The Believers Security
John 10:28

Introduction:
A. Jesus had been teaching his disciples about his pending death.
B. The query: How could a believer be secure if the Savior was going to die?
C. Jesus answer is found in verse 15.
D. Our text gives us encouraging news. Every believer is:

I. Safe in the Fathers Hand.
A. No one has the power to remove any believer from the Fathers hand.
B. No one has the authority to remove any believer from the Fathers hand.
C. A believer may back slide but he will never perish.
D. Hypocrites may shipwreck the faith but no believer ever will.
C. The Psalmist says I will not fear. Ps. 91:5
E. The Lord is my helper whom shall I fear.
Hebrews 13:6

II. Strong in the Fathers Word.
A. I give unto them. Vs. 28a
B. The Father gave to me the believers. Vs. 29
C. Do you believe God’s Word?
D. Consider these truths:
   1. Sheep belong to the Shepherd. Vs. 27
   2. Sheep follow the Shepherd. Vs. 27
   3. Sheep are given eternal life. vs. 28
   E. A man who walks with the Lord will be successful. Psalm 1:3

III. Sustained in the Fathers Promise.
A. The Lord will deliver a believer from troublous times. Psalm 34:19
B. READ Isaiah 43:2
C. Abraham believed God’s promise of a child. Romans 4:21
D. God supplies us with his perfect peace.
   Isaiah 26:3
E. Let every believer rejoice in trials. I Peter 4:13

IV. Secure in the Fathers Presence.
A. I will never leave you.
B. Jesus victory preceded mans tribulations.
   John 16:33
C. Believers are weak and helpless but never forsaken.
   1. They shall never perish.
   2. They are secure in the Shepherds hand
   3. They are secure in the Fathers hand.
D. Consider the elements of Jesus priestly prayer for believers.
   John 17: 21-24
   1. I pray that they will be united as we (Father & Son) are united.
   2. Make them holy through thy Word.
   3. Allow them to be where I am.
   E. The same day Jesus died the thief who was forgiven was taken to paradise to be with the savior.

Conclusion: Seek Him & you will find Him.

Carl E. Fitzgerald          Grace MBC
Christian Encouragement

DOWN - BUT NOT OUT
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

INTRO. - Discouragement is no respecter of persons; Paul experienced this (v.8). He could have avoided this, but he had a Divine call (v.1) and a concern to help people. He founded the Church at Corinthians, and ministered there year and half, Acts 18. After he left, serious problems arose there; he sent Timothy to deal with them (1 Cor. 4:17) then wrote 1 Cor. Matters grew worse. He made a “painful visit” (2:1); no solution. He wrote “a severe letter” delivered by Titus (2:4-9; 7:8-12). This worked: the problem was solved. He then wrote 2 Cor. Reasons:

1. To encourage the Church to forgive and restore the one who had caused the trouble, 2:6-11.
2. To explain his change of plans, 1:15-22.
3. To enforce his authority as an apostle, 4:1, 2: Chap. 10-12.
4. To encourage the Church to share in the offering he was taking, for the needy Judeans saints, Chap. 8, 9.

KEYWORD: comfort, encouragement: “called alongside to help.” He used the verb 18 times, noun 11 times. In spite of all his trials, Paul was able to write a letter filled with encouragement.

THE SECRET: God. When discouraged and ready to quit, get your attention off self and focus on God. Paul tells how we can find encouragement in God – three simple reminders:

I. REMEMBER WHAT GOD IS TO YOU, 1:3

Paul begins with a doxology. He could not sing about his circumstances, but he could sing about God who is in control of all circumstances. Praise is an important factor in victory over discouragement. Praise Him because...

A. He is God...
   1. Paul, for what He has done in the past, Eph. 1:3
   2. Peter, for future blessings, 1 Peter 1:3
   3. Paul, for present blessings, in 2 Cor.

