

“An Infallible Assurance of Faith” □ WCF 18.2e–g (TPH p930)

2024.05.26 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 (which hope of theirs shall perish): 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, 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

e. Hebrews 6:9–20. 9 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.

10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His Name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the

full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

- v11, the apostle desires that “each one,” by diligence, would come into the full assurance that he has, generally speaking, about their congregation

- v13–18, this certainty is grounded upon two infallible things: the promise and the oath; assurance is not an achievement of your effort but of His grace and faithfulness

- v19–20, biblical assurance, this infallible hope, is like an anchor that has been dropped with Christ, where He is.

f. Heb. 6:17–18 (see above)

g. 2Peter 1:4–11. 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- v4–5, diligence is unto assurance, because by means of it, God Himself, in accord with His promise, conforms us to His own character

- v6–8, diligence is unto assurance, because by means of it, Christ Himself makes our union with Him to bear fruit in us

- v9–11, diligence is unto assurance, not because we earn assurance by these

things, but because they are inward evidences of the grace of election, which results in the grace of calling, which results in the grace of faith, which is the prerequisite grace to each of these other evidences that Christ produces in us, which themselves are the prerequisite to entering the kingdom (cf. Mt 5:20).

1John 2:3 and 1John 3:14 we have already covered in (c)

2Corinthians 1:12. 12 For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.

- inward evidences that look forward to the last day (context of v8–11 and desire to have fruitful ministry so long as still alive)

- their consciences testified to these evidences

- integrity and genuineness

- pure motives from God

- wisdom that doesn't come from or impress the flesh, but is actually so great it comes only by the grace of God

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.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

So what we covered in article one? Uh, is stated in these words, although Hypocrites and other unregenerate men. May vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God and a state of Salvation. Which hope of theirs shall perish. 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, which Shall never make them ashamed. And then we come to Article 2. So in Article one, we heard that there's such a thing as false Assurance.

And we should be careful that we do not give ourselves false Assurance because that is a hope that is going to perish. That is standing in that slippery place that the wicked are in in Psalm 73 who will all at once be destroyed. Uh, it's making for your yourself.

Theological rug to stand on that you know is going to be pulled right out from under you in the last day. And so the great danger of false assurance, but the great gift. Of true Assurance. The true Assurance is a genuine hope and certainty. That you have God himself in Jesus Christ.

And that you who have him now cannot lose him ever. Uh, that you are. He is yours. And you are his and his Banner over you is love. And that will that hope will never fail. And it's a very important and useful hope. Well, as we are going to hear Uh, in Article 2, then We come and consider the infallible nature of genuine Assurance.

Um, and it's put this way this certainty. So this certainty that we are in the state of grace. This certainty is not a. Conjectual. Yeah, trying to, uh, Uh, for agnosticate. Figure out what's most likely. This certainty is not a fair conjectural and probable. Persuasion grounded upon a fallible Oak.

So, I hope that can fail. But an infallible Assurance of Now, the phrase Assurance of Faith here. Means more than assured that you are in the faith. It is an assurance that faith itself has. Now, what faith is is taking God at his word, Believing what God says to be true, because God himself says it.

And so when you have faith in in Jesus Christ, at least the the intellectual part faith in Jesus Christ, as we're going to In God's Providence here, a little bit in the sermon today, includes and requires this, this component, not just of believing the truth about Jesus, but resting upon him, entrusting yourself to him, depending for all of your life and all of your righteousness, all of your safety only entirely upon Jesus, But the, the intellectual component, the idea component, the truth, component of faith.

In Jesus Christ. Uh, is Not believing. Uh, things about Jesus. Despite your inability to know it. It's not this leap. Uh, that Pure guard. If that means anything to to any of you, it's not this you've heard people use the phrase of leap of faith. It's not this leap against reason.

It is actually the most reasonable thing there can ever be. If God has said something, That you believe in. And you don't allow any of the other deceptive things. Like what your eyes think they see. Would you have if you have lived on this Earth any amount of time?

You know, has been false many times and what your ears think, they hear. And then even when your eyes and ears, uh, seem to see and hear particular things. Uh, the conclusions that that you would draw in and of yourself. Uh, our minds are liars. Our feelings are even worse Liars than our minds.

