

That You May Know

“Blessed Assurance” series - Week 1

1 John 1:1-4

Introduction: The book of 1 John is all about assurance. Assurance of our salvation, assurance of God’s love, and assurance of eternal life in Heaven through Jesus. John’s purpose for writing this letter is clear: “*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life*” (1 John 5:13). John is not trying to have believers doubt their salvation; he wants them to have full assurance, a blessed assurance of the salvation God has given them through His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

What's at stake with eternity security

(1) The matter of assurance. If our salvation depends on anything other than the finished work of Christ on the cross, we are in trouble. The believer cannot earn their salvation by being good enough or maintain their salvation status by doing enough good things (Ephesians 2:8-9). Where there is no assurance of God’s acceptance, there is no real peace and joy of our salvation. God wants His children to know for sure they are eternally saved.

(2) The matter of forgiveness. When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He died for ALL of our sins (1 John 2:2). The price He paid for our sins provided full forgiveness. Therefore, sins we commit after becoming believers cannot nullify our salvation (1 John 1:9) and require us to ask repeatedly to be saved again. If Jesus came to seek and save what was lost, how can we somehow become unsaved and undo what Christ did (Romans 8:39)?

(3) The matter of God’s love. If a season of sin (backsliding) can short-circuit God’s unconditional love and His promise of eternal security, then His promise would not be kept, and His love would not be unconditional. Paul Washer wrote, “I have given God countless reasons not to love me. None of them changed His mind.”

Two tremendous truths about eternal life

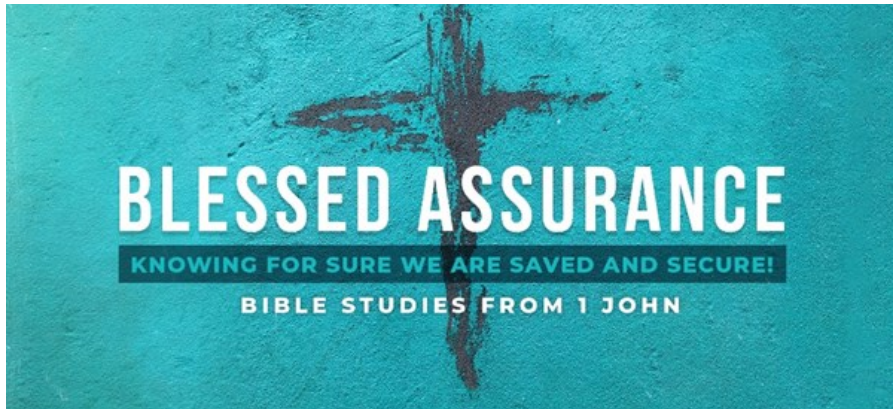
Truth #1 - Only Jesus can give eternal life. (1 John 1:1-2)

➔ **Note this:** John had been with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry, and he shared that the stories of the miraculous healings, the many miracles, and even the dead being raised to life again are all true. John had a front-row seat to hear what Jesus said and see what Jesus did. This Jesus, the Word of life, can give eternal life, and that is not a myth – that is truth.

Truth #2 - Jesus offers eternal life in Heaven to everyone.

(1 John 1:3-4)

➔ **Note this:** What John and the disciples proclaimed about Jesus as the Savior, they proclaimed to everyone. What John and the disciples proclaimed about a real relationship with God as a Heavenly Father who shares life with us, they proclaimed to everyone. Today, we are to point people to God and share, “What Jesus did for me, He will do for you.”



*Another Sign of Salvation -
We Love God More Than We Love Sin*
"Blessed Assurance" series - Week 2
1 John 1:5-2:2

The primary purpose of 1 John - Assurance. The book of 1 John is all about assurance. Assurance of our salvation, assurance of God's love, and assurance of eternal life in Heaven through Jesus. John's purpose for writing this letter is clear: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13). John is writing this letter so believers can have full assurance, a blessed assurance, of the salvation God has given through His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

→ **Note this:** It has been correctly said, "Eternity is a long time to be wrong." That truth should be a passion and an urgency as to why we need to share Jesus with others.

