

“BLESSED ASSURANCE”

Psalms 130:1-8

Do you have confidence that when the final chapter of your life is written it will include your being ushered into the presence of an infinitely holy God to experience “*fullness of joy*” and “*pleasures forever?*” What is the basis for your confidence?

This morning I invite you to come along with me as we link up with a group of Jews who are traveling to Jerusalem for one of the major feasts. Let’s assume that it’s the Passover celebration. You will notice that they are singing some songs. They are called *songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-134)*. Pay close attention to Psalm 130. (READ IT)

There are seven “*penitential psalms.*” These include: 6; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143. In each, the author confesses his sin to the Lord and recognizes his need for God’s forgiveness.

This psalm held a special place in the hearts of **Augustine, Martin Luther, Calvin, John Wesley, and John Bunyan**. There is a powerful message in these 8 verses...

YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE SAVED.

Listen carefully to this song as the Jews sing it on the way to Jerusalem. Notice the progression. It begins with...

1. THE CRY FOR MERCY

Psalm 130:1–2... Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD. 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications.

Can't you just sense the desperation in the psalmist's words? He has hit rock bottom in his life. It reminds me of Jonah...

Jonah 2:2... and he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me. I cried for help from

the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.

David Brainerd was a missionary to the Indians in New England. He died when he was 29 years of age. On December 16, 1744, he wrote these words in his diary. . .

“Was so overwhelmed with depression that I knew not how to live. I longed for death exceedingly; my soul was sunk in deep waters.”

Even strong believers face trials that can take the wind out of their sails *temporarily*.

So, what’s troubling the psalmist? Was it a family issue, a financial issue, or a spiritual issue? Listen to the Jewish people as they sing about their desperate need for the mercy of God. Are you there today? Will you cry out to God for mercy?

2. THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Now we hear this group singing about the holiness of God and the greatness of God. They know that they are sinners and that God is utterly holy and perfectly just. They are deeply troubled by that thought. Boice made this astute observation...

We live most of our lives with very little awareness of God, and where God has been abolished an awareness of sin is inevitably abolished also, because sin is defined only in relationship to God.¹

The psalmist cried out to God for mercy. Then, in verses 3-4 he rehearses one of the greatest spiritual truths in all the world...

Psalm 130:3–4... If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But

¹ James Montgomery Boice, [*Psalms 107–150: An Expositional Commentary*](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005), 1139.

there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.

Does God keep a record of our sins? He certainly does.

Matthew 12:36... “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.”

You can sin by what you say, by what you do, by what you don't do, and by what you think. How would you like to face God on the Day of Judgment with that kind of record staring you in the face? Without God's forgiveness, you would be doomed!

Look at verse 4— **“But there is forgiveness with You.”** That's right. God offers unlimited forgiveness for every sin you have committed or will ever commit! He forgives our sin based on the sacrifice of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ...

1 Peter 2:24... and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Here's the point. You and I are guilty sinners who have a desperate need for God's merciful forgiveness. That's why God sent the Lord Jesus Christ to die in our place and to pay the penalty for our sin. God accepted our Lord's sacrifice and proved it by resurrecting Him from the dead. When you and I turn from our sin and place our faith in Jesus, God forgives!

Micah 7:18–19... Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. **19** He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.

Look again at verse 4— “**That You may be feared.**” Once the sinner repents and places their faith in Jesus they are blessed with a deep sense of fear and reverence for God ***BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN.***

YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE SAVED.

The progression in this psalm is amazing. First, there is the cry for mercy. Then, there is the truth about God. Third, there is...

3. THE REALITY OF HOPE

Psalm 130:5–6... **I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.** 6 **My soul waits for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning; *Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.***

The psalmist *waits* for God to give him the assurance that his sins are truly forgiven. Can we be sure that God will forgive us and save us? Absolutely. We must find our confidence

in the Word of God. Will you believe God's promises?

Colossians 1:13–14... For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

You can rest assured that God will forgive all of your sins if you repent and place your faith in the Lord Jesus. God keeps His promises!

With our sanctified imagination we have been blessed by tagging along with the Jewish pilgrims as they make their way to Jerusalem. We've heard them sing about the cry for mercy, the truth about God, and the reality of hope. Now, let's lean into...

4. THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION

Psalm 130:7–8... **O Israel, hope in the LORD;
For with the LORD there is lovingkindness,
And with Him is abundant redemption. 8**

And He will redeem Israel From all his iniquities.

The Jewish people are now celebrating all that the Lord has done for them. By faith in God's steadfast love, they know He will send a Savior to redeem them.

We can understand this "redemption" even better than the psalmist because of the revelation we find in the New Testament...

Ephesians 1:7... In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Jesus redeems people caught in the web of sin by offering His body and blood as the payment for their sins. As a result, God forgives believers and grants them the blessed assurance of a "*know-so*" salvation. Jesus can set you free from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and eventually the presence

of sin. This is the greatest truth in all the world...

INVITATION

- Will you receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord today?
- Will you live your life as a believer with a profound sense of reverence for God because of the forgiveness He has granted to you?
- Will you as a believer confess any sin that you are dealing with right now in preparation for our observance of the Lord's Supper?

LORD'S SUPPER

Deacons, will you come now and pass out the bread and juice? Congregation will sing "At the Cross."

The Body

Matthew 26:26... While they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

As you take this little piece of bread this morning, I want to remind you that Jesus used it as a symbol of the sacrifice of His own body on the cross. He assumed your guilt and He died for your sins. Does this fact not stir your heart to fear the Lord and to demonstrate in tangible ways your reverence for Him?

Thank Him for His sacrifice for you.

Receive the Bread in remembrance of His death.

The Blood

Matthew 26:27-29... And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; 28

July 6, 2025

CFBC... Summer in the Psalms Series

for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. 29 “But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

This precious blood that Jesus shed on the cross is symbolized by the cup of juice you are holding in your hand. How could we not offer Him the reverence He deserves in light of His willingness to shed His blood so we can be forgiven?

Oh church, thank the Lord Jesus for shedding His blood for you!

Receive the cup.

Listen to Paul’s word ...

1 Corinthians 11:26... For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

Sing the Doxology

July 6, 2025

CFBC... Summer in the Psalms Series