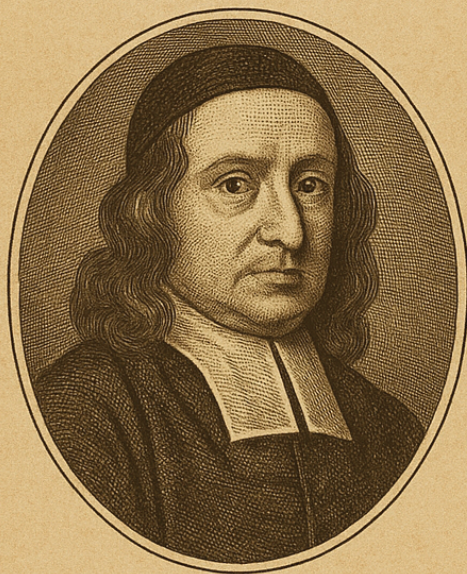


KEACH CONFERENCE

OF THE ASSURANCE OF
GRACE AND SALVATION



SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
YORKTOWN, VA

*We desire that every one of you do
shew the same diligence to the full
assurance of hope unto the end.*

Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation

Paragraph 1

Although temporary believers and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God and in a state of salvation, which hope of theirs shall perish;¹ yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavouring to walk in all good conscience before him, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God,² which hope shall never make them ashamed.³

¹*Job 8:13–14; Matt. 7:22–23,* ²*1 John 2:3, 3:14, 18–19, 21, 24, 5:13,* ³*Rom. 5:2, 5*

Paragraph 2

This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope, but an infallible assurance of faith,⁴ founded on the blood and righteousness of Christ revealed in the Gospel;⁵ and also upon the inward evidence of those graces of the Spirit unto which promises are made,⁶ and on the testimony of the Spirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God;⁷ and, as a fruit thereof, keeping the heart both humble and holy.⁸

⁴*Heb. 6:11, 19,* ⁵*Heb. 6:17–18,* ⁶*2 Pet. 1:4–5, 10–11,* ⁷*Rom. 8:15–16,* ⁸*1 John 3:1–3*

Paragraph 3

This infallible assurance does not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and struggle with many difficulties before he be partaker of it;⁹ yet being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation, in the right use of means, attain thereunto:¹⁰ and therefore it is the duty of every one to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure, that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, the proper fruits of this assurance;¹¹—so far is it from inclining men to looseness.¹²

⁹*Isa. 50:10; Ps. 88; Ps. 77:1–12, ¹⁰1 John 4:13; Heb. 6:11–12, ¹¹Rom. 5:1–2, 5, 14:17; Ps. 119:32,*

¹²*Rom. 6:1–2; Titus 2:11–12, 14*

Paragraph 4

True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as by negligence in preserving of it,¹³ by falling into some special sin which wounds the conscience and grieves the Spirit;¹⁴ by some sudden or vehement temptation,¹⁵ by God's withdrawing the light of his countenance, and suffering even such as fear him to walk in darkness and to have no light,¹⁶ yet are they never destitute of the seed of God¹⁷ and life of faith,¹⁸ that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart and conscience of duty out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may in due time be revived,¹⁹ and by the which, in the meantime, they are preserved from utter despair.²⁰

¹³*Cant. 5:2–3, 6, ¹⁴Ps. 51:8, 12, 14, ¹⁵Ps. 116:11; 77:7–8, 31:22, ¹⁶Ps. 30:7, ¹⁷1 John 3:9, ¹⁸Luke 22:32,*

¹⁹*Ps. 42:5, 11, ²⁰Lam. 3:26–31*

Brothers & Sisters,

We at Redeeming Grace heartily welcome you to this year's Keach Conference. We are distinctly honored to host this year's gathering. Please know that we stand ready to assist you in any way that we can to be able to pray, fellowship, sing, and hear a portion of our confession expounded to us.

