

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** You Can Be Sure

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Romans 8:28-31

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2063

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) For people who are trying to earn salvation by their own strength, it's like trying to run up the down escalator.
  - i) There's the downward pull of sin, and there's that human effort.
  - ii) 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.
- b) In today's message, we will learn how grace can give us absolute, rock-solid assurance.
- c) Romans 8:28
- d) You can have assurance and a know-so salvation.
  - i) You can be a shouting Christian and not a doubting Christian.
- e) We all need assurance.
  - i) 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.
  - ii) We don't need a hope-so, maybe-so, think-so, or feel-so salvation.
  - iii) 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.
- f) Romans 8:28-31
  - i) God is on our side.
  - ii) Salvation from start to finish is of the Lord.
- g) There are five foundational facts upon which our faith rests.
  - i) Romans 8:29-30
  - ii) 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
- h) God's plan for us and for everyone who knows Him is to have assurance.
- i) Today's message will show us five things that we can be sure of.
  - i) 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

- a) God knew that you were going to be saved before you ever got saved.
  - i) God foreknew.
  - ii) God doesn't learn anything; He already knows everything.
    - (1) This is God's omniscience.
- b) The noun form of the word "foreknow" in our passage in Romans is "prognosis."
  - i) God foreknows everything.
    - (1) He is not making an educated guess; He knows beyond a shadow of any doubt.

- c) We sometimes become confused when studying things like foreknowledge because we look at from a human vantage point.
    - i) It is like a young child watching a parade through a knothole.
    - ii) We are limited.
      - (1) We look at life through a knothole.
    - iii) 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.
        - (a) God saw you getting saved before you ever got saved.
          - (i) He foreknew it.
          - (b) We were in the heart and mind of God before He ever swung the planets into space.
  - d) The elect are people who receive Jesus.
    - i) They are the “whosoever wills.”
    - ii) God foresees these people receiving Him.
      - (1) 1 Peter 1:2
  - e) The Bible teaches that God chooses certain people to be elect.
    - i) 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.
    - ii) 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.
        - (a) That’s from Heaven’s viewpoint.
  - f) We get confused about election and free will because we try to put God in a box.
    - i) We try to think with the mind of God.
    - ii) God is God, and we’re just looking through a knothole.
  - g) Our election is based upon God’s foreknowledge.
    - i) “To foreknow” does not mean “to cause.”
    - ii) Foreknowledge does not mean that God has chosen some for Hell and others for Heaven.
    - iii) God cannot learn anything.
      - (1) Not a blade of grass moves but what He knows it.
      - (2) God foreknows everything.
      - (3) He is omniscient.
    - iv) God foreknew that you would receive the Lord Jesus Christ, and you are elect according to the foreknowledge of God.
  - h) You can be sure of God’s foreknowledge of your salvation.
- 3) YOU CAN BE SURE OF YOUR PREDESTINATION TO BE LIKE JESUS
- a) Romans 8:29
    - i) 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.
  - ii) God predestinates every child of His (everyone who is born again) to be like Jesus.
- b) 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.
- c) God wants everyone saved.
  - i) 1 Timothy 2:3-6
    - (1) God wills for all people to be saved.
  - ii) 2 Peter 3:9
    - (1) God is not willing that any should perish.
  - iii) 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.
  - iv) Matthew 23:37
    - (1) God would have redeemed them, and Jesus would have saved them; but they chose not to be saved.
- d) 2 Corinthians 5:13-15
  - i) 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.
- e) There are some people who teach that God doesn't want everyone saved.
  - i) 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.
  - ii) God already knows, but He knows that people must decide.
    - (1) It is their decision that God already knows.
- f) 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- g) Romans 8:29
  - i) When God saves someone, He predestines that that someone is going to be just like the Lord Jesus Christ.
- h) 1 John 3:2
  - i) We're predestinated to be like the Lord Jesus.
- i) Romans 8:29 also speaks of eternal security.
  - i) Predestination is the act of an omnipotent God who says that it is going to be done.
  - ii) 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.
- j) There are some people who think that the devil can take us out of Jesus' hand.
  - i) If the devil could do this, then why hasn't he?
  - ii) 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.