What we learned in Week One - We saw two tremendous truths about eternal life. Truth number one: only Jesus can give eternal life (1 John 1:1-2). And truth number two: Jesus offers eternal life in Heaven to everyone (1 John 1:3-4)

Three types of news in this section of John's letter

The Good News: God is holy. (1 John 1:5)

→ **Note this:** John's description of "God as all light and no darkness" is the proper picture to describe God's perfection, purity, and goodness. This means everything about God is right - "God is light." This means nothing about God is wrong - "in Him, there is no darkness at all." This means God can't make a mistake because His character is perfect, pure, and good.

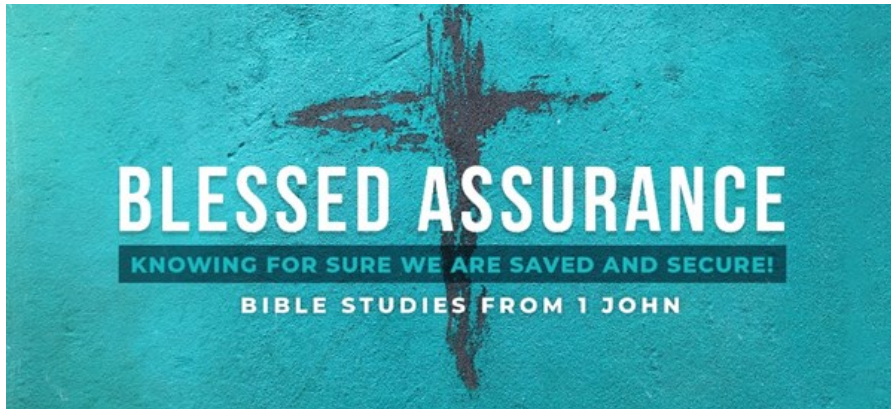
The Bad News: We are sinners. (1 John 1:6-10)

→ **Note this:** When we strive to live a life following the ways of God, it benefits and blesses our fellowship with Him and our fellowship with other believers. When any two Christians are in a right relationship with God, they will also naturally be in a right relationship with each other. However, if one or both Christians are not in a right relationship with God, then one or both Christians will not be in a right relationship with each other. The reason why we need continual cleansing is because we continually sin.

The Greatest News: Jesus died for sinners to make us right with God.

(1 John 2:1-2)

Note this: If God is perfectly holy, how can He let sinners into Heaven? How can God be both just in dealing with sin and loving toward sinners? The only solution was for a perfect sacrifice to pay the price for all our wrongdoings. Jesus, God's Son, paid a debt He didn't owe because we had a debt we could never pay. As Steven Cole has said: "When Satan charges us as guilty before God, our Advocate, Jesus, does not enter a plea of 'not guilty' because that would not be true. Rather, He enters a plea of guilty but claims our pardon because He paid our penalty."



Because We Do What He Says

"Blessed Assurance" series - Week 3

1 John 2:3-17

1 John Key Verse: 1 John 5:13, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

→ **Note this:** When we read through the book of 1 John, a person will either be COMFORTED because they see signs of salvation in their life, or they will be CONVICTED because they do not see these signs of salvation in their life. John's purpose for writing this letter was not to cause doubt to believers about their salvation but to provide assurance, the blessed assurance of being saved and secure because of the amazing grace of God!

Signs of salvation that affirm our blessed assurance

Sign of Salvation #1 - We know we have eternal life because we personally know Jesus as our Savior. (1 John 1:1-4)

Sign of Salvation #2 - We know we have eternal life because our desires have changed: we want to love God more than we want to love sin. (1 John 1:5 - 2:2)

Sign of Salvation #3 - We know we have eternal life because our lifestyle is different from those who do not know God. (1 John 2:3-17)

A true believer will ...

