

Properly Placed Assurances

By: Josh Blackmer

Paul, in his address to the Areopagus, spoke of the need for all men to repent and that a day has been appointed for judgment; those statements came with the assurance or proof in the resurrection of the Christ (**Acts 17:30-31**). We overlook the gift of having an assurance from God. We want assurances when it comes to things we buy or promises made. With God, these assurances are a blessing.

We can come to realize this assurance as Christians. It is produced by faith as we “draw near with a true heart in full assurance” (**Heb. 10:22**). It is made complete in hope. “Show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end” (**Heb. 6:11**). It is confirmed by love. “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him” (**1 John 3:18-19**). It is the effect of righteousness. “And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever” (**Isa. 32:17**). It is made abundant in an understanding of the Gospel, “that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ” (**Col. 2:2**).

We are not just given assurances about judgment. God has made assurances about many things. We have the promise of our

election (**1 Thess. 1:4**), our redemption (**Job 19:25**), our adoption (**1 John 3:2**), our salvation (**Isa. 12:2**), of eternal life (**1 John 5:13**), the great love of God (**Rom. 8:38-39**), union with God and Christ (**Eph. 5:30**), peace with God (**Rom. 5:1**), the preservation of God (**2 Tim. 1:12**), answered prayer (**1 John 3:22**), comfort in affliction (**Psa. 73:26**), support in death (**Psa. 23:4**), resurrection (**Psa. 17:15**), and a crown of life (**Jas. 1:12**). We can rely on these promises “without wavering, for he who promised is faithful” (**Heb. 10:23**).

There have been others who relied on the divine assurances of God. David spoke of his assurance that God was guiding him to glory (**Psa. 73:24-26**). Paul was confident in God’s deliverance and preservation during his trials. “The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen” (**2 Tim. 4:18**).

Every saint should strive to arrive at this assurance to make your calling and election sure (**2 Pet. 1:10-11**). We should do all we can to “hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end” (**Heb. 3:14**). “Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward” (**Heb. 10:35**). Rest and take comfort in the assurances the God has granted to us.

No One Knows!

By: Selected

For nearly 2,000 years, men have been trying to predict the date when Christ will return a second time, judge the world and usher in eternity. Some of the more well-known predictors have been among the Jehovah's Witnesses, prophesying dates in 1874, 1914 and 1925 (among some of the dates they have suggested). A more modern effort was made by a man named Harold Camping who predicted May 21, 2011, and then moved it to another date when it didn't happen that day. These are only a few of the myriads who have made such attempts.

Aren't you glad that Jesus made this so simple? He plainly taught, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Matt. 24:36). Therefore, whenever you hear anyone say they have figured out the date or even that they see "signs" that it's nearly here, you "know" that "no one knows."

Jesus then said, "Therefore you also **be ready... watch and pray**; for you do not know when the time is" (Matt. 24:44; Mark 13:33).

I Want to Go to Heaven (Just Not Right Now)

By: Selected

The late country music singer Joe Diffie had a hit song back in 1993 entitled "Prop Me Up Beside the Jukebox (If I Die)". The song expresses the sentiment of a good ole boy who, should he kick the bucket, have his lifeless body posed in the honky tonk that he dearly loves. Even though the song is tongue-in-cheek and supposed to be funny, it's anything but humorous. One line in the chorus goes, "Lord I wanna go to Heaven, but I don't wanna go tonight." Sadly, this may very well express the true feelings of many Christians today.

A close examination of oneself may reveal that we love this present world too much and lack the spiritual maturity to truly desire and be looking forward to our heavenly home. The Scriptures warn us about placing too much affection in earthly things because it will dampen our longing for the spiritual. Jesus said we must lay up treasure in heaven, not on the earth (Matthew 6:19-21) because our heart will

be where our treasure resides.

Christians may also feel this way about the second coming of Christ. We all say that we're looking forward to His return, just as long as it's not today, next week, or in our lifetime. Our Savior said, "Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching." (Luke 12:37) If we are not eagerly waiting for Christ to come again, then perhaps we've got some spiritual growth yet to do. Could it be that we are so richly blessed with family, friends and material wealth that we have no desire to be with the Lord?

Peter encourages us to be ready and enthusiastic about going to heaven. "Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things (the Day of the Lord), be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation." (2 Peter 3:14-15)

Evangelism Training

Every fourth Sunday in May, June, and
July from 3:40 pm-4:45 pm

Get equipped and encouraged to bring
souls to Christ.

A sign up sheet to bring snacks for the kids
summer series is on the bulletin board in the
hallway. Please donate to help with this event.

Upcoming Events

Sun. May 28: Evangelism Training here at the building from 3:40-4:45pm.

Sun. June 4: Potluck luncheon after morning service and we will be honoring our graduates Sabrina Gonzalez and Luis Carlos (LC) Islas. There will be a cake and baskets for your cards and well wishes. A 12:45 afternoon service will follow in lieu of the 5pm.

Wed. June 7: Summer Series Bible class begins! The adult class will be studying “Restoring New Testament—Christianity’s Personality Traits.” The kids summer series will be studying “The Journey of Noah”

Area Events: Please refer to the bulletin board in the hallway for more information.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Vergie Shelton who fell and is at Citizens room 572

Marguerite Arnot who is at Gentle Hearts Assisted Living at 1101 Salem Rd. Victoria, TX 77904. Cards, calls, and visits are welcome.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Evangelism Table

The contact card is an important piece in our evangelism process. When an opportunity arises (sickness, loss of a loved one, new-to-town, etc.) for the congregation to reach out to one of your contacts on your bookmark, please let James know. Please bring him a completed contact card with your person's contact information. At minimum, he will need to know 5 things: their name, address, phone number, situation, and connection to the congregation. We will then begin sending them compassion cards in an effort to develop the relationship with the congregation and form a basis for having a personal Bible study with them!

Service Roster

Week of May 21, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Kanin Jacobs
Song Leader.....Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer.....Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer.....Dan Fielder

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread.....James Cammock
Cup.....Billy York
Offering.....Mike Atkinson
Assist.....Jake Jacobs
Assist.....Willie Fossati
Assist.....Luke FitzSimmons

Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....Rick Bass

Opening Prayer.....Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer.....Steve Randle

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Kirk FitzSimmons/
Steve Randle

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....Brandon Starling
Song Leader.....Ken Dorries
Devotional.....Lupe Escojido

Other

Prepare Communion for May.....Bass

Congregational News

Birthdays

Summer Siegel.....May 21
Doug Jobes.....May 23
Marilyn Horst.....May 25

Food Helpers for the month of May - Team A.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His
name; Make known His deeds among the
peoples!”
Psalm 105:1

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of May 14, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....68
A.M. Worship.....120
P.M. Worship.....64
Wednesday Bible Class.....71

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

midtown
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

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