**Blessed Assurance – 1 John 3:24**

**Focal Truth: Assurance of salvation comes from a permanent spiritual relationship with Christ**

 **through the Holy Spirit**

**Observations**

1. **A permanent spiritual relationship with Christ is a loving obedience to Christ’s commands – 3:23 -24**

*This is the commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded. The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us*

1. Loving obedience to Christ’s commands is evidence of salvation

*The one who keeps His commandments abide in Him and He in him*

1. Loving obedience to Christ is trusting in Jesus Christ as Savior & obeying Him as Lord

3:23 – *this is the commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, & love one another, just as He commanded*

1. Abiding in Christ & Christ in the believer is a permanent spiritual relationship

Abiding = remaining, living, permanent relationship

2:5 -6 – *whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same manner as He walked*

4:15 – *whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God*

4:16 – *we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in Him*

5:20 – *we know that the Son of God has come, & has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; & we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ*

1. **A permanent spiritual relationship with Christ is a reassuring loving relationship with Christ – 3:24**

*we know by this that He abides in us*

1. The love of God permanently reassures the believer in their spiritual relationship with Christ

John 15:9 -10 – *just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments & abide in His love*

John 14:23 – *if anyone loves Me, he will keep My words & My Father will love him & we will come to him & make our abode with him.*

4:19 – *we love because He first loved us*

Gospel song: **How deep the Fathers love for us, How vast beyond all measure!**

1. What are the qualities of assurance in a permanent loving relationship with Christ?

Personal salvation from sin

Personal worth in Christ

Personal significance in Christ

Personal humility like Christ

Personal security over the devil & death

Personal confidence in prayer

Personal love for God & others

Personal victory over sin

 **Song of Songs – the bride says of her husband – My beloved is mine, and I am his!**

1. The love of God the Father for Jesus Christ the Son reassured Him in His ministry

Jesus Christ lived in a reassuring loving relationship with God the Father

 John 17:26 – *I have declared to them Your name, & will declare it, that the love with*

 *which you loved Me may be in them and I in them*

John 15:9 – just as the Father has loved Me, I have loved you, abide in my love

1. **A permanent spiritual relationship with Christ is an encouraging experience by the gift of the Holy Spirit – 3:24**

*by the Spirit whom He has given us*

John 14:16 -17 – *I will ask the Father, & He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever, that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him, or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.*

1. God has given the Holy Spirit to every believer in the new birth

2:20 – you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things

1. The Holy Spirit anoints makes every believer a Holy spiritual person – an anointed one

Holy Spirit possesses the believer’s body & soul

Holy spirit regenerates the believer

Holy Spirit gifts the believer

Holy Spirit encourages & teaches the believer

Holy Spirit prays with & for believers

1. The Holy Spirit possesses every believer preventing them from a lifestyle of sin

3:9 – *whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; & he cannot sin because he has been born of God*

1. The Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ for every believer

4:2 – *by this you will know the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God*

1. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth testifying to every believer that Jesus Christ has come into the world as Savior

5:5 – 6 – *who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water & blood – Jesus Christ, not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth*

**Things to remember & do**

1. Loving obedience to Christ unites you permanently to Christ!
2. Rejoice! Christ in you the hope of glory!
3. Enjoy in the sweet fellowship of the Holy Spirit whom God gave to you!

*The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us*

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**