B. He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...
   1. Because of this we can call God “Father.”
   2. God sees us in His Son and loves us as He loves His Son, John 17:26; we are beloved of God, Rom. 1:7, because we are accepted in the Beloved, Eph. 1:6.

C. He is the Father of mercies...
   1. Father = originator. (as Satan is the originator of lies)
   2. Mercy, what we do not deserve. Manifold, Neh. 9:19; tender, Psalm 25:6; great, Num. 14:19; multitude, inexhaustible, Psalm 5:7, etc.
   D. He is the God of all comfort (consolation)...
   2. Comforts by Word and Spirit.
   3. Encourages by other believers, Acts 4:36. (Barnabas)

E. When discouraged, look away from self to God, Psalm 121:1, 2

II. REMEMBER WHAT GOD DOES FOR YOU, 1:4a, 8-11.

A. He permits trials to come. 10 basic words for suffering in Greek. Paul uses 5 in 2 Cor. ...
   1. Most frequent “narrow, under pressure” translated affliction (2:4; 4:17); tribulation, 1:4; trouble, 1:4,8.
   2. Suffering also as sufferings of Jesus, 1 Peter 1:11 We endure some sufferings because we are human; others come because we are God’s people and want to serve Him.
DOWN – BUT NOT OUR Cont.

3. Trouble is no accident: His appointment. 3 possible sources of trouble, trial...
   a. Fate: if so, life is hopeless
   b. Self: likewise hopeless
   c. God: we trust Him, and nothing is hopeless.

B. God is in control of trials, v.8 We do not know what the trial was; we know God controlled the circumstances & protected His own.

C. God enables us to bear our trials, v.9. We must not rely upon our own abilities, experiences, but upon God, 2:10

D. God delivers us from our trials, v.10. In His own way.

E. God is glorified in our trials, v.11. When Paul told what God had done for him, praise and thanksgiving came from friends.

III. REMEMBER WHAT GOD DOES THROUGH YOU, 1:4b-7

A. When we suffer, we tend to think only of self; we become cisterns instead of channels. Because God has encouraged us, we can encourage others. (Channels of blessing to comfort, encourage)

B. It is not necessary to experience the exact trial, in order to share God’s comfort, 1:4b (any trouble).

C. We learn to endure. “Patient endurance,” evidence of faith. If we become bitter, critical, rebel, trials work against us, not for us.

D. God must work IN us before He can work Thru us. It is easier to grow in knowledge than in grace (2 Pet. 3:18). Learning is one thing; living is another. Suffering prepares us for God’s best (Joseph).

E. As suffering increases, so does Grace (James 4:6).

F. Grace cannot be stored for future use. As we experience God’s grace in life, it is invested as godly character (Rom. 5:1-5).

IN TRIALS, FIX ATTENTION ON GOD; REMEMBER THESE THREE THINGS.

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM:
TO KNOW THE GOD OF GRACE:
Eph. 2:8, 9

INTRO: Without the Grace of God we would all be in bad shape. Grace is the unmerited favor of God.

I. WHAT IS GRACE?

A. The unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor of God.
   1. Unmerited, because we could not deserve it.
   2. Unearned, because we could not buy it.
   3. Un Deserved, because we could do nothing to get it.

B. Grace is when God looked down and saw a dying world, which could not help itself and said, I WILL REDEEME THEM MY SELF.
   1. Grace involved His leaving heaven.
   2. Grace involved His volunteering for the cross
   3. It involves his doing it for his enemies.

C. Grace is when a man commits all kinds of gross crimes, and the one who he sinned against says, “I Forgive HIM.”

II. YOU MUST KNOW GODS CHARACTER TO UNDERSTAND GRACE:

A. Immeasurable Love:
   1. Before grace can come about, there must be love.
   2. Nothing can stand in its way.

B. There must be complete righteousness on the extenders part.
   1. Your salvation would not be of any count if God were not completely righteous.

