**Blessed Assurance – 1 John 3: 21 -22**

**Focal Truth: Assurance of salvation comes in knowing & practicing God’s truth**

Every assured Christian needs reassurance of salvation in Christ – 100% sure at death heaven?

Every unsure Christian needs assurance of salvation in Christ - focus is assurance & reassurance

1. **Knowing & practicing God’s truth persuades the mind that we are saved – 3:19**

*We will know by this that we are of the truth*

1. Believers know God’s truth & live it

2:20 – *you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know*

2:21 - *I have written to you because you know the truth*

3:18 – *let us love in deed & in truth*

1. God’s truth has no mixture of truth & lies

2:21 – *no lie is of the truth*

1. The Lord Jesus is truth & the life

John 14:6 – *I am the way the truth & the life*

1. John 8:32 – *you shall know the truth & the truth shall set you free*
2. Assurance of salvation in Christ is for all who hear & believe the truths of Jesus Christ

John 18:37 – everyone who is of the truth hears My voice

1. **Knowing & practicing God’s truth assures the mind that we are saved – 3:19 -20**

*And will assure our hearts before Him in whatever our hearts condemns us; for God is greater than our hearts & knows all things*

1. Assure = pithos – Greek goddess of persuasion
2. In knowing & doing God’s truth assurance of mind comes in our relationship with God

Assurance is persuasion of the mind through the truth of God

Assurance is tranquility – peace of mind through the truth of God

Assurance is confidence before God through the truth of God

1. God’s truth assures the self – condemning mind - **God’s truth is greater than our feelings**

A self – condemning mind attacks the assured mind because it refuses the assurance of the truth of God Whenever feelings of guilt come to the mind God knows our true condition in Christ

1. The feelings of a self – condemning mind

The self – condemned mind believes lies that remove assurance of salvation

The self – condemned mind is an accusing mind

The self – condemned mind is a shaming mind

The self – condemned mind is a guilty mind

The self – condemned mind is a despairing mind

1. Assurance of salvation knows that God is greater in his forgiveness than our self – condemning mind of guiltiness

God’s truth sets us free from self – condemning guiltiness, & shamefulness

God’s forgiveness in us is greater than our self – condemning mind

God knows if we know & practice the truth better than we know ourselves

God assures us despite our self – condemning mind when we know & practice the His truths

**Here is a great promise for the discouraged self – condemning believer!**

**When we know & practice God’s truth - God assures our hearts**

**God is greater than our minds & knows everything about us!**

***God is greater than our feelings & He knows everything – NLT***

1. **Knowing & practicing God’s truth creates confidence that we are saved – 3:21**

*Beloved if our heart does not condemn us we have confidence before God*

1. Assurance is an fearless mind rather than a self – condemning mind

1 John 4:16 -17 – we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, the one who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. 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.

1 John 4:18 – there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts our fear, fear involves punishment and the one who fears is not perfected in love

1. Assurance creates confidence in God & assurance of salvation

1 John 4:2 -6 – by this you know the Spirit of God, every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God, this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. you are from God, little children and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world

1 John 2:28 – abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming

1. Assurance rejoices in salvation & acceptance with God through Jesus Christ

Rom 8:31 – if God is for us who can be against us?

Rom. 8:34 – who is one who condemns?

Rom. 8:35 – who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Rom. 8:38 – 39 - I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord

1. Assurance encourages fellowship with God

Heb. 4:16 – draw near with confidence to the throne of God to receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Heb 10:35 – do not throw away your confidence which has great reward

Rom.8:1 – there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!

**Things to remember & do**

1. Continuing in God’s word reveals God’s truth for life
2. Doing God’s truth assures of God’s salvation in us
3. The assured mind is a tranquil mind
4. Assurance lives in the confidence of God’s love

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