

## **A More Than Lifetime Guarantee**

Jude 1:24-25

(preached Pine Grove 4/1/18; Sunday AM)

### **Introduction**

I love Best Buy.

I could go broke in a hurry in that store.

I love technology and electronics.

Home theater systems, laptops, smart watches, 4K Ultra HD TVs...

I really have a problem, so I often go in there, get what I need and get out..

Now, checking out at Best Buy is often a difficult task, especially if you are purchasing a large item..

First of all the receipt is about half a mile long, but then you get the dreaded, “would you like to purchase the extended warranty where we guarantee your product for 3 additional years.

Well, I have never purchased that option...

Some of you may, but every time I hear that offer, my grandfather’s voice plays in the back of my head..

Son, there are but guarantees in life...

Death and taxes...

Everything other guarantee can't be trusted beyond the front door of the store..

Now, I realize that my grandad was a little pessimistic in his view of doing business in the world..

In fact, when he died in 1992, we found receipts from places that stretched back to the 1960s that he had saved just in case he ever needed to ask for a warranty...

I also realize that some people do stand behind products and services, so I am not up here to criticize Best Buy at all for their extended warranties..

However, I also realize that my grandfather was essentially right about life..

There are no guarantees here...

In fact, some people do avoid taxes in this world..

So even that saying isn't completely true..

In fact, two people in the history of the world have even avoided death...

Enoch and Elijah in the OT were taken up to heaven without even tasting death...

So are there any guarantees in this world that are 100%?

And the answer to that is clearly yes there are sure fire, bona fide guarantees in this world..

And today on Easter Sunday 2018, I want us to look at one of those guarantees of God in the book of Jude...

For most of you, we have been looking at the book of Jude verse by verse for the past two months...

The outline of the entire book is on the screen behind me, and today we reach the final subpoint of the last main point of the book.

And all throughout the letter, we have understood that the main point of Jude's letter is to encourage the church to defend the Christian faith from false teachers that have been around ever since the beginning of time..

These false teachers are wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing...

They look like Christians.

They talk like Christians.

They act like Christians in public.

But once their mask is off, they are wolves behind closed doors..

They feed on the true sheep of God's flock and they look to lead many away from the flock in order to satisfy their lusts..

And so Jude was called by God to write a letter to encourage the church to be on the lookout for these false teachers ...

So Jude helped us identify them in the verses 4-16 of the opening section of his letter, and then last week in verses 17-23, he offered the antidote to the apostates..

In other words, how do the church prepare ourselves for these false teachers?

Well we learned last week that first of all, the church shouldn't be surprised by their appearance..

Then we were instructed to not be satisfied in our preparation for them...

Therefore, believers need to be always prepared for their attacks by constant study of the word, constant prayer to

God, constant obedience to God, and then constant focus on eternity...

But when we left off last week, Jude told something that may have caught us off guard..

He told in verse 22 and 23 that we must also seek to lead these false teachers to salvation as well..

In other words, it is not enough to protect ourselves and protect the flock, we must also be ready and willing to protect the false teacher from hell by pleading with him to turn from his sin and be saved.

So we were reminded last week that in the fight to contend for the true biblical Christianity, we can't be self-centered but we must think of others who may be under false teaching or even false teachers themselves.

Now, this leads to a natural question...

How do I know that I won't be led astray as a believer in trying to engage with these false teachers and their followers?

Well, easy...

Let's read verses 24-25 of the book of Jude...

***24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and [t]forever. Amen.***

The fourth and final principle of how to vaccinate yourself in the faith and these false teachers is simply..

### **D. Don't Be Shaken (24-25)**

Don't Be Shaken in your fight against them because God will keep all true believers who contend earnestly for the faith...

And may I add that this is a 100% guarantee for every true believer who has ever lived..

God keeps his own safe...

Now, they may die physically but for the true Christian, they are never in danger spiritually...

The God who had the power to call you to salvation.

