart.

From him. How does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love and word or in tongue. But indeed and in truth, and by this, we know, That we are of the truth and shall assure our hearts before him. Now, that's a very high standard of assurance, isn't it?

Not just feel assured to ourselves in our hearts. But we shall assure our hearts. Before him. Okay, so Loving, indeed. And in truth, Loving. Uh, genuinely uh, from the heart. Is a certainty, is such a certainty. That you are in the state of grace. That even before God you are assured.

Now, that doesn't mean that you are your own Assurance. It means Christ is your Assurance. But it means that Christ, you know, that Christ is the source of your loving, indeed, and truth. Okay. So, Just give you an example. Yeah, uh, autobiographical for examples of two different ways in which I in my own life instructed by scripture and this Doctrine cling to Christ.

When I find myself committing some, Sin, or having committed some sin. And I am Um, and I am in Terror as you should be when you You are doing something that the, the whole of God's glory. Uh, Burns against I cry out. Lord. Save me in Christ, none who claim to him can be lost.

And I cling to Christ as you should, every time you are repenting, you should always be believing Yes, there's no such thing as Faith without repentance, but for the believer, there ought to be no such thing as repenting without faith. You want The Godly sorrow that that leads to repentance and Godly sorrow.

Always comes with faith. But then, There is. That condition in which your Assurance has not been shaken and you're walking with the Lord and you actually see some of the fruit of his grace coming out of your life and you're not proud. You're amazed. Because, you know that the only place that that comes from is Christ.

And you say, thank you, Lord. That you have given me Christ for none who have him can ever be lost. Right Christ is the same in both conditions in your life. None who have him can ever be lost. But in one condition due to some expression of sin, and we'll get to The various ways that Assurance can be shaken in Article 4 is very pastoral document.

The Westminster confession. In one, your Assurance has been shaken. But in one And then the other the spirit has given you Assurance by enabling you to see the fruit of Christ's life and Christ's work in your own life. And in both of them, you cling to Christ, it's just in the one, you're sure that you're in him and in the other, you're desperately resting upon him because you're not Sure.

Um,

And so assure our hearts before him for if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things. And that is the perfect proof text. For there are believers who do not have Assurance. Even if you lack Assurance, you may yet be saved and your hope is that God knows that you're faith.

Not that you know, that you're saved. You're not saved by knowing that you're saved. You're saved by God. Who knows that he saved you? And so you cling to him when you like Assurance, Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence for God. Again. An amazing thing to say.

To have confidence toward God and whatever we ask, we receive from him because we keep his Commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment that we should believe in the name of his son. Jesus Christ and love one. Another, as he gave us commandment, now, he who keeps his Commandments abides in him, dwells in him, lives in him.

And he that is the Lord Jesus and God by and in the person of his son I am a person of his Spirit. And he in him and by this, we know that he abides in. By the spirit whom he has given us. Um, There's uh there's a lot there.

We're just gonna run to Romans five.

In Romans 5 says, if we are In the state of grace. And if we are standing, Uh, in that state of grace, that should make us certain Of the state of glory. So Romans 5 verse. Uh, I'll start in verse one. I don't know why I put uh two through five down on the page.

Probably to save text space. Therefore having been justified by faith. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through whom also. We have access by faith into this Grace, in which we stand. And rejoice in the hope. Of the glory of God. So if Grace has made you to believe, if Grace has made you to stand, If Grace has brought you by faith into a condition where you're Justified,

I think we'll be hearing a little bit about justification later today. An act of God's Free Grace. Not a work like, sanctification, which is Progressive. But an act in which God declares something to be the legal reality about you. On the basis of what Jesus has done. Okay, so that is done by God on the basis of something Jesus has done.

It's absolutely certain. That's what enables you to Rejoice in the certainty that you will be conformed to God's glory and enjoy God's God's glory. Not only that but we also glory in tribulations, okay? So you got that, that certainty that's in the future. Based on what God has said about you on the basis of what Jesus has done, You've got that, hope that, that certainty that's in the future and you're already rejoicing in it.

So So what if you have tribulations along the way? There's not the Sovereign God who has declared that about you and guaranteed that end. Is he not Sovereign over these tribulations or not? Are they not? Now, the means by which he brings you. From where you are to that end in glory for which you, hope not only that.

But we also glory in tribulations knowing that tribulation produces perseverance and perseverance character and character hope. Now, hope does not disappoint. Okay, so our our sure hope our Assurance of Glory Is sure it will not disappoint. It will not fail. Because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts.

By the Holy Spirit who is given to us. Not because our love for God. Has been poured out, although the Holy Spirit does give us love for God. But because God's love for us, Is poured out and uses the language of a drink offering, which ordinarily means you jump the whole thing all at once.

The problem is, this is an infinite thing that's being dumped. And so there isn't in all at once. There is a continual Eternal and infinite pouring. Um, by the Holy Spirit and we obviously had sermons on that in the Roman series, um, but true assurance will not disappoint you.

Because it is grounded in the work of the Triune God. And if you haven't, You do not have to worry that it will fail. But you can Rejoice, not only in the hope of God's glory. But even in all the difficult things, he brings you through between now. And when you get To that.

Sure Glory. So, You know, very opposite of what people warn about. Assurance. Oh it'll make you complacent. No, it actually makes me able to rejoice in troubles. And to seek patience and character. Uh, and to know the love of God by his Spirit. Let's pray. Our Father in Heaven.

We thank you that You desire for us to have Assurance. That you give us such clear grounds and ways to come by it. That you give us such help for when we don't have it. That you tell us about its great usefulness for our lives. I pray that we.

Uh, Lord would be assured that we are in a state of grace and so I pray. That you would give us to believe truly in the Lord Jesus and truly above him. Pray that you would give us. To love him and especially to love our brother, who is United to him.

Praying that you would give us to Endeavor. Uh, to walk as pleases him. And that by all of these things that you would give us to see that your spirit is assuring us. That we belong to you in Christ. In his name, we ask it. Amen.