

The Bedrock of Your Assurance by John Piper

God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit. (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

The Bible speaks of our election — God's choosing us — in Christ before the foundation of the earth (Ephesians 1:4) before we had done anything good or evil (Romans 9:11). Therefore, our election is unconditional in the strictest sense. Neither our faith nor our obedience is the basis of it. It is free and utterly undeserved.

On the other hand, dozens of passages in the Bible speak of our final salvation (as opposed to our election in eternity past) as conditional upon a changed heart and life. So, the question arises, How can I have the assurance that I will persevere in the faith and holiness necessary for inheriting eternal life?

The answer is that assurance is rooted in our election. Second Peter 1:10 says, "Be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and *election*, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall." Divine election is the foundation of God's com-

mitment to save me, and therefore that he will

undertake to work in me by sanctifying grace what his electing grace has begun.

This is the meaning of the new covenant. Everyone who believes in Jesus is a secure beneficiary of the new covenant, because Jesus said in Luke 22:20, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." That is, by my blood I secure the new covenant for all who are mine.

In the new covenant God does not merely command obedience; he gives it. "The Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live" (Deuteronomy 30:6). "I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes" (Ezekiel 36:27; cf. 11:20). Those are new covenant promises.

Election is God's eternal commitment to do this for his people. So, election guarantees that those whom God justifies by faith he will most assuredly glorify (Romans 8:30). This means that he will unfailingly work in us all the conditions laid down for glorification.

Events

TODAY 7th/8th and Vision
Youth Picnic 7 PM
6/2 Flourishers Picnic
at Williams 5:30 PM
6/16 Ladies Missionary
Society 9 AM
6/17 Fellowship Picnic

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

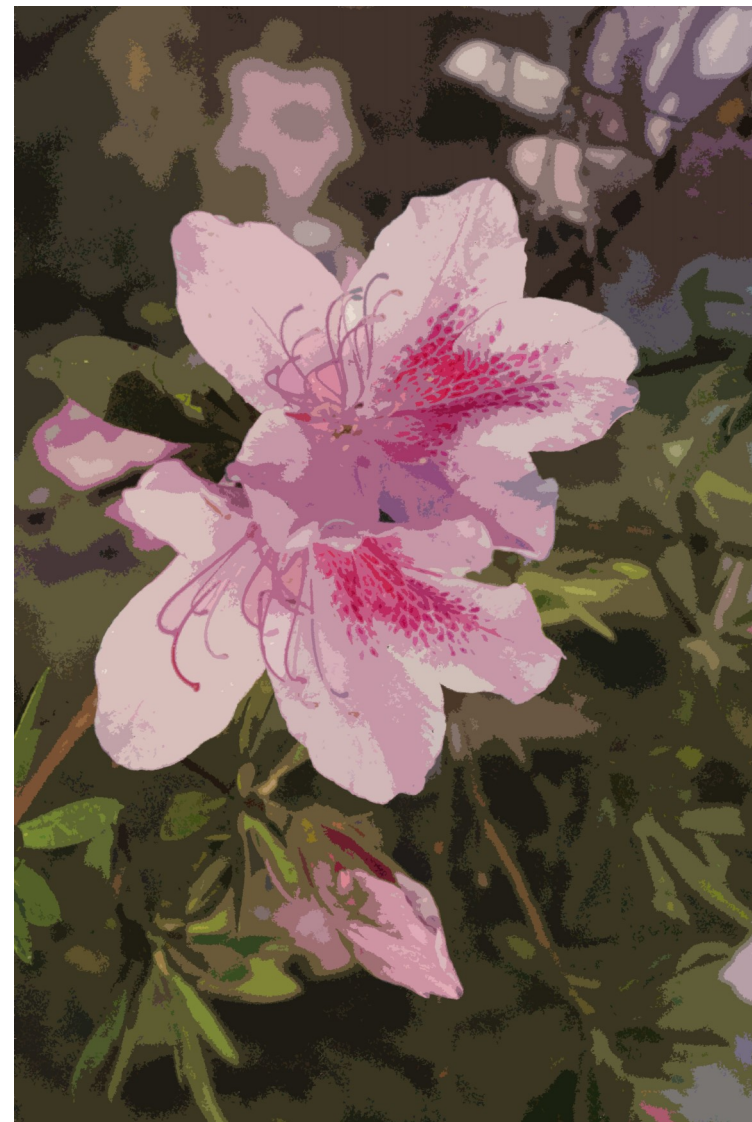
Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton	Michael Lopes

Service Times

— Sunday School 9:30 am
— Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
— Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
— Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249
www.grbc.net

May 27, 2018



**IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST
HE IS A NEW CREATION**

2 Cor 5:17



Traducción simultanea
al español disponible en
servicios de AM y PM

Morning Worship

Call to Worship **Pastor Stu Johnston**

Opening Hymn **#219 Blessing and Honor**

Scripture Reading **John 6:60-71, page 892**

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory **#587 Like a River Glorious**

Preparatory **Speak, O Lord**

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,
to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your Truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in Your likeness;
That the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

2. Teach us Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes; in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built,
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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Sermon **Pastor Andy Dunkerton**

Evening Worship

Call to Worship **Pastor Michael Lopes**

Opening Hymn **In Christ Alone**

In Christ alone, my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this Solid Ground;
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace;
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All; here in the love of Christ I stand!

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died; the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live!

There in the ground His body lay. Light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ!

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny!
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand;
'til He returns or calls me home; here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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Scripture Reading **2 Corinthians 5, page 966**

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory/Preparatory **#393 Come Ye Sinners**

Sermon **Pastor Clint Darst**