Introduction
Assured of Heaven by Bob Ricker
How do I know I’m a Christian?
It has been said that the role of a preacher is to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted.
We will see that masterfully done by the writer of Hebrews in this passage.

I. A Sober Warning. Hebrews 6:4-8
It is a warning against apostasy.
“Apostasy is the deliberate repudiation and abandonment of the faith that one has professed.”
Walter A. Elwell, Evangelical Dictionary of Theology
There are 4 interpretations that are commonly given.

- Actual – It is a warning to Christians who can lose their salvation. (The Arminian View)
- Hypothetical – It is a warning to believers, but because they can’t lose their salvation it is hypothetical.
- Apparent – It refers to professing Christians whose falling away shows that they were never saved in the first place. (Like Judas, Simon Magus, Demas or I John 2:19)
- Rewards – It is a warning to believers, but what is lost is not salvation, but eternal reward. (I Corinthians 3:10-15)

Even though Arminians and Calvinists may disagree, we want the same thing. We want people to be genuinely saved and walk with God all their life.

What made this an especially important topic in the early church was persecution.
Can a person who denies Christ in order to avoid persecution ever be restored to Christ and the church?

II. A Word of Encouragement. Hebrews 6:9-12
Here’s where the tone of the passage changes.

- Dear Friends – beloved.
We are confident.

Of better things – things that accompany salvation.

What gives him that confidence?

The justice of God and the evidence of faith in their life.

Based on that assurance, he calls them to:

Be diligent to the very end.
Make your hope sure.
Not be spiritually lazy.
Imitate those who have gone before you and shown great faith and patience.

“For eighty-six years I have been his servant, and he has never wronged me. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?” Polycarp, Pastor at Smyrna, early 2nd century A.D.

III. A Sure and Certain Hope. Hebrews 6:13-20

What is it that gives us confidence and assurance of our salvation?

We find it in the promises and character of God.

Abraham is a great example of faith and patience.

Called out of a pagan background when he was 75 years old.
It would be 25 years of waiting before Isaac was born.
Then came that momentous day when Abraham was asked to take his son, his only son, and offer him up as a sacrifice.
Because of Abraham’s faith and obedience, God did something extraordinary. He swore an oath to Abraham.

“I swear by myself, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.” Genesis 22:16-17

Why did God swear an oath?

He spoke in a way we would understand to give us a double assurance.

The two unchangeable things are his promise and his oath.

What is our assurance of salvation based upon?

His promises – John 3:16, Romans 10:9-10 and I John 5:11-13
His oath – John 6:37 and 6:40.

Do you want to be saved? Then you can. “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.” Acts 16:31
Conclusion

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

Our anchor is Jesus who has gone before us into the very presence of God.

- It is in Christ that we find the strength to weather the storms of life.
- It is in Christ that we find the assurance of our salvation.