

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

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Sunrise Acres **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

Do You Have Assurance?

By: Brian A. Yeager

When was the last time that you went to the doctor or hospital and the receptionist greeted with anything other than a request for your insurance information? When was the last time you actually heard an office manager at a doctors office ask you how you are doing rather than what will be your form of payment? On the other side of the coin, when was the last time that you filed a claim on any of your many forms of insurance without someone in that insurance company looking for a way not to pay your claim? I don't know about you, but I hate the term "insurance". For me, it always means I'm about to get nailed with a bill when that term comes up.

There are few things in life that we can be certain about. We know for sure that we will either die some day (Psalms 89:48 and Hebrews 9:27), or we will see the Lord coming before we die (I Thessalonians 4:13-17 and Revelation 1:7). We know that God exists (I Corinthians 8:6) and that Judgment Day is sure (John 5:28-29 and II Corinthians 5:10). We know that the things recorded in the word of God, which covers all of what we know for sure, is truth (Psalms 33:4, Psalms 119:89, John 17:17, Titus 1:1-2, and I Peter 1:25). Outside of what God has revealed to us, there is nothing we know for certain.

The fact that everything of this world is temporary is inescapable (II Peter 3:10-11 and I John 2:15-17). So, why is it that everything we have insurance to protect is of this world? Why are people so concerned about insuring that which is certain to perish? I am not saying that insurance is wrong or that you should not insure your possessions. What I am saying is, we seem so intent on protecting that which is sure to be lost. At the same time, many are willing not to think for one second about that which will live beyond this world. The soul of a man (and woman) is going to go on beyond this physical world (Ecclesiastes 12:7, Luke 16:19-31, Luke 23:39-43, Acts 2:22-32, and Matthew 25:31-46). What insurance company will protect you from Hell? What insurance company covers your soul? Do you have **ASSURANCE**?

Do You Have Assurance?

Being in “good hands” is a slogan that refers to have Allstate as your insurance company? I had Allstate for my auto insurance once and I can tell you that they are like all other insurance companies. Insurance companies are out for THEIR profit, not yours. They are businesses looking to make a profit. What ASSURANCE does that give you? Let’s think about the word “assurance” for a moment. The term assurance means: “a positive declaration intended to give confidence; a promise” (New Oxford American Dictionary; 2nd Edition). In the New Testament, we find the term “assurance” in the following passages (KJV):

- *“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead”* (Acts 17:31).
- *“For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ”* (Colossians 2:1-2)
- *“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake”* (I Thessalonians 1:5).
- *“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end”* (Hebrews 6:10-11).
- *“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water”* (Hebrews 10:22).

Consider the lessons in the Scriptures above? Notice that God gives us our ASSURANCE. We receive that assurance through the Gospel (II Timothy 3:14-17). That assurance policy was paid for not by you or I, but by the blood of the only begotten Son of God (I John 1:7, I John 4:9, and Revelation 1:5). For Christians, we realize that puts us into “good hands” for real. We also realize that having assurance means we will not have to worry when it is time to receive the reward. God, unlike insurance companies, keeps His word and plainly declares His terms.

The Big Difference Between God and Insurance Companies

My roof leaked. I called my homeowners insurance company. They’ll send an adjuster. My definition of an adjuster is simple. The insurance adjuster is the person for the insurance company who figures out how to pay you as little as possible, if anything, from YOUR insurance policy. God on the other hand, keeps His promises (Numbers 23:19, Joshua 23:14, I Samuel 15:29, and Hebrews 6:18). God is not interested in using contracts with confusing terms so that you will always be unsure of what God will actually do. God is plain and clear on what He expects from us and what He will do for us (Deuteronomy 27:8 and Ephesians 3:4). God wants us to understand His terms (Ephesians 5:17). God wants us to accept His terms and reap the benefits (I Timothy 2:4 and II Peter 3:9-10).

Conclusion

In whose hands does your fate lie? Do you trust in mankind for assurance? Think about this: *“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man”* (Psalms 118:8). Do you have any comfort at all about what the end result of your life will be? Remove all doubt now. Here is the answer, though there are more details you should know: *“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming”* (I John 2:28).

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).