C. He is Holy or set apart from the likeness of man.

C. God is also a God of Wrath, toward sin.
THAT I MAY KNOW HIM Cont
1. Many do not like to think of God this way.
2. But it is necessary if He retains his character.

III. YOU MUST KNOW SINS, DEGRADATION, AND CONDEMNATION:
A. Sin first degrades the sinner.
   1. The more you practice sin, the more it works against you and the worse you become.
   2. You either control sin or it controls you!!
B. Some get to the point that they cannot control sin.
C. The condemnation of sin is terrible.
   1. It deforms. (All the deformed bodies are cause by the presence of sin in the world.
   2. It causes death. (Physical and spiritual.)
D. Sin separates you from God and His blessings.

IV. YOU MUST ACCEPT GODS PLAN AND PERSON
A. His plan is to gather all things righteous unto Himself.
   1. He cannot force you to believe, but he is offering you free salvation.
   2. Many do not believe, (Most)
B. His plan also involves the nurturing and blessing of those who look to HIM.
   1. God does not want you to suffer in any way.
   2. The trouble is most of us bringing the tragedies on ourselves.
C. The Person of God is loving, kind, patient and kind, filled with Grace and Mercy.
D. But God also is a God of Wrath when sin threatens.

CONCLUSION: I want to know the fullness of His grace. Have you met Jesus yet person to person?

Sammy Eldredge Timpson, Tx.

THE TRIUMPH OF CHRIST OVER THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD
Hebrews 2:14-18; John 12:31

Introduction:
1. Jesus was manifested to destroy the works of the devil.
2. He was first promised as the "seed of the woman." Genesis 3:15
3. Isaiah saw Him as a mighty commander. Isaiah 63:1
4. He came to deliver from the power of Satan as well as to be the medium of God's love to man.
5. These texts reveal a conflict, which show our Lord as the Victor.

I. NOTICE SATAN IN HIS PRINCELY POWER AND DOMINION. "the prince of this world" John 12:31
A. He is a deceiver, the father of lies, a destroyer, the murderer, the prince of darkness, the prince of the power of the air and the god of this world with great power. II Cor. 2:11; John 8:44; Psalm 17:4; Eph. 2:2; II Cor. 4:4.
B. His allies are fallen angels and wicked people who possess his spirit and are controlled by him. Eph. 6:6
C. His territory.
   1. The whole fallen world.

Eph 2:2b
2. He employs:
   a. Mental debasement – he hates light and knowledge. Eph. 4:18
   b. Superstition – he has invented all sorts of false religious systems to meet the worship cravings of people. Acts 17
   c. Pride – the haughty uplifting of the mind against God./
   d. Cruelty – from the pride of the heart comes envied, jealousies, strife's, etc.

II. THE CERTAINTY OF HIS OVERTHROW.
A. This is demanded on the ground of divine glory
THE TRIUMPH OF CHRIST Cont
1. God is not going to allow His
   works to be eternally marred by Satan.
2. God has moved:
   a. To counteract Satan's
      plans. Genesis 3:15
   b. To overthrow his empire.
   c. To rescue souls from his
      grasp.
B. Demanded on the ground of
   divine purpose. Eph 3.
C. Demanded on the ground of
   divine truth, notice God's promises to His
D. Demanded on the ground of
   the victories already achieved – every
   saint is a trophy.
III. THE BASIS ON WHICH THE
   CERTAINTY OF THE TRIUMPH
   RESTS.
   A. By The death of Christ a
      way was opened for sinners to live.
      1. Satan knows about
         God's hatred for sin – therefore, he
         wants to seduce sinners.
      2. Through Christ,
         God's justice is satisfied and the sinner
   B. By the preaching of Christ's
      death, souls are drawn to God. I Cor.
      3:24b.
   C. By the death and
      resurrection of Christ, the prison house
      of the grave is opened. I Cor. 15:35-57

Elvin Crocker At home in glory

A STILL SMALL VOICE
I Kings 19: 9-12

INTRODUCTION
1. Elijah had won a great
   victory against the prophets of Baal.
2. Jezebel had sent a
   messenger to Elijah warning him of
   certain death on the following day.
3. Elijah fled from one woman
   after he had stood boldly before the
   prophets of Baal.