1. **Live as Jesus lived.** (1 John 2:3-6)

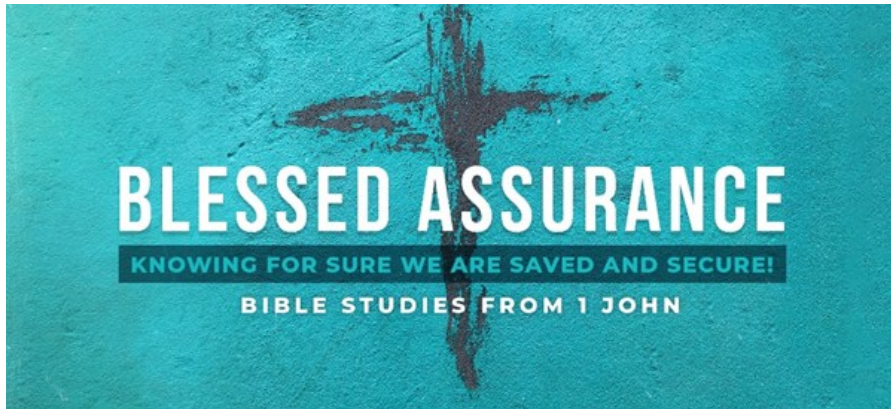
→ **Note this:** It's easy for someone to say I am a Christian. However, the true test to reveal a true believer is whether their life reflects Jesus. To walk like Jesus walked means to live like Jesus lived. Look at how Jesus responded to the hurting and how He loved those who were considered unlovable. Look at how Jesus lived with a daily desire to please God in all He did. It is good to ask "WWJD" - What would Jesus do?

2. **Love as Jesus loved.** (1 John 2: 7-11)

→ **Note this:** In an imperfect world, there can be many reasons not to love your neighbor. But Jesus is our model of how we should love others – unconditionally, sacrificially, and abundantly.

3. **Avoid what Jesus avoided.** (1 John 2:12-17)

Note this: John says that we must not love the ways, the practices, and the systems of the world that oppose God and the Word of God. This is the world where people live to gratify self, indulge self, and exalt self without any regard for the character or commands of God. John says Christians should look different - very different from how the world acts. The church should look different - very different from how the world looks. Christian lives should look different; our families should look different; our spending should look different; our schedules should look different. Not for the sake of being different but because we love God more than we love this world, and we are to be light that points others to Him.



We Show We Know God
Because We Show We Know God's Son
"Blessed Assurance" series - Week 4
1 John 2:18-29

1 John Key Verse: 1 John 5:13: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Question: Are we living in the last days before Jesus reenters human history.

Answer: Yes. However, it is important to understand that the phrases "last hour" and "last days" refer to the period of time between Jesus's ascension from Earth to Heaven and His one-day return to Earth from Heaven (Acts 1:11).

A definition of the rapture - The rapture of all believers is a worldwide event in which God "carries away" all believers from the earth before the beginning of the righteous judgment upon an unrighteous world. While the word "rapture" is not in the Bible, the concept of all believers being "caught up and carried away" into the clouds to be with Jesus is clearly taught in Scripture in places such as 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

A definition of antichrist - In the word "antichrist," the prefix "anti" can mean "in opposition to" or "instead of." An antichrist is anyone who opposes Christ or tries to place trust in something instead of Christ. This term is used in three different ways in the Bible. **First, it is a SPIRIT in the world** that denies and opposes Christ (1 John 4:3). **Second, it is FALSE TEACHERS** who teach false things about Christ or teach other ideas instead of Christ (1 John 2:18-23).

Third, it is a PERSON who, in the last days, will achieve world domination, look to

destroy Israel and all followers of Jesus Christ, and lead a final world rebellion against Christ at His return (1 John 2:18).

Characteristics of antichrists in the world today

Characteristic #1 - They depart from the Christian fellowship.

(1 John 2:19)

→ **Note this:** That these individuals left the Christian church and its teachings shows that many of these antichrists, at one time or another, identified themselves with the fellowship of a Christian church. The fact that they left the fellowship of Christian churches demonstrates that they did not belong to the Christian faith to begin with. They may have had a profession of faith but no possession of faith. A Bible-teaching church can purge itself of these types of antichrists because the false Christian will not feel comfortable being in a Bible-teaching church that exalts Jesus as Savior and Lord. Such individuals will either get right with God or leave that church.