Every year when we put together our calendar, this conference is one of our highlights regardless of where it is held. In a day when church membership and confessionalism are not only rare but coming under continuing attack, this bracing reminder and celebration is a renewal of the solid bond that we enjoy as members of the same association.

So, create new friendships, renew old acquaintances and enjoy a kinship that is closer than by blood.

The hymn writer John Fawcett puts it so well:

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

When we are called to part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives
Our courage by the way;
While each in expectation lives
And waits to see the day.

Blessings,
RGBC Elders.

2025 KEACH CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9:00 am

Morning Coffee, Fellowship, & Registration

9:30 am

Session One:

Introduction/Housekeeping

Van Loomis

Prayer

Jeff Riddle

Hymn: "Christus Victor (Amen)"

Dusty Dowdy

Message One:

Jeffery Smith

Believers May Have Assurance in This Life (Paragraph One)

10 Minute Intermission

Hymn: "The Solid Rock"

Dusty Dowdy

Message Two:

Jeffery Smith

The Three Roots of Assurance (Paragraph Two)

Complimentary Lunch

1:00 pm

Session Two:

Prayer

Steve Clevenger

Hymn: "Blessed Assurance"

Dusty Dowdy

Message Three:

Jeffery Smith

The Lack of Assurance in a True Believer (Paragraph Three)

10 Minute Intermission

Prayer

J. Ryan Davidson

Question and Answer Session

Jeffery Smith & Van Loomis

Hymn: "The Lord Is My Salvation"

Dusty Dowdy

Closing Prayer

Van Loomis

Chapter 18 of Second London Baptist Confession:

Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation

I. Believers May Have Assurance in This Life *(Paragraph One)*

- A. The Historical Background
- B. A Concession: The Danger of a False Assurance
- C. An Assertion: The Possibility of a True and Infallible Assurance
 - 1. Many Examples of This in Scripture
 - 2. We Are Often Exhorted and Commanded to Possess and Preserve It

II. The Three Roots of Assurance *(Paragraph Two)*

- A. The Objective Foundation of Assurance
- B. The Subjective Supports of Assurance
- C. The Divine Agent of Assurance

III. The Lack of Assurance in a True Believer *(Paragraph Three)*

- A. A True Believer May Be Lacking a Full Assurance
 - 1. Faith is Based on the Word of God, and God's Word Does Not Identify Anyone by Name as Possessing Eternal Life
 - 2. To Argue that Faith Is Assurance of Salvation Is a Logical Contradiction
 - 3. To Argue that Faith Is Inseparable from a Full Assurance of Salvation Is to Contradict the Experience of Some of God's People in Scripture
 - 4. If Faith Is the Assurance of Salvation, The Exhortations to Believers in Scripture to Attain and Preserve Assurance Would Be Nonsense
- B. A Balancing Truth: Faith Does Contain the Seed of Assurance and a Measure of Assurance: "doth not so belong to the essence of faith"
 - 1. Saving Faith is a Personally Appropriating Faith
 - 2. Saving Faith Receives the Gift of the Indwelling and Assuring Spirit
 - 3. Saving Faith Overcomes Despair

C. Assurance Should Be Pursued

1. Give Diligence to Obtaining Clearer and Fuller Views of The Gospel
2. Give Diligence to Grow in Grace and Practical Godliness
3. Practice Proper Self-Examination
4. Pray for the Witness of the Holy Spirit

D. The Benefits of Assurance

1. Peace and Joy
2. Love and Thankfulness to God
3. Strength and Cheerfulness in the Duties of Obedience

IV. The Decrease and Recovery of Assurance

A. Assurance Can Be Decreased

1. The Possibility of Decreased Assurance
2. Cause of Decreased Assurance
 - a. Negligence in Preserving It
 - b. Falling into Gross, Scandalous Sin
 - c. Sudden and Vehement Temptation
 - d. God Withdrawing the Light of His Countenance
 - i. Sometimes to Teach Us Not to Be Overly Dependent on Our Feelings
 - ii. Sometimes to Cause Us to Examine Ourselves and Discover Hidden Sins We Were Unaware of
 - iii. Sometimes to Equip Us to Be Better Able to Minister to Others
 - iv. Sometimes to Humble and Prepare Us to Receive Some Blessing He Has Purposed for Us