4. God had to teach him some
   lessons.
I. LESSON #1; GOD IS NOT
   ALWAYS IN POWERFUL
   DEMONSTRATIONS
   A. He was not in the great wind that
      rent the mountains and broke the rocks.
      Vs 11a
   B. He was not in the earthquake.
   C. He was not in the fire.
   D. There are many powerful
      demonstrations today that God is not in.
      1. He is not in the Charismatic
         movement.
         a. I Corinthians 13:8-10
         b. Matthew 7:22,23
      2. He is not in the Ecumenical
         movement.
         a. Matthew 16:18
         b. Ephesians 3:21
      3. He is not in the Cults
         movement.
         a. Matthew 7:15-17
         b. I Timothy 4:1-3
II. LESSON #2; GOD CAN
   PRODUCE WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP
   A. Whether an earthquake, fire or
      wind.
   B. Elijah had previously prophesied
      the drought and then prophesied the rain
      that ended the drought.
      1. God could have done it all
         without Elijah's assistance but He chose
         to use Elijah as His mouthpiece.
      C. Today God calls us to preach His
         word and leave the results to Him.
      1. I Corinthians 3:6-7 God
         gave the increase.
      2. I Timothy 4:2; Preach the
         Word.
      D. God does not need our help in
         obtaining salvation.
      1. Ephesians 2:8
      2. Titus 3:5
      3. We do not “get saved”
         (active voice) but we are saved
         (passive voice) by His saving power and
         ability.
A STILL SMALL VOICE  Cont

III. LESSON #3; GOD’S STILL SMALL VOICE IS IMPORTANT
A. The quiet voice of God’s Word.
   1. Through it is quiet does not mean that is does not have power.
      Hebrews 4:12
      2. Psalms 119:9-11
   B. The quiet voice of the Holy Spirit.
      1. He confirms our salvation.
      Romans 8:16, I John 3:24
      2. He convicts us our sin.
      John 16:8, Psalms 51:3
      3. He guides us into all truth.
      John 16:13, Isaiah 30:21
      4. He gives life to the believer.
      II Corinthians 3:6, John 6:63

IV. LESSON #4; GOD’S STILL SMALL VOICE HAD A MESSAGE
A. “Go!” vs. 15
   1. This is the same message that the church has today.
      a. Matthew 28:18-20
      b. Mark 16:15
      c. Acts 1:8
   2. This is the same procedure that was practiced in the early church
      b. Acts 8:5 – Phillip went.
   3. This is the same message God has for all lost sinners
      a. Go to Calvary where Jesus died in our place that we might be saved by His grace through our faith.
      John 3:14-16, John 6:68
      b. Go to Jordan (baptism) that we might identify ourselves with our risen Saviour. Acts 2:41,42; Romans 6:4
      c. Go to church that we might serve our Saviour and receive encouragement through worship, Bible study and fellowship.
      Hebrews 10:25, Ephesians 3:21, Psalms 122:1

CONCLUSION: Time has not silenced the still small voice of God in the hearts of men. The question is: Do we listen? Do we learn? Do we obey?

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Christian Encouragement (2)

HANDLING LIFE’S CRISES
2 Corinthians 1:12 – 2:17

INTRODUCTION – While it is true that a crisis helps to make a person, it also is true that a crisis helps to reveal what a person is make of. How we handle life’s difficulties depends on the kind of character we have. In this letter, Paul revealed the trials he had experienced. What kept Paul from failing?

Others, facing these same crises, would have collapsed. Paul triumphed over the circumstances; one produced this letter that even today helps people experience victory. What were the spiritual resources, which kept Paul going?