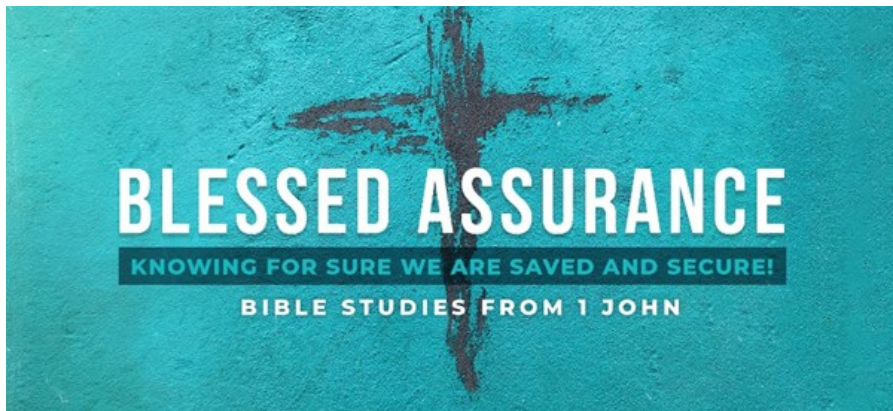
Characteristic #2 - They deny the Christian faith. (1 John 2:20-25)

→ **Note this:** The key question for settling the matter of genuine salvation is this: "Who is Jesus?" Is Jesus just a good person? Is Jesus just a good example? Is Jesus only a religious teacher or prophet of God? Or is Jesus the Son of God and Savior of the world who died for our sins and rose again to prove He is who He said He is and, therefore, can provide us with a fully forgiven life and everlasting life in Heaven? A true confession of faith involves a personal faith in Jesus in what He has done as the Savior, and who He is as the Lord.

Characteristic #3 - They try to deceive the Christian faithful.

(1 John 2:26-29)

→ **Note this:** We should not believe everything a person tells us simply because they claim to believe the Bible, for it is possible to "twist" the Bible to make it mean other things. Satan knows the Scriptures. He quoted the Scriptures when trying to tempt Jesus in the desert (Matthew Chapter 4). But, of course, he "twisted" their meaning for his own evil purposes. Remember, Satan is not an originator - he is a counterfeiter. Presently, he tries to counterfeit the Christian faith. In the last times, he will try to counterfeit Christ with the Antichrist. For now, the believer is to test the teachings of others and search the Bible for themselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Acts 17:11; John 16:13).



We Show We Know God Because We Live to Please God

"Blessed Assurance" series - Week 5

1 John 3:1-10

1 John Key Verse: 1 John 5:13: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Is a Christian's salvation secure? The major objection of those who believe a Christian can lose their salvation is this: If a professing Christian lives a sinful lifestyle after becoming a Christian, how can that person's salvation still be secure, and that person still go to Heaven? The problem with this objection is the assumption that everyone who calls himself a "Christian" has been spiritually born again (1 John 3:6; 1 John 2:19; Matthew 7:21). John tells us that the issue is not that a person loses their salvation; it's that they were never truly saved in the first place.

Struggles with not believing in eternal security

Struggle #1 - Jesus Christ has purchased and promised the believer's eternal security (1 John 2:2; John 10:28). Jesus promises the person who trusts in Him eternal life (John 3:16). If a person who trusts in Jesus as their Savior can forfeit their salvation and eternal life because of some sin, then they would perish, making Jesus's promise untrue, which is not possible.

Struggle #2 - If Christians can lose their God-given salvation, how do they lose it, and how can they get it back? A person can never be good enough or do enough good things to earn their salvation or earn their salvation back (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Salvation is not based on our staying power but on God's keeping power (Jude 1:24).

Struggle #3 - Someone spiritually born again (John 3:3) cannot be "unborn." When God begins a work of salvation, He finishes it (Philippians 1:6). Therefore, true faith in Jesus always lasts and can never be lost.

Struggle #4 - Would a perfectly good God, who invites us to call Him our Father in Heaven, want His children to live with the constant uncertainty of His acceptance and their eternal destiny? Instead, the Bible tells us that nothing can separate a child of God from the Father's love (Romans 8:38-39).

