Blessed Assurance

**Reading: John 15:1-6**

**Important terms: POSSIBLE<> PROBABLE<> IMPOSSIBLE**

**“IT’S IMPOSSIBLE TO EVER BE LOST”**

***Every branch that bears not fruit is taken away... a branch outside of the vine is cast into the fire.***

***Wherefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. [1 Corinthians 10:12]***

“The Security of the Believer” -- once you truly believe, you are secure forever and you can’t fall from grace. ***[Hebrews 3:12]*** ***Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.***

**“I’M PROBABLY GOING TO BE LOST” ATTITUDE**

Answer this question to yourself: If the Lord were to come right now, are you absolutely sure He would say to you, ***“Well done, good and faithful servant”?***

**“I CAN BE LOST, BUT I DON’T INTEND TO BE” ATTITUDE**

***1 Corinthians 9:26-27]*** ***I therefore run, not as uncertainly; so I fight, not as one that beats the air; but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.***

**HOW IS THIS ASSURANCE AVAILABLE TO US?**

Assurance and Insurance come from the same root words and have the same basic meaning.

1. Insurance doesn’t come free --- 2. It must be obtained with a price called a ‘premium’. --- 3. Some have to pay more than others because of their past --- 4. It’s not always easy to obtain because it is based upon qualifying for coverage --- 5. Coverage remains in force as long as you keep the premiums paid

6. Your coverage is only as good as the Company that insures you

***If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me.*** ***[Matthew 16:17]***

***Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? [Mark 8:36]***

Keep our Assurance in force by keeping the payments current by ***walking in the light as He is in the light*** ***[1 John 1:7]***.

As long as we keep the payments current then the blood of Christ continues to ***cleanse us from our sins*** ***[1 John 1:7].*** This passage does not say that the blood of Christ will cleanse us unconditionally. ***But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse (re-instate) us from all unrighteousness*** ***[1 John 1:9]***

What happens if we try to file a claim on a lapsed policy? If we’re not currently covered, then we’re stuck! Jesus says ***I tell you nay, but except you repent, you shall all likewise perish*** ***[Luke 13:5]***

If we take out coverage with a fraudulent company just because the price is cheaper, what happens when we file a claim? The world is full of phony preachers who claim to represent the Lord and who are selling the gullible masses a worthless Assurance policy. Paul said, ***For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of Christ; Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.*** ***[Philippians 3:18-19]***

Can we blame the unscrupulous agent for selling us a worthless bill of goods? Ultimately we can only have ourselves to blame for “buying it”. ***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. [2 Timothy 4:3-4]***

**GOD IS ON OUR SIDE**…***long-suffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.* *[2 Peter 3:9]***

***Who then, shall separate from the love of Christ?*** ***[Romans 8:35]***

***He made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men;*** ***[Philippians 2:7]***

***But was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin***. ***[Hebrews 4:15]***

***(Psalms 103:8-13) The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. {9} He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. {10} He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. {11} For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; {12} As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. {13} As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.***