**Sermon Title: The Source of Assurance Now and Forever, Part 3**

**Sermon Text: Romans 5:5b-8**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to find confidence and stability in the salvation God provides.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 5 present evidences in the believer’s life that provide assurance of salvation.**

**I. The reservoir of the love of God. V.5b**

**II. The resident supplier of the love of God. V.5c**

**III. The rescuer illustrates the love of God. V.6**

**IV. The response of human love contrasted with the revelation of the love of God. V.7**

**V. The revelation of the love of God demonstrated. V.8**

**Introduction:** “John Piper reminds us that God is the gospel, that the gospel is a message about God giving himself to us in love:

 ‘Until the gospel events of Good Friday and Easter and the gospel promises of justification and eternal life lead you to behold and embrace God himself as your highest joy, you have not embraced the gospel of God. You have embraced some of his gifts. You have rejoiced over some of his rewards. You have marveled at some of his miracles**.** But you have not yet been awakened to why the gifts, the rewards, and the miracles have come. They have come for one great reason: that you might behold forever the glory of God in Christ, and by beholding become the kind of person who delights in God above all things, and by delighting display his supreme beauty and worth with ever-increasing brightness and bliss forever.’” [Thabiti M. Anyabwile, *What Is A Healthy Church Member?,* Crossway, Wheaton, Illinois, 2008. p. 42]

**I. The reservoir of the love of God. V.5b**

 The Christian’s hope of future glory is sustained in the present context of tribulations and maturity, because the love of God for them is assured to them by the Holy Spirit’s ministry within the core of their being (our hearts).

 The verb “poured out” connotes an “abundance,” extravagant, overflowing. Paul uses the same verb to depict the “pouring out” of God’s Spirit.

 **Titus 3:6** whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

 **Acts 2:17** `And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

 **Acts 2:28** You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.' **29** "Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, **31** "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. **32** "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

 **John 7:38** "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." **39** But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

 The rivers of blessing can flow out of the believer because they are a reservoir that the Spirit keeps filling to overflowing or abundantly, this includes the provision of divine love from God, that the Spirit pours out into them.

 1. Fire Hydrant

 2. Sprinkler

 3. Dripping Faucet

 4. Dry Tank

**II. The resident supplier of the love of God. V.5c**

 The subject of the verb “the love God” is the Holy Spirit as being the inner witness to the believer of this fact and reality of this experience. This leads us to 2 factual conclusions:

 1. The love of God has been poured out into the heart of every believer abundantly in the past at the moment of salvation/justification.

 2. The Holy Spirit is the present inner witness of that love in the present.

 Therefore the true believer experiences 3 absolute non-negotiable truths:

 a) The Spirit **authorizes** our security. (**John 14:15-21**)

 **John 7:38** "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." **39** But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

 b) The Spirit **accentuates** our desire to live godly. (**Romans 8:16-17, 14; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-8**)

 Our spiritual security is not in our ability to live godly but in the power of the indwelling Spirit to make us godly.

 c) The Spirit **amplifies** our fruitfulness. (**Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 4:30; 3:14-19**)

 We have been given the Holy Spirit as a resident, reigning, reminder of this essential truth.

 Paul’s language reflects the prophetic descriptions of the eschatological gift of God’s Spirit as part of the inauguration of the New Covenant (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**).

 **Joel 2:28** "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.

 **Ezekiel 36:25** "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **26** "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

**III. The rescuer illustrates the love of God. V.6**

 We can be sure of God’s love because He did so much for us when we were:

 1. helpless or without strength. V.6a

 2. we were ungodly. V.6b

 3. we were still sinners. V.8

 4. we were enemies. V.10

 Paul makes clear the point he especially wants to convey here by characterizing the human beings Christ died for as both “godless” and “weak”. “Godless” is a strong pejorative term for Paul in his writing (***Romans 4:5*** *But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,*) without God, and weak “the total incapacity for good.”

 Therefore Christ dying for us in that state demonstrates the “love of God” to us, for us, and in us. Paul never understands the “love of God” apart from the cross of Jesus Christ, and he never thinks of Christ dying for us apart from the Father’s giving and sacrificing of the Son (**Romans 3:25; John 3:16**).

 “And as theologian Charles Hodge observed, ‘If [God] loved us because we loved him, he would love us only so long as we love him, and on that condition; and then our salvation would depend on the constancy of our treacherous hearts. But as God loved us as sinners, as Christ died for us as ungodly, our salvation depends, as the apostle argues, not on our loveliness, but on the constancy of the love of God’”. [John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Romans 1-8*, Moody Press, Chicago, 1991. P.285]

**IV. The response of human love contrasted with the revelation of the love of God. V.7**

 The main point of verse 7 is Paul focusing the reader and hearer on the ‘love of God” manifested in the cross of Christ and all that means, and the fact that this truth and reality is constantly being validated within the believer by the Holy Spirit.

 The point of this verse is that it is uncommon for a person to sacrifice his own life in order to save the life of even someone high in character, but God did it for His enemies.

 Having been saved, we can never be as wretched as we were before salavation/justification and God loved us totally then.

**V. The revelation of the love of God demonstrated. V.8**

 In contrast to the very best of human love is God’s love. The assumption and facts are clear, God’s love is shown best in Christ’s death. Paul finds and defines for us a basic principle of unity, and new identity, between the love of God as it is shown in the objective of the factual event of Christ’s death on the cross and as it is experienced “in the inner man” by the believer as an outworking of the inner working of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

 The word translated “for” Christ died for us, is the Greek preposition (huper) used throughout Scripture in substitution contexts. Jesus died in His enemies place, God must have a substitution to die in the place of sinners, the helpless, the ungodly, the spiritually bankrupted. This act is the greatest love of all.

 **2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.