

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
April 9, 2023

Series: Easter 2023

Sermon title: Assurance in the Resurrection

Scripture reading: Romans 8

Pastor Shannon Brown

John G. Paton was a missionary to the New Hebrides in the South Pacific.

He sailed there in 1858 with his wife Mary, who was pregnant and they settled on the island of Tanna, which was full of cannibals.

Three months after their arrival, a son, Peter was born but just 19 days later, Mary died from tropical fever soon to be followed to the grave by the newly born Peter at 36 days of age.

Paton buried his wife and child together, close to their house in Resolution Bay. He spent nights sleeping on their grave to protect them from the local cannibals.

Enduring many years of deprivation, danger from natives and disease, they continued with their work and after many years of patient ministry, the entire island of Aniwa professed Christianity.

In 1899 Paton saw his Aniwa New Testament printed and the establishment of missionaries on twenty-five of the thirty islands of the New Hebrides.

Where did John Paton get this passion, assurance and hope to go to an island of cannibals- even when others in his own church encouraged him not to go?

“Amongst many who sought to deter me, was one dear old Christian gentleman, whose crowning argument always was, “The Cannibals! You will be eaten by Cannibals!”

At last I replied, “Mr. Dickson, you are advanced in years now, and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms; I confess to you, that if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by Cannibals or by worms; and in the Great Day my resurrection body will arise as fair as yours in the likeness of our risen Redeemer.”

[John G Paton, Missionary to the New Hebrides. An Autobiography. (Edinburgh, Scotland; The Banner of Truth Trust; 1994) p. 89-91.]

His confidence and assurance was in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his own future resurrection.
So is ours.

Let's pray.

We have been studying **Romans chapter 8** recently. As I have been reading over **Romans 8**, I see that everything we believe in and everything we hope for is all due to Jesus being alive.

If he isn't alive, we have no **assurance of salvation**.

We have no **assurance of future glory**.

We have no **assurance in** our present **suffering** that it is worth it at all.

Jesus is alive and because he is alive, everything in the Scriptures that we have read in Romans is true.

*[Read **Romans 8**]* 5 minutes

Main idea:

All the assurance we have is due to the Risen Christ.

So, let's walk through **Romans 8** and take a look at all this assurance we have because of Jesus's resurrection.

I. Assurance of salvation verses. 1-17

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

What an assurance we have that our sins are washed away and we are no longer condemned.

And yet if we are not 'in Christ Jesus'..if we don't belong to him...this is not true.

Jesus must be alive, if we are not to be condemned.

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

But there is no Holy Spirit to indwell us if Jesus has not been risen. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us.

Praise be to God that we have the Holy Spirit who indwells us and who gives life to our mortal bodies... this means he is changing and sanctifying us. And he is doing this because the risen Christ sent him to us. If Jesus is dead, we have no Holy Spirit in us.

There is no **putting to death the deeds of the body** by the Spirit if our Lord is dead. **(v. 13)**

There's no **adoption** as sons and daughters. **(v. 15)**

There is no being **children of God**. **(v.16)**

There is no being **heirs** of the kingdom....because there is no kingdom....because there is no KING!

There is no being [fellow heirs with Christ \(v.17\)](#) because the heir himself is dead.....

Oh, but he is not dead.

The assurance of our salvation hangs on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We not only have Assurance of Salvation but we have Assurance of Future Glory.

II. Assurance of future glory [verses. 18-30](#)

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth [comparing with the glory](#) that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the [revealing of the sons of God](#).

What glory can we compare our suffering with?
We compare it with the glory of our resurrection, right?
Our glorification, right?

Well, this depends on Jesus's resurrection.
If he's dead, he has no power to raise us from our graves!

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of

our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Hope? Hope for what?

There is no hope, unless there is ONE to hope in.

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Now, none of us wants to be conformed to a dead man. We hope to be conformed to Jesus; to be changed to be like the living Christ.

Praise be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord that we have real **Assurance of Salvation** and real **Assurance of Future Glory** because of one thing.....Jesus is alive.

We not only have **Assurance of Salvation** and **Assurance of Future Glory** but we also have **Assurance in Suffering** that it is not wasted.

III. Assurance in suffering [verses. 31-39](#)

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare

his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Notice that it says that he will graciously give us all things....but two words are key here..."with him".

If there is no risen Christ, there is no reward in this life. Because all our blessings come to us as adopted children through the natural heir, God the Son.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now, how can we have assurance of all of this?
Only because Christ is alive.

34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Ladies and gentlemen, do you believe Jesus Christ is alive?

The Bible says that he died for sinners, rose on the third day, he ascended into heaven, he is alive and he's at the right hand of God the Father and he is coming back again to judge the world.

Non-Christian, you must surrender to Jesus.
If you don't, you will be condemned by Jesus.
But you don't have to be.

The Bible says in **Romans 10:9**
If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Christian, how blessed you are.
You have Assurance of Salvation because Jesus is alive.
You have Assurance of Future Glory because Jesus is alive.
You have Assurance in Suffering that it is not wasted and will not separate you from Christ....because Jesus is alive.