The God who had the means to give you the faith and repentance to believe the gospel...

Is the same God who assures that you will make it to the very end...

As Jude writes in verse 24, God is able to keep the true believer from stumbling...

In other words, in our fight against false teachers inside and outside the church, our confidence is not in ourselves to stay saved...

Our confidence in the God who guarantees that we will remain saved...

Now, there is no more loved biblical truth than the truth of the eternal security of the believer...

And there is probably no more abused truth than the truth of eternal security of the believer..

This is the truth that is often known by the saying, “Once saved, always saved.”

It is also called the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints...

But what this doctrine teaches is simply that the saved person will remain saved forever..

I affirm this truth in my ministry because the Scriptures teach this truth over and over..

It is seen here in Jude...

It is found in the book of Philippians...

It is found in the letter to the Ephesians...

It is taught by Jesus Himself in every once of the gospels..



It is found in the OT in terms of the salvation of Israel, who tried to throw away their salvation but couldn't..

It is essentially all over the Bible...

Now, let me add this strong word of caution here as well...

Many people have greatly misunderstood this truth in their lives, and many will find out way too late that what some preacher told them about "once saved, always saved" isn't exactly what the Bible taught...

In fact, the Baptist church and many of its pastors have abused this truth for way too long in the preaching and teaching..

In fact, there are people this morning in churches who only come on Easter and Christmas, but hold to the idea of once saved, always saved as their ticket to heaven even though they live like the devil the other 363 days of the year...

Many people will get to heaven, stand before Christ all that they may have lived a pretty rough life but since they were once saved, they have always been saved and expect Christ to let them in the gates of heaven..

Yet, Christ won't say come on in, but rather depart from me, I never knew you...

I don't care what that preacher told you.

My word is what matters and you haven't ever lived by it..

What a sad day that will be for so many people who have be led astray by such a wonderful truth of salvation that was twisted by supposed men of God..

Let me say this clearly this morning....

Those who are truly saved..

Those who have truly repented of their sins...

Those who have truly put their trust in Christ alone to save them...

Those people will truly be kept to the very end...

Those people cannot lose their salvation because those people didn't earn their salvation..

Those people can take on the false teachers of the worse kind who are powered by the fire of hell and never be in danger of being led astray by their lies and deception.

And what an incredible comfort that is to the true believer...

So what is all this idea of truly saved?

Truly repented....

Truly believed...

Look, the Bible is clear...

Words are not always an expression of what is in the heart...

The book of James, the book of 1 John and many other passages in the Bible offer tests of salvation..

Just because you prayed a prayer, walked an aisle, shed a tear or repeated some words that the preacher led you to say is no indication in itself that you were saved...

Now, you may have done any or all of that and be truly saved...

The test of your salvation is not found in what you said one day at one time..

The test of your salvation is how have you lived since that day...

The truly saved are those who came to Christ in repentance and faith and have a change life as evidence of the truthfulness of their profession of faith...

For decades, preachers have told people to raise a hand and walk and aisle and say a prayer and then assured them that they were saved when that occurred...

Brother, now that you are saved, you will stayed saved forever.

But the reality is that the preacher or the counselor or that teacher had no idea what truly happened in that heart...

Unfortunately, those folks have held on to that “once saved, always saved” phrase and continued on the broad road to destruction while thinking they had found the narrow way to life...

Many of them showed up in church this morning to tip their hat to hat...

Pay their respects to the church...

But leave and continue in their sinful ways thinking that heaven awaits them...

What a tragic mistake that is...

Well, in the time we have remaining let us look at these final 2 verses of the book of Jude, let us get a proper perspective of the eternal security of the believer...

And what we are going to see is that the glory of Easter, the glory of the death and resurrection of Christ is right here in Jude 24 and 25...

So why shouldn't be shaken on this Easter morning if we are a believer in Christ?

Why shouldn't we be in fear of being led astray by the false teacher?

