**Blessed Assurance – 1 John 4:16**

**Focal Truth: Believers grow in assurance of salvation from knowing & believing God’s love for**

 **them**

**Why blessed assurance? Today are you 100% assured that when you die you will go to heaven?** Your answer to this question determines your assurance of salvation in Jesus Christ

**Two facts to remember**: Believers are eternally secure through the work of Christ & His continued ministry in heaven

Believers grow in assurance of their salvation as they grow in Christ

**Observations**

1. **The believer grows in assurance of salvation by knowing & believing in Christ – 4:16**

*We have come to know and have believe…*

1. Believers come to know the truth of the gospel – 4:14 – *we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world*
2. Believers come to believe the truth of the gospel – 4:15 *– whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God abides in him and he in God*
3. Jesus promised assurance of salvation to those who come to know & believe in Him John 8:31 -32 – *if you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free* – **knowledge & faith leads to experience - assurance**
4. Peter & the apostles came to knowledge & faith in Jesus Christ John 6:69 – *We have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God*
5. Paul described the knowledge of Christ that leads to assurance by the Holy Spirit

1 Cor. 2:12 – *we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God*

**What produces assurance for believers as they grow in their knowledge & faith in Jesus Christ? It is the Love of God for them!**

1. **The believer grows in assurance of salvation by knowing and believing God’s love for them – 4:16 – 17**

**Do you believe today that God loves you? Accepts you in Christ? Forgives you?**

*we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us*

1. God is the God of eternal & perfect love

4:7 – *for love is from God*

4:8 – *the one who does not love does not know God, for God is love*

1. God reveals His love through the Lord Jesus Christ – 4:9 -10

*By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we love God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins*

1. Believers grow in assurance that God so loved them - 4:11 “that God so loved us”

**Today, live in assurance of God’s endless love for you! – Oh how he loves me!**

**Live** in His love for you - **Think** of His love for you - **Rest** in His love for you

**This is the comfort of assurance – Jesus loves me this I know for the bible tells me so**

Rom. 5:6 - 8 – the love of God has been poured out in within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly… God demonstrated His love for us, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us

1. **The believer’s assurance of God’s love produces love for God & others – 4:17 -18**

*By this, love is perfected with us…the one who fears is not perfected in love*

Lit: love is made complete with us–

**Perfected love is** **the assuring love of God for us that produces love for God & others through us**

1. The believer’s assurance of God’s love produces love within them
2. Believers assured of God’s love for them **love God** – 4:16 – *God is love and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

Paul declared: Gal. 2:20 – “He loved me and gave himself for me”

1. Believers assured of God’s love for them **love others** – 4:7 – *let us love one another, for love is from God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God*

4:12 – 13 - *if we love one another God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit*

1. Believers assured of God’s love live **free from fear** – 4:17 – by this love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, because as He is, so also are we in the world. there is no fear in love, but perfect love – “assured love” casts out fear, because fear involves punishment & the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love because He first loved us

**Things to remember & do**

1. Accept & think deeply of the love of Christ for you: His love surpasses knowledge, it fills you with assurance of His love for you – Eph. 3:19
2. Rejoice in the assured love of God for you in Christ today!
3. Rest in all your circumstances in the Love of Christ for you! – John 15:9 – Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you, abide in my love
4. Perfected love is the assuring love of God for us that produces love for God & others through us

**To the praise of the glory of His grace. The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**