

# Convinced 2024 Pt. 2

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, September 29, 2024

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us. Whether you are here in person or joining via the livestream you are most welcome! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take notes as you like. We have much to cover in a rather short space of time.

## SETTING THE STAGE

**NOTE 1** – Last week we noted that Paul was convinced of a series of abiding realities amidst his life and ministry:

### 1) Paul Was Convinced of the Love of Christ

#### Romans 8:35, 37–39 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am **convinced** that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### 2) Paul Was Convinced that Christ Died for All

#### 2 Corinthians 5:11, 14–15 (Emphasis Mine)

11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. . . . 14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are **convinced** that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

### 3) Paul Was Convinced of Life Eternal and/or Enablement for Life and Ministry

#### 2 Timothy 1:12

12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am **convinced** that he is able to **guard what I have entrusted to him until that day**.

#### 2 Timothy 1:12 (ESV)

12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am **convinced** that he is able to **guard until that day what has been entrusted to me**.

**NOTE 2** – These translations reflect the underlying Greek (“my deposit”). Both are allowable and reflect truth(s).

## A KEY QUESTION

**Q1. Yet what are we convinced of?**

**Q2. What convictions do we live by?**

**NOTE 1** – There is real benefit in considering the convictions of Paul and coming to understand his belief system. Yet it is also necessary to personalize matters and contend with your personal, underlying convictions in Christ.

**NOTE 2** – I want to briefly cover a host of topics worthy of some reflection and/or response. May the following remarks be like good seed that finds fertile soil, bringing forth a mighty spiritual harvest that pleases our Savior!

## CONSIDERATIONS

### 1) TO WHAT DEGREE ARE YOU CONVINCED OF GOD'S LOVE?

**John 3:16 (NIV)**

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**ILL** – A certain medieval monk announced he would be preaching next Sunday evening on "The Love of God." As the shadows fell and the light ceased to come in through the cathedral windows, the congregation gathered. In the darkness of the altar, the monk lighted a candle and carried it to the crucifix. First of all, he illumined the crown of thorns, next, the two wounded hands, then the marks of the spear wound. In the hush that fell, he blew out the candle and left the chancel. There was nothing else to say.

### 2) TO WHAT DEGREE ARE YOU CONVINCED THAT THERE IS FORGIVENESS/PARDON?

**Isaiah 1:18**

18 "Come now, let us settle the matter,"  
says the Lord.

"Though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson,  
they shall be like wool.

**ILL** – In a dream, Martin Luther found himself being attacked by Satan. The devil unrolled a long scroll containing a list of Luther's sins, and held it before him. On reaching the end of the scroll Luther asked the devil, "Is that all?" "No," came the reply, and a second scroll was thrust in front of him. Then, after a second came a third. But now the devil had no more. "You've forgotten something," Luther exclaimed triumphantly. "Quickly write on each of them, 'The blood of Jesus Christ God's son cleanses us from all sins.'"

### 3) TO WHAT DEGREE ARE YOU CONVINCED OF A HOPE BEYOND DEATH?

#### John 14:2–3

2 “My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

**ILL** – Thinking of the fullness and duration of this wonderful life, W. B. Hinson, a great preacher of a past generation, spoke from his own experience just before he died. He said, "I remember a year ago when a doctor told me, 'You have an illness from which you won't recover.' I walked out to where I live 5 miles from Portland, Oregon, and I looked across at that mountain that I love. I looked at the river in which I rejoice, and I looked at the stately trees that are always God's own poetry to my soul. Then in the evening I looked up into the great sky where God was lighting His lamps, and I said, ' I may not see you many more times, but Mountain, I shall be alive when you are gone; and River, I shall be alive when you cease running toward the sea; and Stars, I shall be alive when you have fallen from your sockets in the great down pulling of the material universe!'"

### 4) TO WHAT DEGREE ARE YOU CONVINCED THAT THE LORD IS GOOD?

#### Psalm 145:9

9 The Lord is good to all;  
he has compassion on all he has made.

**ILL** – One of God's faithful missionaries, Allen Gardiner, experienced many physical difficulties and hardships throughout his service to the Savior. Despite his troubles, he said, "While God gives me strength, failure will not daunt me." In 1851, at the age of 57, he died of disease and starvation while serving on Picton Island at the southern tip of South America. When his body was found, his diary lay nearby. It bore the record of hunger, thirst, wounds, and loneliness. The last entry in his little book showed the struggle of his shaking hand as he tried to write legibly. It read, "I am overwhelmed with a sense of the goodness of God."

## CONCLUSION

**NOTE 1** – I would call you to worship through your giving. Feel free to give online or in person.

**NOTE 2** – Many thanks to those who helped with our Family Fun Day yesterday. God bless you all!

**NOTE 3** – Everyone is invited to our Church Picnic taking place after dismissal at the Phelps’ residence.

**NOTE 4** – Women’s Ministry slated for Tuesday evening, October 8 (Patty Noel for updates, etc.).

**NOTE 5** – Our Men’s Breakfast taking place on Saturday, October 12, from 9–10:15am.

#### Numbers 6:24–26

24 The LORD bless you  
and keep you;  
25 the LORD make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
26 the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.