- iii) 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.
- 4) YOU CAN BE SURE OF YOUR CALLING TO SALVATION
  - a) Romans 8:29-30
  - b) God doesn't call some people to salvation and not call others.
    - i) Whenever the Gospel is preached, God is calling people to salvation.
    - ii) God calls through the preaching of the Word.
  - c) 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
    - i) When we believe the truth, that's what makes us a part of the chosen.
    - ii) God calls people by the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - d) God wants you to be saved.
    - i) God calls through the preaching of the Gospel, and this calling is through the sanctification of the Spirit.
    - ii) 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.
  - e) Revelation 22:17
    - i) The Spirit in this passage is the Holy Spirit, and the bride is the church.
    - ii) If you've ever heard the Gospel, then you can tell it to someone else.
    - iii) If you have a thirst for Jesus, then come.
    - iv) If you want to be saved, then God will save you today.
      - (1) You are the "whosoever."
      - (2) The elect are the "whosoever wills."
  - f) When God calls, you can resist the call if you don't want to come.
    - i) Acts 7:51
      - (1) The Holy Ghost can be resisted.
    - ii) Matthew 23:37
    - iii) Proverbs 1:22-23
    - iv) 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.
  - g) C.S. Lewis said that there are basically two categories of persons:
    - i) Those who are like Satan.
    - ii) Those who are like the Lord Jesus.
      - (1) Isaiah 14:13-14
        - (a) This is the heart of Satan.
        - (b) Satan is vaunting himself.
        - (c) 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.”
  - iii) 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.”
  - h) 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.
    - i) God has called you.
    - ii) Don’t get the idea that God calls some and doesn’t call others.
- 5) YOU CAN BE SURE OF YOUR SETTLED JUSTIFICATION (ROMANS 8:30)
  - a) If you receive the Lord Jesus Christ, then you can be sure of your settled justification.
    - i) Romans 8:30
  - b) Justification is an act of God where He declares those who have received Jesus Christ righteous.
    - i) It doesn’t mean that they’ve earned righteousness.
    - ii) It means that righteousness has been given to them, apart from anything that they have done to deserve it.
    - iii) Romans 4:5
  - c) Justification is more than a pardon for our sins; it is more than an acquittal.
    - i) If a court says that you are guilty but that they pardon you, that is not justification.
    - ii) If a court says that you are acquitted, then that means that you were never guilty to begin with.
    - iii) 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.
  - d) The blood of Jesus Christ is the basis for this justification.
    - i) Romans 5:9
    - ii) The only way to be justified is through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus on Calvary’s cross.
    - iii) 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.
  - e) Justification becomes affective when you trust Jesus.
    - i) Romans 3:24
      - (1) It is grace.
    - ii) Romans 4:5

- iii) Romans 5:1
  - f) Romans 4:6-8
    - i) 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.
        - (a) 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.
          - (a) God will chasten us.
            - (i) Hebrews 12:6
            - (b) But God is dealing with us now, not as sinners, but as His children and servants.
  - g) Psalm 32:2
  - h) Romans 8:33
  - i) We can be sure of our settled justification through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- 6) YOU CAN BE SURE OF YOUR ETERNAL GLORIFICATION (ROMANS 8:30)
- a) Romans 8:30
    - i) This passage does not say, “will glorify.”
      - (1) God is in eternity.
        - (a) God saw you, a lost sinner.
        - (b) God saw you under conviction.
        - (c) God saw you receiving Christ.
        - (d) God saw you in your sanctification.
        - (e) God sees you already in Heaven.
      - (2) There is no time with God.
        - (a) In the heart and mind of God, we are already in Heaven.
  - b) God is going to glorify us.
    - i) This is the “why” of our eternal security.
      - (1) What has been settled in Heaven cannot be annulled or undone in time.
  - c) If you will put your faith where God has put your sins (on the Lord Jesus Christ), then you can be absolutely sure.
- 7) CONCLUSION
- a) Do you have that assurance today?
  - b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
  - c) 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.
    - i) Romans 3:23
    - ii) Romans 10:9-10
    - iii) Romans 10:13
    - iv) Acts 16:31
    - v) John 3:16