**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | You Can Be Sure |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Romans 8:28-31 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2063 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. For people who are trying to earn salvation by their own strength, it’s like trying to run up the down escalator.
		1. There’s the downward pull of sin, and there’s that human effort.
		2. But the downward pull of sin is so much greater than that human effort.
			1. They just keep running up the down escalator and never making it.
	2. In today’s message, we will learn how grace can give us absolute, rock-solid assurance.
	3. Romans 8:28
	4. You can have assurance and a know-so salvation.
		1. You can be a shouting Christian and not a doubting Christian.
	5. We all need assurance.
		1. We are not any good to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ if we don’t have a rock-solid assurance that we’re saved and on our way to Heaven.
		2. We don’t need a hope-so, maybe-so, think-so, or feel-so salvation.
		3. If you’re not saved, then you have no right to be sure.
			1. But if you are saved, then you can have wonderful assurance.
	6. Romans 8:28-31
		1. God is on our side.
		2. Salvation from start to finish is of the Lord.
	7. There are five foundational facts upon which our faith rests.
		1. Romans 8:29-30
		2. The bedrock of our salvation and the basis of our assurance are found in these five words from the above Scripture passage:
			1. Foreknow
			2. Predestinate
			3. Called
			4. Justified
			5. Glorified
	8. God’s plan for us and for everyone who knows Him is to have assurance.
	9. Today’s message will show us five things that we can be sure of.
		1. These five things can only be known by divine revelation.
			1. We don’t know them by figuring them out.
2. you can be sure of god’s foreknowledge of your salvation
	1. God knew that you were going to be saved before you ever got saved.
		1. God foreknew.
		2. God doesn’t learn anything; He already knows everything.
			1. This is God’s omniscience.
	2. The noun form of the word “foreknow” in our passage in Romans is “prognosis.”
		1. God foreknows everything.
			1. He is not making an educated guess; He knows beyond a shadow of any doubt.
	3. We sometimes become confused when studying things like foreknowledge because we look at from a human vantage point.
		1. It is like a young child watching a parade through a knothole.
		2. We are limited.
			1. We look at life through a knothole.
		3. But God sees it all.
			1. He inhabits eternity.
			2. He sees the beginning, the middle and the end.
			3. He sees it all at one time.
				1. God saw you getting saved before you ever got saved.

He foreknew it.

