

Security in Christ

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8

Good morning! We’re continuing our series called “Anchored”. In this series, I talked about how we can feel like we’re in the eye of the storm because of struggles we’re going through – our problems, our difficulties, our heartaches – but through it all Jesus Christ is in control, he is the anchor, and as the song we sang earlier says his love surrounds us when our sails are torn.

So, in the past three weeks I tried to stress the fact that we can find our satisfaction in Christ, that he is sufficient for our every need, and that he alone can give us serenity or peace.

Today, another fact I’d like to share with you as I expound this wonderful assurance that Jesus is our anchor is that we can find our security in Christ. And the verse we’re considering is found in Hebrews 13:8. If there’s any verse you’d like to memorize this year, let it be this short verse from Hebrews. Let’s say together, “Hebrews 13:8, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever, NIV” Don’t forget NIV. Just kidding. Actually, if you looked at many of the popular versions we have, the NLT, the NASB, the ESV, the NLT, even the KJV, all say the same exact thing, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever”. Well, maybe a missing “and” in the NLT. Anyway, they’re all the same, they all declare the unchanging nature of Jesus.

Please go back to the previous slide. Now, let’s recite it again...

According to the dictionary, security means the state of being free from danger or threat. Now, we know that there is always danger or threat around us. There is no real security, there is no such thing as perfect security. For example, people work hard for financial security. They perform well at work, invest in stocks, and what-have-you in order to provide a good future for their family.

But we know that you can lose that job at a moment's notice. The stock price can come tumbling down. Some people are so conscious of their health, they go to work-outs, take vitamins, go on a diet, etc. But we know that a disease can strike anyone without warning. Or a woman may try to be the best wife and mother she could be but she may discover later on that her husband is having an affair.

Truth is, there is no security in this world. Because this world is imperfect and people are imperfect. We're all aware of this and this causes feelings of insecurity in us. Not only about our finances and health but also about our relationships.

We all want to feel secure, right? How do we find it? Where do we get it? Those are the questions I'd like to answer this afternoon. What I'd like to share with you is that you can find your security in Christ. I'd like to tell you that even though our circumstances change, there is someone who doesn't change and, therefore, you can always put your trust in him. That person is the Lord Jesus Christ. Your job may change, your health may change, your relationships may change, but Jesus will help you go through all this because he is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

So, let me share with you certain principles we can derive from the fact that Jesus Christ never changes. **Because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever, I am assured that**

1. He is always with me.

Say with me, JESUS IS ALWAYS WITH ME. Say to the person next to you, JESUS IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.

No matter how alone you might feel right now, if you are a Christian, you are never really alone. I understand that loneliness is a horrible thing.

For many it can lead to depression, a feeling of worthlessness, and downright despair.

The good news is that whether you recognize it or not, or feel His presence or not, Jesus is always with you. Even when He seems far away and unavailable, He is still there. When Jesus gave His Great Commission, He ended it with these words:

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” – Matthew 28:20b

Jesus promised that there would never be a time when He would not be with us. He promised that even when He left the earth He would still be our companion – the Holy Spirit would take His place.

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.” – John 14:16

There will never be a time when you do not have God as your companion in life. Even in the worst of times, when things seem to be falling apart all around you, God is still there.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians, *“We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.” – 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NLT)*

I understand that the difficulty in all this is accepting something you can't see, hear, touch or feel. But has God come through for you in other areas? Has He kept His promises? Has he done what He said he would do? If you can trust God for those other things, certainly you can trust Him when He says that He will never, ever leave you.

God gave this promise to Joshua, but I think it also applies to us:
Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

– **Joshua 1:5b (ESV)** In fact, that is repeated in the New Testament in Hebrews 13:5, *“Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.”*

Jesus is always with me. That’s the first principle. And the second, goes like this:

2. He listens to me.

While crossing the Atlantic on an ocean liner, F.B. Meyer, an evangelist and a contemporary of D. L. Moody, was asked to address the first-class passengers. At the captain's request he spoke on "Answered Prayer." An agnostic who was present at the service was asked by his friends, "What did you think of Dr. Meyer's sermon?" He answered, "I didn't believe a word of it." That afternoon Meyer went to speak to the steerage passengers. Many of the listeners at his morning address went along, including the agnostic, who claimed he just wanted to hear "what the babbler had to say."

Before starting for the service, the agnostic put two oranges in his pocket. On his way he passed an elderly woman sitting in her deck chair fast asleep. Her hands were open. In the spirit of fun, the agnostic put the two oranges in her outstretched palms. After the meeting, he saw the old lady happily eating one of the pieces of fruit. "You seem to be enjoying that orange," he remarked with a smile. "Yes, sir," she replied, "My Father is very good to me." "Your father? Surely your father can't be still alive!" "Praise God," she replied, "He is very much alive." "What do you mean?" pressed the agnostic. She explained, "I'll tell you, sir. I have been seasick for days. I was asking God somehow to send me an orange. I suppose I fell asleep while I was praying. When I awoke, I found He had not only sent me one orange but two!" The agnostic was speechless. Later he was converted to Christ.

Who says that God doesn't have a sense of humor? He beat this atheist in his own game. For his glory.