B. Assurance Decreased May Be Recovered

Christus Victor (Amen)

Verse I

O Most High, King of the ages,
Great I AM, God of wonders;
by the blood You have redeemed us;
led us through mighty waters.
Our strength, our song, our sure salvation:

Chorus 1

Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Verse II

O Most High, dwelling among us;
Son of man, sent for sinners.
By Your blood You have redeemed us;
spotless Lamb, mighty Savior
who lived, who died, who rose victorious:

Chorus 2

Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
for the battle You have won.
Hallelujah!
With every tribe and every tongue,
we join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Verse III

O Most High, King of the nations;
robed in praise, crowned with splendor.
On that day, who will not tremble?
When You stand, Christ the Victor
who was, and is, and is forever:

Chorus 2 (two times)

Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
for the battle You have won
Hallelujah!
With every tribe and every tongue,
We join the anthem of the angels
in the triumph of the Son.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

The Solid Rock

Verse I

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

Verse II

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

Verse III

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

Chorus

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

Verse IV

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

Chorus

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

Blessed Assurance

Verse I

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Chorus

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Verse II

Blessed assurance, infallible, pure;
Helping our call and election be sure.
Granting us peace and joy in His love,
Even through trials that we partake of.

Chorus

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Verse III

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Chorus

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

The Lord Is My Salvation

Verse I

The grace of God has reached for me,
And pulled me from the raging sea.
And I am safe on this solid ground:
The Lord is my salvation.

Verse II

I will not fear when darkness falls,
His strength will help me scale these walls.
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun:
The Lord is my salvation.

Chorus

Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save, faithful in love.
My debt is paid and the victory won:
The Lord is my salvation.

Verse III

My hope is hidden in the Lord,
He flow'rs each promise of His Word.
When winter fades, I know spring will come:
The Lord is my salvation.

Verse IV

In times of waiting, times of need,
When I know loss, when I am weak,
I know His grace will renew these days:
The Lord is my salvation.

Chorus

Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save, faithful in love.
My debt is paid and the victory won:
The Lord is my salvation.

Verse V

And when I reach my final day,
He will not leave me in the grave.
But I will rise, He will call me home:
The Lord is my salvation.

Chorus

Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save, faithful in love.
My debt is paid and the victory won:
The Lord is my salvation.

Bridge

Glory be to God, the Father,
Glory be to God, the Son,
Glory be to God, the Spirit;
The Lord is our salvation-

Ending

The Lord is our salvation,
The Lord is our salvation.

Notes

Jeffery S. Smith

Pastor



Jeffery Smith has served as a full-time pastor since graduating from seminary in 1990. In 1994 he was involved in planting Covenant Reformed Baptist Church in Easley, South Carolina, where he ministered for over 15 years. In 2009, Jeff accepted a call to Emmanuel Baptist Church in Coconut Creek, Florida, where he continues to serve as a pastor.

His ministry focus has been upon preaching God's Word and shepherding God's people, but has also extended beyond local church leadership to include ministerial and theological training in the United States, Dominican Republic, Far East, and Colombia. Jeff also chairs the board of directors and teaches for Reformed Baptist Seminary, whose residential campus is located in Coconut Creek.

Jeff is the author of *The Rich Man and Lazarus: Plain Truth About Life After Death* (Evangelical Press) and *Preaching for Conversions* (Free Grace Press), as well as contributing to several other published works. He and his wife, Kelly, are the proud parents of six children—four sons and two daughters—and delight in their growing number of grandchildren.



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