

# Jesus, Our Assurance<sup>1</sup>



**SAB  
PM**

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY:** Hebrews 6:11, 18-20; Hebrews 10:19-23, 35; Hebrews 11:1-6.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “So let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, with hearts that have been purified [cleansed] from a guilty conscience<sup>2</sup> and with bodies washed with clean water. Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess,<sup>3</sup> because we can trust God to keep his promise” (Hebrews 10:22, 23, TEV).

**IMPORTANT THOUGHT:** The readers of Hebrews needed hope, assurance, and faith. Paul shows them where they can find these things.

**MOST HUMANS HAVE A DESIRE** for some security (safety) and assurance in their lives. Who would get on an airplane without being sure that it was well kept or that the pilots knew how to fly? Who would go to the doctor without knowing that the doctor was qualified to do her or his work? Who would look for work without knowing that the company would continue for a while? All of us, in one way or another, look for and need security and assurance in the everyday things of life.

But we especially need hope, sureness, and faith in our relationship with the God who has promised us eternal<sup>4</sup> life with Him.

<sup>1</sup>assurance—the promise and hope of salvation.

<sup>2</sup>conscience—a knowledge or sense of right and wrong with an urge to do right.

<sup>3</sup>profess—to say that we have hope.

<sup>4</sup>eternal—forever; without beginning or end; lasting forever.

**THE WEEK AT A GLANCE:** In what ways does Hebrews discuss the topic (subject) of assurance? How is faith connected with assurance? What conditions<sup>5</sup> are placed on assurance? How do we keep a balance between assurance and presumption?<sup>6</sup>

\* Study this week’s lesson to prepare for Sabbath, September 13.

**SUN OUR POSITION AS JESUS’ FOLLOWERS.**

Hebrews 10:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Assurance is an important theme in Hebrews. We are sinners who struggle everyday with our weaknesses, faults, and shortcomings. If we did not have any assurance of salvation, we would give up.

**How do each of the following verses give us assurance of salvation in Jesus?**

Hebrews 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 6:18, 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 9:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 9:28 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Hope in Jesus is an anchor for our lives.

**What does it mean that we are “partakers in Christ [Jesus]” (Hebrews 3:14)? How should being “partakers in Christ” change our life? What conditions does Paul put on being “partakers with Christ”?**

Jesus has “made purification [cleansing] for our sins” (Hebrews 1:3, NRSV).

<sup>5</sup>conditions—things that should happen or that we should have before we can have assurance in God.

<sup>6</sup>presumption—expecting God’s mercy (kindness we do not deserve) even when we do things wrong on purpose.

He has “obtained [gotten] eternal redemption [salvation]” (Hebrews 9:12) for us. For this reason God can accept us, even as sinners. Then we have assurance of salvation. Assurance does not come from anything in ourselves. Assurance comes because of what God did in Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God. He is our King, our Brother, our Sacrifice, and our High Priest. So our assurance depends on Him, not on ourselves.

“Christians are holy, perfected, and cleansed. These are all words connected with the sanctuary and its services. Christians are God’s people, even now. Now they are ‘clean.’ Now they can go to God. Now they have a pure conscience. Now they have Jesus as their heavenly High Priest.”  
—Adapted from William G. Johnsson, *In Absolute Confidence*, p. 155.

**Why is assurance of salvation so important in the Christian life? How do we protect ourselves against turning assurance into presumption?**

#### **MON** OUR ASSURANCE FOR TODAY.

Yesterday, we studied some promises made to people who belong to Jesus. Most of these promises related to the past. What about promises that explain how Jesus’ ministry (work) for our sake influences us now?

**What is Jesus doing for His children today?**

Hebrews 2:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 7:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 7:25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The verses that describe what Jesus has done in the past show different parts of salvation. The verses for today hold advice for present-day life that depend on Jesus’ high-priestly ministry.

Jesus works as our Representative in heaven. He shows mercy and deals gently with us. He has suffered as a human, just as we suffer as humans. So He can relate to us as humans. But He never sinned. So He can offer us His power to overcome sin. Then as Christians, we never have a good excuse to sin.

We know God loves us. We know Jesus is now working for us. But we have to be careful how we understand what that means. Jesus working for us does not mean that life always will be sweet and nice.

We can have assurance and peace from the knowledge that Jesus has died for our sins, and He now works in heaven for our sake. He represents us in front of the Father with His perfect character. This is assurance!

**What is Paul telling his readers in Hebrews 12:6-11? What reason does he give for what they might be going through? How are they to answer? How have you experienced what Paul is talking about?**

**TUE OTHER PROMISES.**

**The book of Hebrews has several verses filled with hope and promise. A few of these verses are listed below. After each verse, write down what that promise means to you personally. Also write how the hope that promise shows has influenced your faith.**

Hebrews 4:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Hebrews 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Hebrews 8:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Hebrews 10:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 12:28 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Hebrews 13:5, 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Read carefully Hebrews 10:22. It talks about the “full assurance of faith.” The Greek word translated “full assurance” means also “to be absolutely (very) certain,” “to be completely sure.” In other words, there is no doubt here. Paul says we should come closer to God in full assurance of faith. We should have the full assurance that the promises He has made to us will be fulfilled. (Hebrews 10:23 says “we can trust God to keep his promise” [TEV]). Why do we have this “full assurance”? Hebrews 10:19-21 answers that Jesus, by His death, is now our High Priest. He has dedicated and made holy a new and living way for us to reach God.