Why shouldn't we be anxious in spite of the culture crumbling around us?

Simply put,...

***#1 - We Aren't Shaken Because the Resurrection Guarantees Our Sure Foundation***

Jude writes in verse 24 that we can contend for the faith because God is able to keep us from stumbling into a false religious system...

Let me tell you something that you must embrace if you are to have a proper view of contending for the faith...

You must have a proper view of yourself...

And that proper view of yourself must include your own weaknesses and temptations..

Look, if it were possible for me to be led astray by a false teacher, I would be...

That is how fallen my flesh is...

I will even say this...

If it were possible for me to lose my salvation, I would.

That is how fallen my flesh is..

Yes, I am a new creature in Christ.

Yes, I have been born again with a new heart and new desires..

But let's face it.

If it were up to us to hold on to God, we would all let go a long time ago..

That is why the Bible say that God has us in his hand, because if we only had our hand on God, we would have lost our grip a long time ago.

The resurrection of Christ is a display of the power of God to make it to the very end...

Christ begged for another way to take away sin, but none was available...

God probably desired another way to provide salvation that by crucifying His only Son, but there was no other way...

The resurrection is evidence of God's commitment...

Your salvation is evidence of God's commitment.

You and I don't deserve to stay saved.

Even on our best days, we sin against our Creator..

Yet, God who began a good work in us at salvation will carry to completion by keeping us saved until we breathe our last breath and our salvation becomes a reality...

This is the long suffering commitment of God...

And you need a God like that in the war for truth...

If you are going to try to rescue those in the flames of a false religion, you need the security of knowing that your own heart won't be led astray by their smooth and flattering words...

And your security is that God will keep you according to verse 24...

The Greek word for keep here is Phylaxai...

It is the idea of guarding something...

The same word is used in the Christmas story of Luke 2..

The Shepherds were in the fields keeping watch over their flocks in the night..

What does a shepherd do?

He guards his flock..

He carries a staff to gently guide his sheep on the right path...

And he carries a rod or club to violently fight off predators..

The glory of the doctrine of eternal security is that God is your shepherd...

He keeps you safe...

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will no evil...why?



For you (my shepherd, my God) are with me..

Your rod and your staff they comfort me...

Why would you be comforted by a rod?

Rods aren't comforting.

They are the violent tools of the shepherd, yet they bring comfort to the sheep because the rod protects the sheep from those seeking to harm him...

Look, when the wolves of the false teachers surround you and threaten you, the true sheep of Christ's flock fear no evil because their shepherd keeps them from stumbling or literally from falling...

That's great joy to know the security of your salvation is not based on your ability to stay saved but on God's ability to protect you...

And when you know that, you aren't afraid to fight...

I took swimming lessons as a kid the YMCA in Clinton SC...

I was 7 at the time, but they had classes for kids as young as 2 and 3..

And there was this one little bitty girl who was a fantastic swimmer...

The teach them to swim by using the belts that go around the waist and have a float on their back to help them get i the proper position to swim...

Well, this little girl picked up real quick and she was exceptional...

The only problem was...

She would even get in the pool unless she had that float on..

Well, the instructors tried and tried to get her to take it off and she wouldnt have any part of that...

So, what they did was to find just a belt with no float and put it around her...

And as long as that belt was on she was swimming like a champ...

Would even jump off the high dive, but when you took that belt off, the wasn't getting in...

You see, we all have a need of security in our life...

And we want that security to be visible...

That little girls needed to see the belt to feel safe...

Let me tell you something...

If you are in here this morning as a true believer in Christ, you may see a blue seat holding you up...

But the true picture is that you sitting in God's hands this morning because He has you tighter than you would ever have him...

And thanks be to God that he does have and keep us or else we would quickly let go of Him...

Don't be shaken this morning dear brother and sister in Christ...

The resurrection is proof that God sees his work to the very end..

