

The Things that we can be certain of:

November 1, 2015

There is a saying that there are things that we can be sure of in this life, death and taxes. The Bible gives many Scriptures concerning the certainties of life and this is the topic that I will be speaking about this morning.

In 1 Kings 8:56, the Scriptures reveal that God's promises are sure and never failing. All the promises that God spoke to Moses concerning the Children of Israel have come to pass and there are still more to come in the future. The verse says that "not one word has failed of all his good promise which He spoke through his servant Moses." The promises that God has revealed in his word concerning his people will happen just as He spoke. We can count on them for they will never fail. The Apostle Paul was so convinced of the steadfast hope that he had in Jesus that he declared, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12)

In Isaiah 28:16, the Lord declares "Behold I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: whoever believes will not act hastily."

In Matthew 16: 13-20, Jesus asked his disciples who did men believe him to be. They spoke that some thought he was John the Baptist, some said he was Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Jesus then asked, "But, who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." He then promised that He was going to give Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever he bound on earth would be bound in heaven and whatever he loosed on earth would be loosed in heaven. He told them not to tell anyone who He was. From that time on He talked to them about his upcoming suffering and death, but they didn't comprehend what He was revealing to them.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 3, Paul wrote about his labor for the kingdom of God. He gives all the glory and honor to Jesus Christ for He was the one who gave his life as a ransom for the souls of men. In verse 9, he calls fellow workers "God's field and God's building." He said that through the grace of God he was given the title of a wise master builder who laid the foundation and others will build on that. The foundation is Jesus Christ and he warns people to be careful how they build on it for no other foundation will stand except, Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay and stubble, these works will be tested with fire and the content will be revealed in the day of the Lord. If anyone's works remain after they are tried by fire, there will be a reward. Works that burn will cause the person to suffer loss though he will be saved. Paul spoke about our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised that there are rewards laid up for those who labor in the vineyard for the Lord. Matthew 10:42 says "Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

In Matthew 25:37 the king will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." Then the righteous will answer Him saying, "When did we see you hungry and fed you or thirsty and gave you drink? When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothed you? Or when did we see you sick or in prison and come to you?" And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, insomuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to me."

We can be sure of salvation if we believe. In John 6:37, it says that "all that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." Satan desired to sift Peter as wheat, but Jesus warned Peter concerning the trials that were going to come his way and He said, "But I have prayed for you that your faith fail not."

See Luke 22:32. The part that I love is the ending of the verse. It reads, "and when you have returned to Me, strengthen the brethren." Peter didn't understand his weak condition and what he was going to face when Jesus was arrested, mocked and abused before being crucified. He was quite sure of his loyalty to the Lord and he thought he was prepared to die for the name of Christ, but he failed because he slept when Jesus had asked him to "Watch with me for an hour."

Jesus has prayed for all those who would believe the words that the disciples wrote and the gospel that was preached around the world so we would have an opportunity to receive eternal life. When we turn from our sinful life and take on the righteousness of Jesus Christ, we can be sure of salvation. He is able to deliver us from sin and He will create a new heart within us so that we will desire to follow him and to live holy before him. King David, in Psalms 51:10 asked God to create in him a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within him. He didn't want to be cast out of the presence of God and he prayed that the Holy Spirit would not leave him. He asked to be restored with the joy of salvation and to be upheld by God's generous spirit. Then he would teach transgressors God's ways and sinners would be converted to the Lord.

In Ezekiel 36:26, God promised to give a new heart and put a new spirit within the Jewish nation so that they will have a heart of flesh instead of stone and His Spirit will cause them to walk in his statutes and they will keep his judgments and do them. God will do the same for us as we come to him in a humble spirit and ask for his help.

We can be sure of God's love for humanity. John 3:16 tells us that God loved this world so much that He gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes on him should not perish but have everlasting life.

In Romans 8:38, Paul wrote these words, "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We can be certain of Immortality. In 2 Corinthians 5:1, it says that we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved we have a building of God a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. Job declared that he was convinced that he would see God when He returned to this earth for even though his body would decay, he would see God with his own eyes and it would be in his body. He would have a new body.

See Job 19:26.

Hebrews 6:9-11, Paul wrote that we are confident of better things to come for God is not unjust to forget the work and labor of love which you have shown towards his name in 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." Endure to the end.