Three reasons for living right

Reason #1 - God the Father loves us. (1 John 3:1-3)

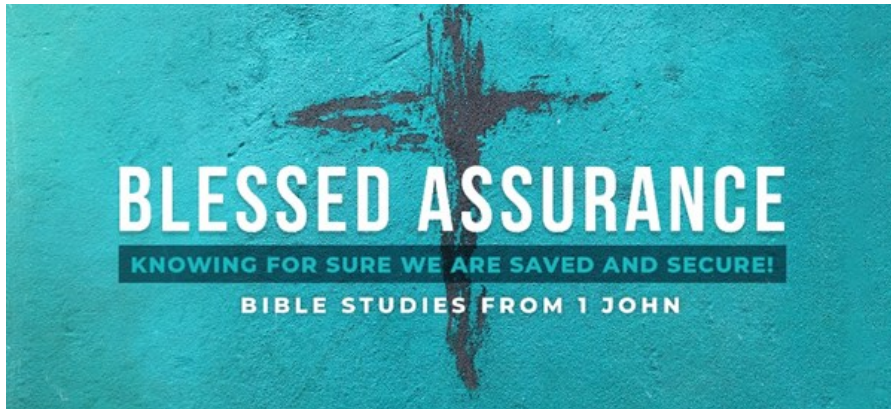
Note this: Christian writer Max Lucado said, "There is nothing we can do to make God love us more and nothing we can do to make God love us less." Because God is love, He can love us unconditionally. That God would make His creation His children should cause our hearts to skip a beat, put a pep in our step, and put a quiver in our liver when we consider how great God's love is for us!

Reason #2 - God the Son died for us. (1 John 3:4-8)

Note this: That God is love does not mean He has no rules and restrictions for His children. God's "dos and don'ts" are for our protection and blessing. God's children are not sinless, but we will strive to sin less. Christians can experience a season of spiritual backsliding but are still saved. Jesus shared the story of the father forgiving his prodigal son. Although the prodigal son did stray, he did not stay in his sin and confessed he had sinned against his father and God (Luke 15:21-24).

Reason #3 - God the Holy Spirit lives in us. (1 John 3:9-10)

Note this: Charles Spurgeon once said, "God does not allow His children to sin successfully." God loves us as we are but loves us too much to leave us where we are. Questions worth asking: How sensitive am I to sin? In what ways have I become soft on sin? How do I separate myself from sin? Have I slipped into a pattern of sin? Christians are imperfect children, but we have a deep-down desire to live a life that pleases our Father in Heaven.



*We Show We Know God
Because We Live a Life Loving Others*
"Blessed Assurance" series - Week 6
1 John 3:11-24

1 John Series Key Verse: 1 John 5:13: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Four instructions for how to live a life loving others

Instruction #1 - Don't be like Cain, who expressed emotions and displayed deeds opposite to God's love. (1 John 3:11-12)

→ **Note this:** When two individuals are both right with God, they will be right with each other, and there will be love. However, if one person is not right with God, it can open the door for the evil one to sow jealousy, envy, and anger, resulting in hate instead of love in the heart.

Instruction #2 - Don't be like Cain and harbor hatred in your heart. (1 John 3:13-15)

→ **Note this:** John's use of the term "world" refers to the world system set up against God, His Word, His ways, and those who follow it. When people

mock Christians, they do so because their source of ridicule comes from the evil one.

John says we shouldn't be surprised when the world hates us; however, we should be surprised when there is any hatred among fellow Christians.

Instruction #3 - Be like Jesus, whose love was always giving and never indifferent to the needs of others. (1 John 3:16-17)

→ **Note this:** In a sermon by Charles Spurgeon, he shared three important truths about Jesus laying down His life for us. First, how great must have been our sins. Second, how great must have been His love. Third, how safe the believer is in the love of Christ.

Instruction #4 - Be like Jesus, who showed love not only through His words but also through His actions. (1 John 3:18-24)

→ **Note this:** It has been said that loving everyone in general can be an excuse for loving no one in particular. John won't allow Christians to simply talk about love; real love shows up in actions. John would say, "Heed the need and do the deed! Words are good, but works are better."