**Paul stresses the “full assurance” we can have. But he also balances this assurance with something that can save us from presumption. What saves us from presumption? Hebrews 10:23.**

**WED WORDS DESCRIBING ASSURANCE AND SURETY.**

The subject of surety and assurance is explained by several Greek words used in Hebrews with different meanings. For example, *plerōphoria* is “full assurance,” “conviction” (belief), “certainty” (sureness). *Parrēsia* means “boldness,” “confidence,” “assurance.” *Hypostasis* is “confidence,” “assurance,” “conviction.” *Tharreō* means “to be full of courage,” “to act boldly,” “to be confident.” And *asphalēs* “to be safe,” “sure.”

**What is the message of those verses that have the word assurance**

**or confidence? (Some different translations might use different words with the same meaning.)**

Hebrews 3:6, 14; Hebrews 10:35 \_\_\_\_\_

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Hebrews 4:16; Hebrews 10:19 \_\_\_\_\_

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Hebrews 6:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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Hebrews 10:22; Hebrews 11:1 \_\_\_\_\_

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These verses can be divided into four groups. The first group points out the fact that with confidence we may come closer to God. We can reach the throne of grace in the heavenly sanctuary. We are cleansed and washed. The barriers (blocks) to God are removed. Instead of fear, confidence fills our life.

The second group of verses connects

<sup>7</sup>compare—show how things are the same.

assurance and hope and calls us to stay faithful until the promised end.

The third group of verses connects assurance and faith. By faith we have the assurance of what Jesus has done for us and what He will do for us. Faith is a valuable part of our hope, confidence, and assurance.

The last group of verses encourages us to hold fast our confidence and not to throw away assurance.

**According to Hebrews, we should have hope, confidence, and assurance. We as believers are faced every day with things that work against our hope, confidence, and assurance. What are some of these things? What should we do about them?**

#### **THU** FAITH AND ASSURANCE.

The word *faith* is used many times in Hebrews. The first time is in Hebrews 2:17, where Jesus is called a “faithful” High Priest. Hebrews 3 and 4 focus on faith. The word *faith* also appears in Hebrews 6. The greatest use of this word is at the end of Hebrews 10 and all through Hebrews 11. Perhaps the clearest explanation of faith appears in Hebrews 11.

**Compare<sup>7</sup> Hebrews 11:1-10 with Hebrews 10:19-23, 35, 38, 39. What point do these verses make? How does this point fit in with the overall theme of Hebrews?**



**Abraham had faith that God could raise Isaac from death.**

In Hebrews, the ideas of faith and assurance are connected. We are saved by faith, not works. As long as we hold on to Jesus in faith, we have the assurance of salvation.

Hebrews 4 gives a call to everyone to make a decision and believe. But Hebrews is addressed to Christians. So in Hebrews, faith is not just a decision to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. Faith is down-to-earth. On one hand, faith leads to assurance of salvation and gives hope. On the other hand, faith deals with how a person manages his or her life every day.

In Hebrews 10:35, Paul calls his readers not to throw away their assurance. How do they not throw assurance away? The answer is that they persevere<sup>8</sup> in faith. People who do not

give up will receive the promise (Hebrews 10:36). The promise is the second coming of Jesus (Hebrews 10:37) and final salvation (Hebrews 10:38, 39).

**Read Hebrews 3:15-19. In these verses, it seems that disobedience<sup>9</sup> and unbelief<sup>10</sup> are closely connected. In what ways are disobedience and unbelief connected? Notice, too, whom Paul blamed for unbelief. What message does that hold for people who claim to follow Jesus?**



**If you hear God's voice calling you, will you obey?**

**FRI** **ADDITIONAL STUDY:** Read Ellen G. White's statements on faith and assurance in *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 531, and *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 287. Also study Hebrews 11.

<sup>8</sup>persevere—to never give up.

<sup>9</sup>disobedience—not obeying.

<sup>10</sup>unbelief—not believing.



Rahab was saved from being killed because of her faith (Hebrews 11:31; Joshua 2).

“Jesus’ sacrifice promises Christians two great things: First, Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross solves the sin problem. Christians do not have to work to find cleansing from their sins. By one sacrifice for all time, God has solved the sin problem. There is nothing we can add to save ourselves. The Cross gives us full confidence in the putting away of sins.

“Second, the Cross promises us that we can reach God. No matter who we might be, we belong in Jesus. The gates of the temple stand wide open. All people who believe may enter—not afraid, but boldly.”—Adapted from Johnsson, *In Absolute Confidence*, p. 118.

“We have the assurance of a Savior who has come. He is the Savior who has been crucified, who has risen, and who has announced over the opened tomb of Joseph, ‘I am the resurrection,<sup>11</sup> and the life.’ In our knowledge of Jesus and His love, the kingdom of God has been placed among us. . . .

We have been given by the messengers of God the richest feast: (1) the righteousness (holiness) of Jesus, (2) justification by faith,<sup>12</sup> (3) the great promises of God in the Bible, (4) freedom to go to God through Jesus, (5) the comforts of the Holy Spirit, and (6) the well-rooted assurance of eternal life in the kingdom of God. God has done everything He could do to prepare for us the great supper, the heavenly banquet (Revelation 19:5-9).” —Adapted from Ellen G. White in *Review and Herald*, January 17, 1899.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do some people have problems with assurance of salvation? Why is trust in Jesus the only way we can have hope of salvation?
2. Hebrews is filled with promises of assurance. But Hebrews always balances these promises with the call to remain faithful. Quickly read through Hebrews and mark the places where Paul encourages his readers to remain faithful. Write down the things he says we need to do to have assurance of salvation.

**SUMMARY:** Assurance and faith are related to each other. By faith, we accept Jesus’ saving acts for us and the promises found in those acts. Assurance lets us have a better life to live in hope, and to have a goal that goes beyond our life on earth.

<sup>11</sup>resurrection—to come back to life after dying.

<sup>12</sup>justification by faith—God forgiving our sins when we believe in Jesus, repent, and ask God to forgive us.