**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Be Absolutely Sure |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 John 5:5-13 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2119 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. We do not live by explanations; we live by promises.
   2. One of the great promises is that we can know that we know that we are saved and Heaven-bound.
      1. If you are not saved, you need to be saved.
      2. If you are saved, you ought to know that you’re saved.
   3. The world divides people by upper class, middle class and lower class; but God doesn’t do that.
      1. There are really only two classes of people:
         1. The saved and the lost.
            1. You are either in one category or the other.
   4. Some may claim that they are not entirely saved, but nobody is half-saved.
      1. To be half-saved is to be altogether entirely lost.
      2. You are either saved, or you are lost.
   5. 1 John 5:5-13
      1. The Gospel of John was written to tell us how to be saved.
      2. First John (the Epistle of John) was written to tell us how to know that we are saved.
         1. The word “know” is used over forty times in the Epistle of 1 John.
         2. 1 John is the gospel of certainty.
            1. Our salvation is not a hope so or maybe so salvation, but it’s a know-so salvation.
      3. In these verses in 1 John, there is another key word (in addition to the word “know”) that is used ten times.
         1. This Greek word is translated as “witness,” “record,” “testimony” and “testify.”
         2. God is giving us a witness and a testimony so that we can know.
   6. In today’s message, we will learn the source of our certainty and the basis of our belief.
      1. We will look at three ways that we can be absolutely sure that we are saved and on our way to Heaven.
         1. Ecclesiastes 4:12
            1. A three-fold cord is not easily broken.
2. THE atoning work of christ (1 John 5:6)
   1. This passage in 1 John speaks of water and blood.
   2. What is the meaning of the water and the blood?
      1. John 19:33-34
         1. Out of the wounded side of the Lord Jesus during the crucifixion flowed both blood and water.
            1. The pericardial fluid that encases the heart is a watery substance.

Sometimes under great duress, this substance will separate.

* + - 1. This tells us something of the agony that Jesus had.
      2. Jesus died before the two thieves died because He died of a broken heart.
         1. There was no agony like that of the Lord Jesus.
    1. We cannot understand the pressure that was upon the Lord Jesus.
       1. We see the beginning of it when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane.
          1. His perspiration became as blood.

Luke 22:44

* + - 1. The eternities were compressed upon the Lord Jesus.
      2. The sins of the world were distilled upon the Lord Jesus.
    1. The water and the blood speak of the agony of the Lord Jesus.
  1. What is the message of the water and the blood?
     1. It is the blood that cleanses from sin.
        1. The blood removes the penalty of sin.
           1. Romans 6:23
           2. Hebrews 9:22
        2. Jesus took our sins to the cross and paid sin’s penalty with His blood.
     2. The water speaks of that which continues to cleanse.
        1. It speaks not only of salvation but also of sanctification.
        2. John 1:14
           1. The word “dwelt” means “tabernacled.”

Jesus tabernacled among us.

In the Old Testament, the tabernacle was a prophecy of Jesus.

Upon the brazen altar in the tabernacle was where the blood was shed.

This speaks of the blood of Jesus.

Past the altar was a great basin called a laver.

The blood was at the altar; at the laver was water.

The priests would come through the blood to the water.

The blood deals with the penalty of sin; the water deals with the pollution of sin.

* 1. It is significant that when the Roman soldier put the spear into the side of Jesus, out came both blood and water.
     1. Jesus saves us from wrath, and He makes us pure.

