

**Jesus Gives a Better Assurance - Hebrews 5:11-6:12**  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

Nothing like a giant Thanksgiving meal with turkey and the all the trimmings wrapped in a weekend of family and football to leave you a bit sluggish for a few days. Come to find out, that turkey actually does have an amino acid that makes us want to take a nap. Well, its one things to get a few nods in during a holiday weekend. But spiritual lethargy and dullness can have a much greater impact. This is our second week in this passage from Hebrews, a passage that calls these believers to the life-change and growth that will produce the assurance of salvation in their lives. Last week we looked at the very doctrine of this assurance, examining the truth that the Holy Spirit will speak into the lives of those who authentically believe in Jesus confirming their calling and revealing that we are truly sons and daughters of God almighty. It is possible to have full assurance that Jesus has rescued you through the blood of His cross, and we can have that assurance in our hope until the end. The reason we can have this assurance is because we are saved by grace, and just as your salvation had nothing to do with you, your performance, or even the depth of your sin, we must also realize that we are sustained by grace. Those whom Christ saved cannot lose this glorious gift without God turning back on His very promises, which He will never do.

Yet, the text is also a warning. There are people who fall away. People who once appeared to know Christ and who benefitted from the Gospel and the beautiful community of the church formed by the Gospel. Were these people once saved, and now lost? Did they lose their salvation? The answer is a definitive no! Their departure gave evidence that they never obtained redemption in the first place because there was something flawed in their faith. Therefore, their faith was not saving faith. So this passage is a warning for all of us, especially those who have had some kind of spiritual turkey meal and are content and lethargic in faith. The author of Hebrews longs that we pursue Jesus, fix our gaze on Him, fall more deeply in love with Him, and by doing so ignite the beauty of the assurance of our salvation.

This text then, points out the key indicators of authentic faith. If we can know with certainty that we have truly been born again, rescued by the grace of Jesus, our question ought to be, "How can we be sure?" This text gives us some beautiful clues. The first has already been mentioned. If lethargy has the potential of weakening our assurance, and maybe even revealing a false faith, the opposite is a growing love and zeal for Christ. This whole book is written to ignite this sort of faith. "Consider Jesus," "Fix your eyes on Jesus," "Hold fast to the confession of your faith." The whole book of Hebrews is written so that we will lift our eyes and see the glory and wonder of Jesus, the whole Jesus, the true Jesus. Not a Jesus of our own making, but the authentic Jesus, revealed in the Old Testament, then born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. The miracle working Jesus who ushered in the Kingdom and also came as our great High Priest who offered a once for all sacrifice sufficient to cover sin and absorb God's righteous wrath. The Jesus who then rose from the grave defeating death, sin, and hell forever and is now ascended, seated at God the Father's right hand ruling for all eternity. The fix to any spiritual dullness and lethargy is to fix our eyes on Him and be amazed, leading to our response of worship.

The author also points us to the need for spiritual growth as an indicator of saving faith. Living things grow, yet some of the people to whom he is writing have been believers for a while, but they still need to have their faith bottle fed. By now they should be teachers themselves, but they can't even chew their turkey. Couple the lack of growth with a disinterest in the theology of the Gospel and you have a recipe for being deceived and falling away. We see this all the time. A person who once believed falls into a lifestyle of sin, and rather than finding repentance they begin to create a Jesus who justifies their sin. Or a person who is confronted with arguments against their faith and they have no depth and are

quickly consumed by a college professor who seems to be smart while calling the Christian faith a crutch for intellectual weaklings. Or the person who has guys in a tie show up on their porch with a theology of Jesus that sounds right, yet denies the very deity of Jesus. Yet the next thing you know the family has left the church and joined the cult.

The path to assurance is the road to Jesus, and, as Stephen Curtis Chapman wrote, there is no better place to be. It's the Gospel road, a road paved in love for Christ, growth in Christ, and the doctrines of Christ. It's a road that will carry us through suffering and pain, over the mountains of life, and through the valleys. It is the path that leads to the development of spiritual fruit that gives full evidence of the Gospel in our lives. And the path of assurance is the only road that actually gets us to the destination we desire, the hope for the end. You can be sure, but the way to assurance is to pursue Jesus today, and keep doing it tomorrow. May we stay on this road together.

### **Bible Reading for the Week**

#### Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Psalm 133	Psalm 134	Psalm 135	Psalms 136	Psalms 137	Psalms 138	Psalms 139

Reading from this past week: Hebrews 5:11-6:12

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Hebrews 6:13-20

### **Family Worship**

Song - *Oh Come All Ye Unfaithful*

<https://youtu.be/C-QHbpYjulg?si=1g32HhOjUJAiU-nX>

#### Gospel Project

Unit: God Called Moses

Story: The Suffering of Job

Big Picture Question: Why does sin separate us from God?

Answer: Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

Scripture: Exodus 1-4

#### New City Catechism

Question 49: Where is Christ now?

Answer: Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Verse: Ephesians 1:20-21

#### Scripture

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

- What does the author mean when he says they are "dull of hearing." How can we drop into spiritual lethargy?
- Why is our spiritual growth so important in order for us to have assurance? What are the markers of growth in this passage and elsewhere in the Bible?
- Could you explain the elementary doctrines of Jesus to someone? What would you include?
- What is spiritual fruit and why is this fruit important for our assurance?

#### Prayer

\*In the first week of Advent, light your advent candle and praise God for the hope we have in Jesus.

\*Pray that your would find joy in your salvation and that God would help you grow in your faith.