I. A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, 1:12-24
A. Conscience: “know” “with” The inner faculty that “knows with” our spirit and approves when we do right, accuses when we do wrong. When one has conscience he has integrity, and can be trusted.
B. False accusations...
   1. Because he had to change plans, he was accused of deception and carelessness,(11) 16:2-8. His plan for two visits changed, to be only one. He had informed them, but it did not silence his foes, vv. 12,17
   2. Misunderstandings are often difficult to correct; one often leads to another.
C. With a clear conscience, you live in the light of the Return of Jesus, v.14. When we stand before Him, all will be corrected.
HANDLING LIFE’S CRISSES Cont

D. With a clear conscience, you will be serious about the will of God, vv. 15-18. When unsure, wait on the Lord to reveal His will.

E. With a clear conscience, you glorify Jesus, vv.19,20. 

F. With a clear conscience, you will be on good terms with the Holy Spirit, vv. 21-24. “Established” a business term guaranteeing the fulfilling of a contract...

1. The Spirit is God’s guarantee

   He is dependable, and that He will accomplish all He has promised. (Careful not to grieve Him)


3. Spirit has sealed us, v.22; Eph. 1:13. Ownership – Authority – Authenticate

4. He enables us to serve others, vv.23,24; not as dictators but as servants who seek to help.

5. He is our “earnest” Eph. 1:14; guarantee of Heaven; He enables us to enjoy Heaven’s blessings today.

   Others, facing these same crises, would have collapsed. Paul triumphed over the circumstances; one produced this letter that even today helps people experience victory. What were the spiritual resources, which kept Paul going?

II. A COMPASSIONATE HEART, 2:1-11.

A. Member of the Corinthian Church had caused Paul pain because of his sin. Note the evidences of Paul’s love...

1. He wrote a stern letter, bathed in love.

2. He knew his words would wound, Prov. 27:6; this pained him. But he knew the difference between hurting and harming.

3. He could have exercised his authority; he chose to persuade them by the power of love, to do what they should.

B. Love seeks to help others grow, vv. 5,6. The sinner was disciplined for his own good...

   1. True discipline is an evidence of love, Heb. 12.

   2. Loving discipline helps the offender.

C. Love forgives and encourages, vv. 7-11...

   1. For the brother’s sake.

   2. For the Lord’s sake, vv. 9,10.

III. A CONQUERING FAITH, 2:12-17

   Humanly speaking it appeared all was lost, with Satan the victor. Except for one thing: conquering faith! He could sin, praise, v.14

   A. He was sure God was leading him, v.14a; Rom. 8:28; This is not an excuse for carelessness, but and encouragement for confidence.

   B. He was sure God was leading him in triumph, v.14b; the figure of the Roman Triumph. This applies today; Jesus our Commander defeated Satan, and claimed the spoils of battle – lost souls (Acts 2: 41; 4:4). We follow Him in triumph. We do not fight for but from victory.

   C. He was sure God was using him as He was leading him, vv. 14c-17. As the Roman priests burned the incense, it affected different ones in different ways. This image pictures the Christian ministry. Believers are incense, exuding the fragrance of Jesus in life and labor... fragrance of death.

   1. To God, we are the fragrance of Jesus Christ.

   2. To other believers, we are the fragrance of life.

   3. To unbeliever, we are the fragrance of death.

OUR SUFFICIENCY IS OF GOD; WE DO NOT HAVE TO FAIL!

G. F. Grumley At home in glory
Grace Missionary Baptist Church
Invites you to submit sermon materials to Sounding Out The Word for publication.

THE WAY OUT
Philosophy says:
THINK your way out;
Indulgence says:
DRINK your way out;
Science says:
INVENT your way out;
Industry says:
WORK your way out;
Communism says:
STRIKE your way out;
Fascism says:
BLUFF your way out;
Militarism says:
FIGHT your way out;
The world says:
ENTERTAIN your way out;
But CHRIST says:
I AM THE WAY OUT!!!!