* + - * 1. We were in the heart and mind of God before He ever swung the planets into space.
	1. The elect are people who receive Jesus.
		1. They are the “whosoever wills.”
		2. God foresees these people receiving Him.
			1. 1 Peter 1:2
	2. The Bible teaches that God chooses certain people to be elect.
		1. John 6:37
			1. This is looking at it from God’s viewpoint.
			2. We look at it from time, but God looks at it from eternity.
		2. God has given the elect to the Lord Jesus.
			1. One day, the Lord Jesus will present them all to the Father, all present and accounted for.
				1. That’s from Heaven’s viewpoint.
	3. We get confused about election and free will because we try to put God in a box.
		1. We try to think with the mind of God.
		2. God is God, and we’re just looking through a knothole.
	4. Our election is based upon God’s foreknowledge.
		1. “To foreknow” does not mean “to cause.”
		2. Foreknowledge does not mean that God has chosen some for Hell and others for Heaven.
		3. God cannot learn anything.
			1. Not a blade of grass moves but what He knows it.
			2. God foreknows everything.
			3. He is omniscient.
		4. God foreknew that you would receive the Lord Jesus Christ, and you are elect according to the foreknowledge of God.
	5. You can be sure of God’s foreknowledge of your salvation.
1. you can be sure of your predestination to be like jesus
	1. Romans 8:29
		1. Predestination is not dealing with the lost but with the saved.
			1. God does not predestinate some people to go to Hell and others to go to Heaven.
		2. God predestinates every child of His (everyone who is born again) to be like Jesus.
	2. When God saw you receiving the Lord Jesus Christ in His omniscience, He said by His omnipotence that He was going to make you like Jesus.
	3. God wants everyone saved.
		1. 1 Timothy 2:3-6
			1. God wills for all people to be saved.
		2. 2 Peter 3:9
			1. God is not willing that any should perish.
		3. It is not that God doesn’t want people to be saved, but God gives human beings a will.
			1. If God had not given us a will, then He wouldn’t be able to have fellowship with us.
		4. Matthew 23:37
			1. God would have redeemed them, and Jesus would have saved them; but they chose not to be saved.
	4. 2 Corinthians 5:13-15
		1. Paul said that some people thought he was a driven man.
			1. But he said that wasn’t the case, that Jesus died for all and he just wanted all to be saved.
	5. There are some people who teach that God doesn’t want everyone saved.
		1. When a person believes that it is already finished and that there is no choice about salvation, then that is stultifying to evangelism and missions.
		2. God already knows, but He knows that people must decide.
			1. It is their decision that God already knows.
	6. 1 Timothy 2:3-4
	7. Romans 8:29
		1. When God saves someone, He predestines that that someone is going to be just like the Lord Jesus Christ.
	8. 1 John 3:2
		1. We’re predestinated to be like the Lord Jesus.
	9. Romans 8:29 also speaks of eternal security.
		1. Predestination is the act of an omnipotent God who says that it is going to be done.
		2. What has been settled in Heaven cannot be annulled by Hell or humanity.
			1. It is fixed.
			2. You will be like Jesus if you are saved.
	10. There are some people who think that the devil can take us out of Jesus’ hand.
		1. If the devil could do this, then why hasn’t he?
		2. If he could and he hasn’t, then hasn’t the devil been good to you?
			1. So now, you would be going to Heaven by the goodness of the devil.
		3. The only reason the devil hasn’t taken you out of Jesus’ hand is because he can’t.
			1. And he can’t because you’re predestined to be like the Lord Jesus.
2. you can be sure of your calling to salvation
	1. Romans 8:29-30
	2. God doesn’t call some people to salvation and not call others.
		1. Whenever the Gospel is preached, God is calling people to salvation.
		2. God calls through the preaching of the Word.
	3. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
		1. When we believe the truth, that’s what makes us a part of the chosen.
		2. God calls people by the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
	4. God wants you to be saved.
		1. God calls through the preaching of the Gospel, and this calling is through the sanctification of the Spirit.
		2. The Holy Spirit of God takes the Word of God, and God opens the eyes of the blind so he can see what he could not have seen otherwise.
			1. When a person is spiritually dead and therefore deaf, God opens the ears of the dead and the deaf that they might hear the Gospel.
			2. When you hear the Gospel, it is God calling you.
	5. Revelation 22:17
		1. The Spirit in this passage is the Holy Spirit, and the bride is the church.
		2. If you’ve ever heard the Gospel, then you can tell it to someone else.
		3. If you have a thirst for Jesus, then come.
		4. If you want to be saved, then God will save you today.
			1. You are the “whosoever.”
			2. The elect are the “whosoever wills.”
	6. When God calls, you can resist the call if you don’t want to come.
		1. Acts 7:51
			1. The Holy Ghost can be resisted.
		2. Matthew 23:37
		3. Proverbs 1:22-23
		4. There are some people who believe that a person cannot resist when God calls.
			1. This is called Irresistible grace, and it is forced love.
			2. Forced love is a contradiction in terms.
	7. C.S. Lewis said that there are basically two categories of persons:
		1. Those who are like Satan.
		2. Those who are like the Lord Jesus.
			1. Isaiah 14:13-14
				1. This is the heart of Satan.
				2. Satan is vaunting himself.
				3. Satan was saying to Almighty God, “Not Thy will, but my will be done.”
			2. The Lord Jesus knelt in Gethsemane and said, “Not My will, but Thine be done.”
		3. God is not willing that you perish, but He has given you a will.
			1. 2 Peter 3:9
			2. If you refuse the call of God, then God will say, “Not My will, but yours be done.”
	8. God calls people to salvation through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but it is a call that can be accepted or refused.
		1. God has called you.
		2. Don’t get the idea that God calls some and doesn’t call others.
3. you can be sure of your settled justification (romans 8:30)
	1. If you receive the Lord Jesus Christ, then you can be sure of your settled justification.
		1. Romans 8:30
	2. Justification is an act of God where He declares those who have received Jesus Christ righteous.
		1. It doesn’t mean that they’ve earned righteousness.
		2. It means that righteousness has been given to them, apart from anything that they have done to deserve it.
		3. Romans 4:5
	3. Justification is more than a pardon for our sins; it is more than an acquittal.
		1. If a court says that you are guilty but that they pardon you, that is not justification.
		2. If a court says that you are acquitted, then that means that you were never guilty to begin with.
		3. Justification means that you are not only pardoned, but that God, by a forensic act of His love and divine righteousness, declares you righteous apart from works of any kind.
			1. Not because you’ve been good or kept the Ten Commandments or have been baptized, but because you have trusted in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
	4. The blood of Jesus Christ is the basis for this justification.
		1. Romans 5:9
		2. The only way to be justified is through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus on Calvary’s cross.
		3. You cannot buy your own good deeds or justify yourself.
			1. If you could be saved by any other way, then Jesus Christ would never have died on Calvary.
			2. Your sin will be pardoned in Christ or punished in Hell.
	5. Justification becomes affective when you trust Jesus.
		1. Romans 3:24
			1. It is grace.
		2. Romans 4:5
		3. Romans 5:1
	6. Romans 4:6-8
		1. The result of justification is that God will never again put sin on your record when you get justified.
			1. If God put sin on your record, then you would be lost again.
				1. Just one-half of one sin condemns a person to Hell.
			2. This does not mean that we can sin and not worry about it.
				1. God will chasten us.

Hebrews 12:6

* + - * 1. But God is dealing with us now, not as sinners, but as His children and servants.
	1. Psalm 32:2
	2. Romans 8:33
	3. We can be sure of our settled justification through the blood of Jesus Christ.
1. you can be sure of your eternal glorification (romans 8:30)
	1. Romans 8:30
		1. This passage does not say, “will glorify.”
			1. God is in eternity.
				1. God saw you, a lost sinner.
				2. God saw you under conviction.
				3. God saw you receiving Christ.
				4. God saw you in your sanctification.
				5. God sees you already in Heaven.
			2. There is no time with God.
				1. In the heart and mind of God, we are already in Heaven.
	2. God is going to glorify us.
		1. This is the “why” of our eternal security.
			1. What has been settled in Heaven cannot be annulled or undone in time.
	3. If you will put your faith where God has put your sins (on the Lord Jesus Christ), then you can be absolutely sure.
2. CONCLUSION
	1. Do you have that assurance today?
	2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	3. 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