1. the abiding witness of the spirit (1 john 5:6-10)
   1. The word “if” in verse 9 of this passage can be translated “since.”
   2. The Holy Spirit of God witnesses to us.
      1. Before we are even saved, the Holy Spirit is telling us about Jesus.
      2. 1 John 5:6
         1. Preachers and teachers do not persuade us of something.
            1. It is the Holy Spirit of God who tells us that the Gospel is true.
      3. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to take the things of the Lord Jesus and show them to us.
      4. 1 John 5:9
         1. We receive the witness of men all the time.
            1. We go to restaurants, and we trust the cooks and servers with the food we eat.
            2. We sit in a building, and we trust the engineers who designed and built the roof that it will not fall in.
            3. We trust the doctors and pharmacists who prescribe and mix together medications that we take.
         2. We live by faith every day, and we put faith in men.
            1. Men can lie; the Holy Spirit is truth.
      5. Anyone who says that he or she cannot believe is a liar.
         1. If you want to believe, the Holy Spirit will enable you to believe.
         2. Jesus did not say that we “cannot” come to Him, but that we “will not” come to Him.
      6. When the Word of God is preached, the Holy Spirit witnesses with the Word to us.
   3. The Holy Spirit of God witnesses in us.
      1. 1 John 5:10
      2. When the Holy Spirit witnesses to us and we receive Christ, then He comes into us and we have the witness in us.
      3. A Christian with an experience is never at the mercy of a non-believer with an argument.
      4. Psalm 34:8
      5. What is the witness of the Spirit?
         1. The witness of the Holy Spirit is not an emotional feeling.
            1. The witness of the Spirit is far deeper than emotions.

If you live by emotions, then you will be on a roller coaster ride.

The assurance of your salvation can show up in your emotions, but that is not the witness of the Spirit.

* + - 1. You cannot explain the witness of the Spirit; you receive it.
         1. God speaks to you that you belong to Him.

1 John 5:10

* + - * 1. The witness of the Spirit is not an emotional experience; it is a certainty.
  1. The Holy Spirit of God witnesses through us.
     1. Acts 1:8
     2. When we have the assurance of our salvation, then it is much easier to be a witness.
        1. Acts 5:32
     3. We are not dependent upon eloquence or even logic in order to persuade someone to receive Jesus; it is the Holy Spirit of God.

1. The affirming word of the father (1 John 5:10-13)
   1. The three-fold cord in the assurance of our salvation is the Father, Son and Holy Ghost coming together to bring this certainty.
   2. God gave us a record; He gave us the Bible.
      1. We learn about the water and the blood from the Word of God.
      2. We learn about the witness of the Spirit from the Word of God.
   3. The Word of God has one central message from Genesis to Revelation: Jesus saves.
   4. God gave us His Word that we might be absolutely sure of our salvation.
   5. If we do not believe the Bible, then we are calling God a liar.
      1. 1 John 5:10
      2. If we say that we are trying to believe someone, then we are saying that that person is not trustworthy.
      3. God is no liar.
   6. The Bible is the divine, inspired Word of God, and it is settled in Heaven.
      1. Psalm 119:89
   7. What does the Word tell us about life?
      1. Jesus is the source of your life.
         1. 1 John 5:11
         2. We do not have eternal life if we don’t have the Lord Jesus.
         3. We have only existence apart from Jesus, but we do not have life.
            1. John 10:10
      2. Jesus is the substance of your life.
         1. 1 John 5:12
         2. Christianity is Christ.
            1. It is not a creed.
            2. It is not a code.
            3. It is not a cause.
            4. It is Christ.
         3. Jesus Christ is to your spirit what blood is to your body.
         4. Christianity is not a religion about Him, it is not simply following His precepts, but it is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
         5. Other teachers may point to life; Jesus is the life.
            1. John 14:6
      3. Jesus is the surety of your life.
         1. 1 John 5:13
            1. These things were written that we might know.
         2. God has given to us a record, which is His Word.
            1. This goes beyond emotion.
         3. John 5:24
            1. When the devil tries to make you doubt, don’t argue with him.

Just point him to the Word of God and step out of the argument.

Let him argue with God Himself.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Do you have Jesus?
      1. The Holy Spirit of God is here today, telling you that there is one who came by water and blood and who died for you and rose again.
   2. You can receive the witness of God today.
      1. 1 John 5:9
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16