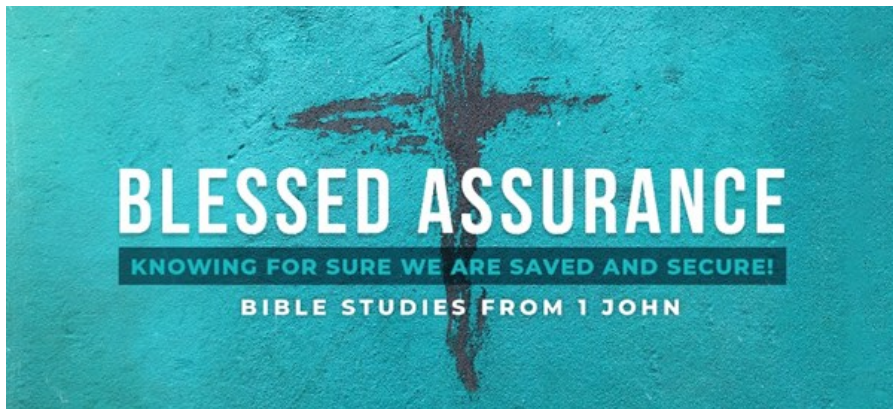
→ **Note this:** We can be sure that Satan has a soundtrack of condemning thoughts and questioning doubts that will loop again and again in our minds unless we stop the soundtrack. How do we stop the soundtrack of a condemning heart? Instead of listening to what Satan says to us, we tell Satan what God has said to us.

1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all wrongdoing."

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 8:1: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

At times, when Satan condemns us, we must not rely on how we feel but on what God says.



*We Show We Know God
Because We Know God's Truth*
"Blessed Assurance" series - Week 7
1 John 4:1-6

1 John Series Key Verse: 1 John 5:13: "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Five truths about the spiritual war going on in our world

Truth #1 - There is a spiritual world all around us.

Truth #2 - We are all involved in a spiritual war all the time.

Truth #3 - Our enemy in this spiritual war is strong.

Truth #4 - Our weapons and our God in this spiritual war are stronger than the weapons of our enemy.

Truth #5 - The ultimate outcome of this spiritual war has already been determined - the Devil is defeated, and God wins!

How to test what we are told

Question #1 - Ask the discerning question: Can I trust this because I have tested this? Don't believe everything you hear. Not everyone who talks about God is from God. (1 John 4:1)

→ **Note this:** John warned against believing every spirit. Don't assume everything we hear, read or think is from God. We are to test any spiritual statements in light of what God has told us in His Word. We are to test the spirits to confirm their source. This is what is known as discernment. Discernment is not only knowing the difference between right and wrong but also knowing the difference between right and almost right, which is also wrong.

Question #2 - Ask the Jesus question: How is Jesus viewed?

(1 John 4:2-3)

→ **Note this:** Any religious system that denies the deity of Jesus or the humanity of Jesus is not of God. The Apostle John calls this "the spirit of the antichrist." Antichrist means someone or something who is "against" or "in place of" Christ. A person might confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh as a human but deny that He is deity, as the Son of God, as the Bible tells us. That is antichrist because it presents a false Christ and not the true Christ of the Bible.

Question #3 - Ask the big picture question: How is God working things out now and one day, forever? (1 John 4:4-5)

→ **Note this:** The believer has a resource for victory: the vital presence of Jesus in us! This makes victory always possible as long as we rely on "He who is in you" instead of relying on ourselves. This truth gives Christians the confidence to overcome temptations and trials because Jesus is greater in us than the Evil One in the world.

Question #4 - Ask the Bible question: Is the Bible considered God's ultimate and final source of authority? (1 John 4:6)

→ **Note this:** Those who know God listen to the Word of God. To know truth from falsehood, we must make sure we are submitted to the Scriptures. False teachers and false teaching don't have a high view of the Bible. They will add or take away from what the Bible says. It's one thing to appreciate the Bible; it's another to hold it as our ultimate source of authority for what God says.