And because of that, we can obey the letter of Jude and contend for the faith knowing that God will keep us as we fight the forces of evil in and around the church..

The second reason to not be shaken this morning is this...

Not only is God able to keep you, Jude says that God is able to make you stand in the presence of his glory blameless with great joy...

## ***#2 - We Aren't Shaken Because the Resurrection Guarantees Our Sure Standing***

Look, we are eternally secure in this life if we are truly saved, but we are also eternally secure in death..

Though God keeps us in this life, it is appointed for man to die once and then comes the judgment...

Yet even in the presence of the Lord at death, we are eternally secure...

So secure that we will be able to stand in the presence of God...

Now that alone is amazing because everyone who encountered God in the Bible went straight down on his face...

Isaiah, Ezekiel, John were brought low when they came face to face with the Lord...

Yet, in the judgment, the true believers will stand in his presence because they will be blameless...

They will be without sin..

They will be righteous and holy...

And the result of standing in God's presence blameless is nothing but pure joy, which is exactly what Jude says at the end of verse 24...

Can you imagine standing before a holy God and being filled with joy?

That is only possible for the person who has put their trust in Christ..

In fact, Jude says in verse 25 that our ability to stand comes directly through Jesus Christ our Lord...

You see, the one who repents and trusts in Christ alone is now able to stand because of what Christ accomplished on his behalf...

Christ took on sin...

Christ went up on the cross and then down the grave, so that we can stand before God...

We are eternally secure because our sins are eternally gone...

I cannot imagine trying to live a life where I had to stay saved because my sins weren't eternally forgiven..

I could never rest...

My sins would constantly create anxiety in my life...

Am I being good enough?

Have I sinned too much?

The truth is this...

Christ secured my salvation in his life, death, and resurrection...

I had no part in any of it..

In fact, Jude says in verse 25 that all glory, majesty, dominion, and authority belong to the Lord...

And the reason for that is that the believer can't keep himself saved...

And the believer can't deliver himself to God without sin...

The only way that a believer can make it to the end and the only way for the believer to be able to have joy in the presence of God is because of what God has done, and not because of anything that the believer has done..

I am amazed when I hear Christians boast in what they have accomplished in this life..

Let me tell you something...

I wouldn't last a day if it was up to me to keep myself from falling away from the truth..

And I wouldn't stand a chance of being able to stand in God's presence based on my own merits or good works..

I am in the fight contending for the faith every day...

I fight the war for the truth every week in my ministry...

I desire to rescue folks from false religious systems..

I try to help other be built up in their faith, as I try to grow in my own..

But every time I am tempted to think that there is something in me worthy of praise in this fight for the truth, I stop and repent of that prideful thought and thank God for keeping me safe in the battle...

## **Conclusion**

I have looked and read and examined all the incredible truths of salvation...

But there is no sweeter and greater truth about salvation that the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer....

And what a great way to celebrate Easter, to celebrate the resurrection today...

Yes, it is true that Christ lived perfectly.

It is true that Christ died cruelly..

And it is true that Christ rose gloriously..

But that isn't just a feel good story for us to celebrate each spring..

It is the foundation of the gospel..

The life, death, and resurrection of Christ made salvation possible...

But not just any salvation...



The salvation that comes from the life, death, and resurrection of Christ is an eternal salvation for all who truly repent of their sins and put their trust in Christ's finished work.

It is a salvation that will survive our own emotions of not feeling saved at times..

It is a salvation that will survive the difficult trials of life that come our way..

It is a salvation that will survive the forces of darkness as we contend for the faith..

It is a salvation that will survive even our physical death and will lead us to be able to stand before a holy God without the stain of even one sin..

You see, my granddad was wrong.

There are some guarantees in life beyond death and taxes...

In fact, the greatest guarantee of this life is that anyone who turns from their life of sin in repentance and puts their trust in the finished work of Christ will be saved, and they will be saved forever.

In fact, you have God's word on it. Let us pray.