And so, Is the most reasonable. Uh, way of thinking. Because God has said it, it is true. And it is sure. And so Assurance of faith is not only Assurance that you are in the faith. It is an assurance that faith has about itself. Because God has said things about how he saves.

And God has done things in me. That correspond to what God says about how those things happen. And what those things mean? And what must happen to me? Or to anyone else who has been brought into Jesus Christ. And who has been forgiven and made right with God in Jesus Christ.

And now, who from Jesus Christ and his life and his goodness, by his spirit, is being made to be more, like, Jesus Christ. And so, the more you see these evidences Um, that correspond to what God has said. You believe it to be true about yourself because of what God has said.

Okay, so this certainty is not a bear, conjectual and probable, persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope, but an infallible Assurance of Faith, founded upon the Divine truth, Of the

promises of Salvation. The inward evidence. Of those Graces unto which these promises are made. The testimony of the spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, which spirit is the earnest of our inheritance?

Whereby, we are sealed to the day of redemption. So in the rest of our time together this morning we'll hope to take just the first half or so of that article. And then the the other two parts, there's four parts here. If you've got an outline, I I guess it's five parts.

Uh we'll take the first three parts here. If you've got an outline, you'll see EF and G. Footnoted. Uh, and then next week, H and I both having to do with the work of the Holy Spirit and our experience of his work We'll take that together Lord willing. Next Lord's Day.

So, the first part then this certainty is not a bare conjectural, and probable persuasion. Grounded upon a fallible. Hope he just defined he or he just described all of science, right? That is that is how you do science. You make observations. Uh, you make guesses about those observations. Uh, as, as far as God in making the world, reliable enables you to use those observations.

Predictably, you continue to test them, it science depends upon the faithfulness of God, but it's still when you're doing science even when a Christian does science. Best science is a conjectural and probable, persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope. He may come into evidence that shows the flaws in his conclusion so far and because God is faithful and we are fallible.

Uh, we will we Come to a different conclusion. We come up with a new and better Theory. That's that's how good science is done. That's why good science arose uh in the Christian world and nowhere else. But this, our Assurance of Is not. Uh, science. It's not Subject to our fallibility, it depends upon God's infallibility.

And so this, Uh, this idea of a Uh, hope not a fallible. Hope. They've given us Hebrews 6. Uh, and I forget, I think it was verse 11 and verse 19 that were specifically noted with It with Scripture proofs given by the assembly. But we're going to look at Hebrews 6 verse 9 to 20 and get the context a little more broadly, actually.

Uh, maybe we could have gone a little more broadly, still Many of you will know that the first eight verses of Hebrews chapter 6, describes these people who are, who had false Assurance. Uh, and they have been part of a genuine Congregation of Christ's Church where there are the gifts of Of the Holy Spirit there.

Um, and there is the experience of the powers of the age to come, which is at work, and genuine Believers. But even among such churches, there are those Are not do not have the uh the true and godly sorrow that leads to repentance. They do not have real spiritual life and faith in Jesus Christ.

They might learn to say the same words as everybody else and ape imitate Uh, the the same behavior as everybody else, but there comes a day where they turn away. Uh, and and the Lord frighteningly says if uh, it is impossible for those, To having done all that if they fall away to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify, again for themselves, the son of God, and put him.

To an open, shame. And so, after giving that frightening word, The Apostle goes on to say in verses 9 through 20. But beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though. We speak in this manner, For God is not unjust to forget

your work and labor of love which you have shown toward his name and that you have ministered to the Saints and do minister.

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full Assurance of Hope until the end. Okay, so He's already said in the opening verses of the chapter that he's writing to a genuine Congregation of Christ's Church. A congregation, where there really are. The there really is this work of the Holy Spirit going on in one another.

This is one of, I hope your Delights and your Joys in uh in being Involved in one another's lives and hearing and seeing how the Lord grows you. This is one of the things that excites us most for you and about you, dear children, because Uh, the growth curve in growing in Uh, wisdom and stature in Earthly life.

Is like this. Uh, it's very steep at first, and less steep afterward, and in the knowledge of God and the favor of God Is often very similar. And so, We love to see the genuine work of God in you and we pray for it. And that's why we do with you.

