

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1John 1:4-7**.
- B. For the past several weeks I have been preaching some sermons on building personal character (The Tender Commandments).
- C. This morning however we want to speak on the topic of **assurance**. A preacher should preach, teach, mature and assure (Col. 4:12).
Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.
- D. May we be confident in our salvation, because the NT gives us reason to be so.

I. DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY.

- A. Scripture text: **Lk. 12:22-32, esp. v32**. [Emphasize the text.]
- B. This section comes from the Sermon on the Mount, and Jesus is telling us not to worry.
- C. The reason not to worry is found in 12:32. God has gladly chosen to give the saints the kingdom.
- D. Worry means *to divide the mind*. Worry deals so much in the past (that cannot be changed) and the future (which cannot be determined) it ruins the present.
- E. The Greek for "good pleasure" or "gladly" means that the action is taken by one's own choice to make himself glad. God, makes Himself happy when He offers the kingdom! (1Th. 2:8).
Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.
- F. So don't worry about the affairs and problems of this life, but remember that God has gladly chosen to give the saints the kingdom.

II. THE ABUNDANT ENTRANCE.

- A. Scripture text: **2Pet. 1:5-11**. [Emphasize the text.]
- B. We must keep ever present on our minds the fact of the sacrifice of X that gives us forgiveness and salvation (1:9).
- C. **Spiritual myopia** is mentioned here, speaking of those who suffer from **allowing the short-term difficulties to affect the long-term results**.
- D. **Spiritual hyperopia** is not mentioned here but can be just as real as spiritual myopia. This farsightedness only visualizes a Utopia in the future and therefore has a different tire in seeing the immediate. These individuals can see the speck in someone else's eye but not the beam in their own.
- E. When we focus clearly on what is important (practicing the Xian graces and remembering the sacrifice of X) we have an abundant entrance into the kingdom.
- F. Our entrance is abundantly or richly supplied (1:11) which means to lead a stage chorus or dance and then defray the cost! Our entrance into the kingdom is a grand affair and God has already paid for it!

III. PAUL'S CONFIDENCE.

- A. Scripture texts: **2Timothy 1:12; 4:7,8**.
- B. Paul was not sinless. He called himself the chief of sinners and one who needed to buffet his body daily (1Tim. 1:15; 1Cor. 9:27). Yet, Paul had great confidence in his salvation.
(1Cor 9:27) ...but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.
(1Tim 1:15) It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.
- C. Paul says three things about his salvation in 2Tim. 1:12:
For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am

convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

1. He **knows**,
 2. He **believes**,
 3. He **is convinced** (that Jesus will guard what has been entrusted).
- D. Paul's soul is in the hands of Jesus. I'm absolutely thrilled to death that my salvation doesn't rest in myself but in the hands of Jesus.
- E. 2Timothy 4:7-8 says that Paul has done his part (fought, finished and kept) and he knows that there is an eternal crown waiting for him.
- I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; **8** in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.
- F. Was Paul confident about his salvation? Yes, I believe he was.

IV. THE KNOWLEDGE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

- A. Scripture text: **1Jn. 1:4-7; 5:12-13.**
- B. John writes his letter to Xians that they might be confident.
- C. When we follow after God and strive to do His will we are cleansed from sin every day.
- D. No matter what happens to me today, I know I'm pure in God's eyes when I walk in the light. Satan may accuse me of everything I'm doing wrong, but while I stumble I keep walking and I keep being cleansed.
- E. **What we must never do is when we stumble or fall is, stop walking!** Keep walking and you shall be cleansed.

V. GET RID OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM.

- A. To the faithful child of God, his salvation is secure. He has eternal life in prospect. He is going to heaven.
- B. But to those who have sin in their lives, they must repent and be obedient to enjoy the assurance I have spoken of today.

CONCLUSION & INVITATION.

- A. Four things to remember from this lesson:
1. Jesus said (in effect), "don't worry, be happy."
 2. Peter said we have **an abundant entrance** into the kingdom.
 3. Paul had **great confidence** in his salvation.
 4. John writes that we might **know we have eternal life.**
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; for erring Xians.