

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



Blessed Assurance

Hymn 67



Special Music

“Travelin On”



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered on the pages.

Call to Worship
Psalm 5:7-10

Psalm 5:7-10 But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue. Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against you.

Blessed Redeemer

Hymn 275



Higher Ground

Hymn 469





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Receiving of the Offering



2 Corinthians 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark; professionals built the Titanic.”

UNKNOWN

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in the center of the book's pages.

Today's Message

“Do Not Grow Weary”

Assurance of God's Love

Scripture text: Hebrews 12:3-17

Hebrews 12:2-4 **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted**. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Look at Jesus Christ! (vv. 2–4) He is “the author [originator] and finisher of our faith.” It was in “looking to Him” that we were saved, for to look means “to trust.” When the dying Jews looked to the uplifted serpent, they were healed; and this is an illustration of our salvation through faith in Christ. “Looking unto Jesus” describes an attitude of faith and not just a single act.

John 3:14-18 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, **so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, **that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but **in order that the world might be saved through him.** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, **because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**

When our Lord was here on earth, He lived by faith. The mystery of His divine and human natures is too profound for us to understand fully, but we do know that He had to trust His Father in heaven as He lived day by day. The writer of Hebrews quoted our Lord saying, “**I will put My trust in Him**” (Heb. 2:13). (The quotation is from Isa. 8:17.) The fact that Jesus *prayed is evidence that He lived by faith.*

Hebrews 2:13 And again, “**I will put my trust in him.**” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

Our Lord endured far more than did any of the heroes of faith named in Hebrews 11, and therefore He is a perfect example for us to follow. **He endured the cross!** This involved shame, suffering, the “contradiction [opposition]” of sinners, and even temporary rejection by the Father. **On the cross He suffered for all the sins of all the world!** Yet He endured and finished the work the Father gave Him to do (John 17:4). Though the readers of Hebrews had suffered persecution, **they had not yet “resisted unto blood”** (Heb. 12:4). None of them was yet a martyr. **But in Jesus’ battle against sin, He shed His own blood.**

What was it that enabled our Lord to endure the cross?

Please keep in mind that, during His ministry on earth, our Lord did not use His divine powers for His own personal needs. Satan tempted Him to do this (Matt. 4:1–4), but Jesus refused. It was our Lord’s faith that enabled Him to endure. He kept the eye of faith on “the joy that was set before Him.” From Psalm 16:8–10, He knew that He would come out of the tomb alive. (Peter referred to this messianic psalm in his sermon at Pentecost, Acts 2:24–33.)

Psalm 16:7-11 I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. **I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.** Therefore my heart is glad, and **my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.** For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; **in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

In that psalm (16:11) David speaks about “**fullness of joy**” in the presence of the Father. Also, from Psalm 110:1, 4, Jesus knew that He would be exalted to heaven in glory. (Peter also quoted this psalm—Acts 2:34–36.) So “**the joy that was set before Him**” would include Jesus’ **completing the Father’s will, His resurrection and exaltation, and His joy in presenting believers to the Father in glory** (Jude 24).

Jude 1:24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

Throughout this epistle, **the writer emphasized the importance of the future hope.**

His readers were prone to look back and **want to go back, but he encouraged them to follow Christ's example and look ahead by faith.** The heroes of faith named in the previous chapter **lived for the future, and this enabled them to endure** (Heb. 11:10, 14–16, 24–27).

Like Peter, when we get our eyes of faith off the Savior, we start to sink (Matt. 14:22–33).

Since Christ is the “**author and finisher of our faith,**” **trusting Him releases His power in our lives.** I could try to follow the example of some great athlete for years and still be a failure. But if, in my younger days, that athlete **could have entered into my life and shared his know-how and ability with me, that would have made me a winner.** Christ is both the exemplar and the enabler! **As we see Him in the Word and yield to His Spirit, He increases our faith and enables us to run the race.**

The Assurance of the Love of God (Heb. 12:5–13)

The key word in this section is chastening. It is a Greek word that means **“child training, instruction, discipline.”**

A Greek boy was expected to **“work out” in the gymnasium until he reached his maturity.** It was a part of his preparation for adult life. The writer viewed the trials of the Christian life as **spiritual discipline that could help a believer mature.** Instead of trying to escape the difficulties of life, **we should rather be “exercised” by them so that we might grow** (Heb. 12:11).

When we are suffering, it is easy to think that God does not love us. So the writer gave **three proofs** that chastening **comes from the Father's heart of love.**

The Scriptures (vv. 5–6). The quotation is from Proverbs 3:11–12, a statement that his readers had known but had forgotten. (This is one of the sad consequences of getting “**dull**” toward the Word)

Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Hebrews 12:5-6 And have you forgotten the **exhortation that addresses you as sons?** "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. **For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."**

This quotation (Heb. 12:5–6) is an **"exhortation,"** which literally means **"encouragement."** Because they **forgot the Word, they lost their encouragement and were ready to give up!**

Hebrews 5:8-14 Although he was a son, **he learned obedience through what he suffered.** And being made perfect, **he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,** being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. **About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, **you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God.** You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, **since he is a child.** But solid food is for the mature, **for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.**

The key words in this quotation are “**son,**” “**children,**” and “**sons.**”

These words are used six times in Hebrews 12:5–8.

They refer to adult sons and not little children. (The word “children” in Heb. 12:5 should be “sons.”)

A parent who would repeatedly chasten an infant child would be considered a monster. **God deals with us as adult sons because we have been adopted and given an adult standing in His family** (see Rom. 8:14–18; Gal. 4:1–7). The fact that the Father chastens us is proof that we are maturing, and **it is the means by which we can mature even more.**

Have Thine Own Way Lord

Hymn 400

