

The Apostle Paul's Assurance of Salvation By Paul Earnhart

Paul knew that the Son of God came into the world to save sinners (1Tim. 3:15), that He had come into the world not to condemn the world but through Him the world might be saved (John 3:17). Paul knew that we are saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8) and not by works of righteousness that we ourselves have done (Tim. 3:5). Paul knew that God was on the side of sinners and had purposed before the foundation of the world that they should be saved....

It was these truths that gave Paul such confidence about his own future...he would be "present with the Lord" (2Cor. 5:8)...And in that confidence he included not just himself and a few spiritual "superheroes" but "all who had loved His appearing" (2Tim. 4:8).

It is not God's intention that we should spend our days as Christians in constant uncertainty about our eternal destiny. If that were so, how could Paul write that "the kingdom of heaven is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14:17)? ...If we have no assurance of heaven, there can certainly be no peace and joy. But that assurance does not reside in our own worthiness but in what God has done and can do.

So, if you want to go to heaven more than anything and have your heart set on doing the Lord's will above all else, that is exactly what you will do....As our beloved brother Henry Ficklin used to pray, "O Lord, we are not worthy, but worthy is the Lamb." (Excerpt from the 2009 Florida College Lectures, Guard the Trust: Studies in Paul's Letters to Timothy and Titus, p. 56-55)

The Strength of a Man

The strength of a man isn't seen in the width of his shoulders; it's seen in the width of his arms that encircle you.

The strength of a man isn't in the deep tone of his voice; it's in the gentleness of his words.

The strength of a man isn't in how many buddies he has; it's in how good of a buddy he is to his own children.

The strength of a man isn't in how respected he is at work; it's in how respected he is at home.

The strength of a man isn't in how hard he can hit; it's in how tender he touches.

The strength of a man isn't in the hair on his chest; it's in the heart that lies within his chest.

The strength of a man isn't in how he is loved by women; it's in how he can be true to only one woman.

The strength of a man isn't in the amount of weight he can lift; it's in the number of burdens he can carry. (author unknown)

One Day at a Time

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry; two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is yesterday... with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, and its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed. We cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow. Tomorrow is beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise, whether in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, Lord willing. But it will rise, and until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow.

This leaves only one day for which we must be concerned... today. Anyone can fight the battles of just one day. It is when we attempt to add the burdens of those two awful eternities, yesterday and tomorrow, that we break down. Let us therefore live one day at a time. (author unknown)

Ready, Watching, and Waiting

A U.S. Army officer told of the contrast in his pupils during two different eras of teaching at the artillery training school at Fort Sill, Oklahoma (Home of the Field Artillery). In 1958-1960 the attitude was so lax that the instructors had a problem getting the men to stay awake to hear the lectures. During the 1965-1967 classes, however, the men, hearing the same basic lectures, were alert and took notes. What made the difference in the classes of 1965-1967? The students knew that in less than six weeks they would be facing the enemy in Vietnam.

"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing" (Matt. 24:42-46).

Let us be fully aware of the urgency of being ready, watching, and waiting for our Master's return.

A Moments Wisdom

You made your bed; now you lie in it. You can lie there and complain about the fleas, or you can get up and change the sheets.

Not everyone gets to do great deeds in this world, but everyone can do little things with great love.

Bidden or not bidden, God is present

If our boys and girls are not as good as they were when you were a child their age, it may be that they had a much better mother and dad than your child has.

In youth we learn; in age we understand.

Anxiety springs from the desire that things should happen as we wish rather than as God wills.

Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you.

I believe that one reason why churches at this present time have so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the churches.

Lord, please reform the world... beginning with me.

The only place where success comes before work is a dictionary.

The greatest composer does not sit down to work because he is inspired, but becomes inspired because he is working.

It is not doing the thing which we like to do, but liking to do the thing which we have to do, that makes life blessed.

It is better to undertake a large task and get it half done than to undertake nothing and get it all done.

Sometimes even to live is an act of courage.