Only those things that God says that he will use to bring you to repentance and Faith to grow you in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Uh, so that when we see, Now, God working in you we may be confident of things that accompany salvation.

Now, this is something that he is confident of the congregation generally speaking. And he describes things that are happening in the church, when he, when he writes to the, to this, uh, this congregation. He says, God is Not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown towards his name and that you have ministered to the Saints and to do minister.

Describing something that the congregation has done as a whole even though there might be individuals. For whom it really hasn't come at a love for God. It really hasn't come out a love for neighbor. But to the church as a whole generally speaking. He says, God is the one who has produced this in, you, God is Not unjust to forget about his work or not to reward you in keeping with the work that he's already done in you.

But we desire. Verse 11. That every single one of you individually about himself, Have the say or herself? Have the same confidence towards God, a full confidence towards God about yourself as an individual. So that you will know. That you are not one of these people who are in danger, Of what he has described in the first eight verses.

Of Hebrews chapter 6. She says, and we desire that each one of you show the same diligence. To the full Assurance. To the full Assurance of Hope until the end that you do not become sluggish. But imitate those who through faith and patience. Inherit the the promises. So, The Apostle desires that each one by diligence.

Would come to that full Assurance that he has and notice what how he describes it. They're inheriting, the promises. So it's not that they're earning their salvation or even earning their Assurance. But faith and patience are given by the same God who has made the prom promises. And Assurance is given by the same God who is giving them the faith and patience.

To inherit the promises and this language of imitating says he's done this before. You have never done this before. This is the first time you have ever lived. In this world, come to repentance believed in the Lord. Jesus Christ. Walked with him by faith and dependence upon his Spirit until your life in this world is done and you come to your end.

This is the only time you have done it. This is the only time you will do it. You get one shot at this. But praise God. The one who saves has done this over and over and over again. And so

as you trust him and as you walk with him you get to imitate the same pattern knowing what it looks like when he saves.

Okay, so Assurance. Yes, it's diligent. But it turns its eyes if you want to be sure about yourself being in a state of grace, You, you are to be diligent, but you look away from yourself because you're not certain God is certain God's promises are certain. God's keeping those promises is certain.

His keeping those promises according to the pattern in which he himself works. Is what's certain And so your your diligence and not being sluggish. Uh, diligence verse 11, not being sluggish. Verse 12. Is because you are. Uh Lord willing by God's grace to you, we all Walking in a path that is designed by God and upheld by God.

Now, the certainty is not grounded upon our diligence or are not sluggishness. Listen in verses 13 through 18 for the two things upon which the certainty is founded. For when God made a promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no one greater he swore by himself saying, surely Blessing.

I will bless in multiplying. I will multiply you. And so after he had patiently, endured he obtained the promise. For men indeed, swear by the greater and an oath for confirmation is for them, an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to The Heirs of his promise.

The immutability of his counsel. Confirmed by an oath. That by two immutable things in which it is impossible for God to lie. We might have strong consolation. Who have fled for Refuge to lay? Hold of the Hope set before us. And so God had made what? To Abraham originally.

He had made. Promise. And having made that promise. With Abraham. Being weak in faith. Did what? What did he do? In addition to the promise determining to show more abundantly to The Heirs of his promise? He did? What He confirmed it by. Oh, he swore by himself. Okay, so he's he's told them that they need to be diligent and not sluggish.

In order, to be sure to come to a full Assurance of their hope in God. But notice that the diligence is not what gives them the And the not sluggishness is not what gives them the The Hope comes only from God. And he has given two things. Uh, upon which to ground.

Uh, this Now, this Acts. This actually belongs to the next section in the answer, an infallible Assurance of Faith, founded upon the Divine truth, Of the promises of Salvation. This is why the Assurance of faith of a Christian real Assurance of Cannot fail, you. Because it is not based on I'm doing well enough.

That I think I'm really a Christian. That's how we're tempted to think. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. We we come out of any hope at all in ourselves and hope only in who he is and only in what he has done and then we start walking with him and having begun by that by that faith, that depends only on Jesus Christ.

The Temptation in Walking with him, is to say, I think I'm walking with him well enough, that I sure Is not. An infallible ground of assurance because there will soon be days in which you are not walking very well. And what you have done or thought, or felt or desired, something that horrifies you.