Folks, praying in Jesus' name will bring an answer. I could tell you stories after stories of how God answered my prayers, one of them is being married after searching for so long, and I'm sure you have your own stories to tell.

The psalmist says in **Psalm 4:3, *Know that the Lord has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.***

And in Psalm 34:15

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry;

Isn't it an amazing thing that Jesus who has been for all of eternity, who created the universe around us, who knows everything about everything, is willing to take the time to listen to us when we pray? You have the ears of Jesus! All you need to do is to pray. Come to him. Talk to him.

So, because Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, he assures me that he is always with me, he listens to me and

4. He provides for me.

Missionary statesman Hudson Taylor had complete trust in God's faithfulness. In his journal he wrote:

Our heavenly Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning...

He sustained 3 million Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. We do not expect He will send 3 million missionaries to China; but if He did, He would have ample means to sustain them all... Depend on it; God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.— Philippians 4:19

The promise here is that God is able to supply every need that you have. He has enough riches to go around.

He has the ability to come up with what you need in any given situation. This would apply to our physical needs, but perhaps more so to our spiritual needs.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. – Ephesians 3:20

God is able to bless you, not just in any way, but in a way that will blow your mind. He will do more than you could even think to ask for. And how does He do it? “According to the power at work within us.” That power is most likely a reference to the Holy Spirit who indwells every single person who has given his or her life to Jesus Christ.

When I was a missionary in Russia years and years ago, I was with other young people like me and we would go to schools presenting the gospel with songs, skits, and testimonies. I was one of the guitarists and sometimes worship leader and so I had to carry a guitar with me. The guitar had a case but it was a hard case. Needless to say, it was a bit heavy. And sometimes we walked a long distance. It came to the point that my back started to ache.

One day, it was so bad I said to God, “Lord, I need a massage.” That afternoon, when we were back in our dormitory, our Russian interpreter, Dmitri is his name, who became my friend, came to see me. He brought along his brother. He said, “Rolly, I want you to meet my brother. He’s a doctor.” His brother talked to me, told me about himself, and then he said, “Rolly, do you need a massage?” Imagine my surprise. Then he continued to say that that was his expertise. From that time on, he came to our dorm to give me a backrub three times a week. And my dormmates started to say jokingly to me, “Rolly, you’re a bum.”

Jesus will provide for you. Whether it’s a small need or a big need, he will provide for you. He will never fail you. It may seem long in coming, but it will come.

But I think we need to focus on what the purpose of all provision is ultimately for.

Jesus says in Matthew 6:33,

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Folks, as long as our focus is on the Kingdom of God, and not on our personal desires, God's blessings will continue to pour out.

Jesus is always with me, Jesus listens to me. Jesus provides for me. Those are three principles you can bank on. And the final principle is this

4. He has saved me.

There are a lot of people walking around who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and trusted Him for their salvation who doubt that they are really saved. That is a tragedy, because while I'm sure they are not doing it intentionally, they are, in effect, doubting the very promises of God.

Jesus says:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

In Peter's sermon on Pentecost he declared:

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. – Acts 2:21

Paul the Apostle writes:

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. – Romans 10:9

Now either all of these men – Jesus, Peter, and Paul – are lying, or they are telling the truth. I tend to believe the latter. When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior you are saved. There are no ands, ifs, or buts about it.

Let's look at Jesus' promise in John 5:24:

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. – John 5:24

First He gives the terms of salvation – we must hear and believe. Those who do these things are saved, according to Jesus. But He takes it a step further than that. He says that the person who does those things “has” (which is present tense) “eternal life.” Eternal life, salvation, is the present possession of the believer in Jesus Christ. While there are obviously things we don’t yet know about eternal life and we are not experiencing the full effects of it, the promise is true in the here and now.

Then Jesus says that this person who hears and believes “has passed” (past tense) “from death to life.” This is something that has already happened if you are a believer. It is a done deal. If you have placed your trust in Christ you are saved. This is not something we are hoping for; it is something that we know to be true. Not because of anything we have done, but because we believe the promises that Jesus has given to us.

Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever. Because he never changes, his love for you will never change. There’s nothing you can do or not do that will make him love you more or love you less. His love is constant and steady. The Bible says in **Romans 8:35**, *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?”*

So, you need never be insecure. Because Jesus is always with you, he listens to you, he provides for you, and he has saved you. In him, in fact, you have eternal security.

In John 10:27-29, Jesus also says, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no*

one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand." Folks, that is double security!

The question is: Is this the kind of God you know? Or are you still looking for this kind of God? Look no further for he is not far from you. He could be knocking at the door of your heart and you just need to turn that knob and let him in. Jesus says in Revelation 3:20, *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."*

Jesus says to let him into your heart. Make him your personal Lord and Savior. Believe in what he has done for you on the cross. Admit that you cannot save yourself and only Jesus can. You see, he died, he was buried, and rose again from the dead. If you believe in this simple message of God's salvation, then you are saved and you will in heaven for all eternity.

Maybe that's what you need today. Security in Jesus. If you are restless today, find your rest in Jesus. Augustine once said, "Our hearts are restless until they find rest in you".

Let us bow our heads and pray.