

2/9/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I apologize that I didn't send out daily devotions the last couple of days. Our dog, Chewy died yesterday.

Christianity is not a religion of doubt or uncertainty. God does not want us to be in the dark about our souls' salvation. He does not want us to be unsure of His love for us.

Since saving grace is universal and complete, it is also certain. It is sure because it rests on God's promises and God cannot lie. "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ." (II Corinthians 1:20; cf. also Hebrews 6:18 and II Timothy 1:2) Nothing can change what He has said. He will always remain faithful to His word. "If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself." (II Timothy 2:13)

Our salvation is certain, not because of anything we have done, but because God has done everything for us. We can be sure of God's grace and love for us, not because we feel loved or feel saved, but because God in His Word has assured us of His love and forgiveness. We don't need evidences of His grace in good health or wealth or success, we have all the evidence we need in the fact that He sacrificed His Son for our sins. Our salvation is therefore sure even when we don't feel saved or loved or when our whole life seems to be crashing down around us. Our certainty rests on the objective truth of God's Word, not on subjective feelings.

We receive the benefits of God's saving grace through faith. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). A person is either a believer or an unbeliever. Faith receives God's grace and blessings. Unbelief rejects them. "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on Him." (John 3:26).

This information comes from a paper presented by Seminary Professor John Brenner entitled "Grace Alone."

...See you in church. Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121 Pastor Alan W. Gumm Phone: 630-947-4317 E-Mail: revagumm@hotmail.com