The next time you're on your knees or trying to read his word, So, your Assurance must be dependent upon his promise. And has oath. This is one of the ways that your baptism helps

you. This is the one one of the ways that baby Providence is baptism, we pray is going to help him his whole life.

That when he has come to repentance and faith and he is walking by faith with the Lord Jesus. And he has a sudden, worry about the condition of his soul. He will remember. That the water that was poured upon him today, even though he won't remember today, But you'll know that it happened.

And he will remember that. The water that was poured upon him. Today was not God. Sealing a decision that maybe provenance had made Certainly not. That's Gives the Anti-Covenantalists. Uh, such a, you know, the the heebie-jeebies about baptizing babies. That's not how baptism is supposed to work. If you have a baptism that you can remember, That I what?

One of the things you need to remember about it is that it was not God. Affirming a decision that you made. It was not you. Identifying yourself with God in whom you have believed It was God placing a sign on you. That says salvation is from him alone in his son alone applied by his Spirit alone.

And so he puts the Triune name upon you, father, Son and Holy Spirit because it's father who saves and he only saves by Union with Christ. So you are washed in his blood. And that only comes by the work of his Spirit. Whom he, pours out with whom Jesus himself, is baptized to you.

And so, When you have those those moments of spiritual crisis and spiritual worry, am I going to be saved? Am I safe in the last day when I actually stand before? The God who made me and everything else? Who is perfect and Justice and perfect in Holiness? Am I going to be safe?

Fall back on. He is the one who promised that I would be in Jesus Christ. He is the one who confirmed that promise by an oath he swore and he gave a sign with that. Swearing, this is what he did, uh, to Abraham and what's being described here, circumcision was assigned to Abraham of what God had sworn.

And so, It is a infallible Assurance of Faith, founded upon the Divine truth of the promises of Salvation. And then back in verses 19 and 20 in verses 19. And 20 we come back to

That it is not. A fallible. Hope and listen to the the infallible and certain and strong language. She uses here. This hope we have as an anchor of the Soul Both sure. And steadfast And which enters the presence behind the veil where the Forerunner has entered for us even Jesus.

Having become high priest forever. According to the order. Of Melchizedek. And so, Children. Which way does a boat anchor, go, when they put out? Anchor does it go up or down? It goes down. And it is very heavy. And it sticks in the place that it goes down and you stick to that place by that anchor.

Well. If you believe in Jesus Christ, Then you have an anchor that has gone up. Into glory. And it is heavier and it is stronger. Than any bolt anchor has ever been. It is your hope in Jesus Christ, and it is Jesus Christ himself. Assurance of Faith, the genuine hope that you have in Jesus himself.

Cannot fail. To hold you. And bring you at last all the way where your anchor is, where your Forerunner is, where your high priest is. That's the nature. Of Assurance of F. It is not a, you

finally got it, right? You said the right words, and you slap this idea once saved, always saved on top of it, he said, I'm done.

No. Your Assurance of Hope is that God has done this work. God is doing this work and he has not yet done. But he will surely finish what he started. That's the way that your hope in Christ anchors you to heaven. That's what Assurance of faith is. It's not a probable persuasion.

99. Sure based on current evidence that I'm going to heaven. A hundred percent sure. Based on who is saving me, what he has promised, the fact that he has sworn and that You know, if I were looking at myself I would never be 99. Sure, like all the way up to 11, sure whatever it is.

But that whatever work has been done in me, is his work. And therefore it goes to a hundred and you can't fail. That's biblical Assurance of

Yeah, let's Let's try and hit. Uh, really quickly in God's Providence, we already did two of the proof texts in another section for But section G. It's also based upon therefore the inward evidence of those Graces Unto which these promises were made. And don't miss the word gracious. You're produced only by God's goodness and God's power.

Remember Grace. God's blessing for those who deserve only curse. And God's strength for those who have only weakness. So, By grace, you have been saved and that through faith, not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, blessing, for those who deserve only curse, My grace is sufficient for you for my strength is made perfect and weakness.

Power strength for those who have only weakness. And so, The infallibility is based upon God's truth, God's promises and now God's work. The inward evidence of those Graces. Unto which these Pro promises were made. And this underlies, then this is the foundation of one of the most Uh, one of the Most well-known, I think.

Passages on Assurance in the Bible II, Peter chapter one. Uh, and I forget That may have been the whole of verses 4 through 11 in the original croup text. So he starts, he says, By which have been given to us exceedingly, great and precious promises. That through these. You may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

But also, for this very reason. Okay, since the promises are made to those whom the Lord is making less and less like the world that lives according to its own desires and more and more. Like God's character a reflection of God's character since that's what God does to those who uh to whom the promises are made.

So verse 5 for this very reason, giving all diligence, you see the word diligence again. Assurance of Faith does not go with laziness in the Christian Life. You do not look at being lazy and complacent and self-assured and say, well, God's doing that now that's that's nonsense. Laziness doesn't come from the grace of God.

It comes from us, it comes from our remaining flesh. Being complacent, not caring about Holiness. Yeah, let us do evil that good. They come may come or A lot of sin. So that Grace May abound that doesn't come from God, that comes from the flesh, that's not Assurance. Assurance says, since God is doing this work of growing me in Grace, I will be diligent to grow in Grace.

Even as I know that, the diligence itself only comes from his grace, Okay. So, giving all diligence add to your faith virtue. To Virtue knowledge to knowledge, self-control to self-control

perseverance. To perseverance godliness to godliness brotherly. Kindness to brotherly. Kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound.

I don't know how many of you children like to collect things. In my, Idolatrous hero worship and grown men that got paid obscene amounts of money to play games for a living. I collected baseball cards. And it felt to me like cheating to just buy a set. I would try and collect with Pax and trade with my, my brothers and my friends.

And, um, but I would not be satisfied until you know New Year. New set, new set came out, wouldn't be satisfied until I had collected all of my favorite team and then until I had uh, eventually collected I know it sounds like nonsense. Maybe you collect something else. But what isn't nonsense is to see all of the different things that God does and Those whom he is saving virtue knowledge.

You know you know the the Christian who knows that uh knowledge of his word and knowledge of Christ. Knowledge of theology is work that God does. And those whom he is saying he's not going to say well, you know, all that doctrinal stuff. It just yeah, it's confusing and it causes division and it's not for me.

No, that's one of the set of the things that God does and those who me is saving. And so give me virtue. Give me knowledge and give me self-control and be diligent to pursue perseverance, and godliness and brotherly, kindness and love. Knowing that this is how God Saves. And that God himself who has begun saving you as the one who completes.

Um, the work. So he who made you already in his sight perfectly? Righteous is going to complete the work of making you actually in your character and your conduct perfectly. Holy For if these things are yours and abound, you will neither be Barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

See if God Saves someone, they don't say, well, I'm glad. I'm okay. I'm fine with being spiritually, sterile, for the rest of my life. I don't care to Bear any fruit in my family, in my church and my community into the glory of God. It sounds insane, doesn't it?

But isn't that the logic of the one who says? Well, now that I'm forgiven, I'm okay. I can do whatever I want. You wonder if such a person has actually been forgiven. But if these things, this lists to collect them all, In verses 5 through 7 are yours and abound, you will be neither Barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

For he who lacks these. Things is short-sighted, even a blindness. And has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. So if you've been forgiven for their guilt, don't you want to be freed from their presence? Therefore, Brethren be even more diligent to make your call an election.

Sure. For, if you do these things, you will never stumble. For. So, in this way thus For so, an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the Everlasting Kingdom. Of our Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ. There will be no sinners in heaven. God, who elected and called and brought to Will also certainly make holy, Because there will only be holy people in heaven.

And so, our pursuit of Holiness is dependent upon him. And it aims at what he has aimed at in saving us. So next week, Lord willing will come to two more reasons. Why it's an absolute certainty. Not only because, Uh, God is the one who has promised and God is the one who has sworn.

And God is the one who is producing the inward evidences that come only by his grace. But especially by this personal work of an interaction. When the Holy spirit that the Christian experiences. Let's pray, Lord, thank you. Thank you for Uh, being pleased to say it, And help us.

Now we pray as we come to you. To look to you to be diligent and not sluggish even now in our worship. And to seek your grace by the means of your grace. With which out of which you have constructed your worship. But Grant to us to look to you yourself.

In your son. By your spirit, we ask in Jesus name Amen.