

# A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**

**Chapter 12- Luke 12:10-12**

**234- The Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit- Part 2**

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March 23, 2014

**Luke 12:10-12**

**10** And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him.

**11** When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say;

**12** for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

To the Glory of God

Now the subject we are dealing with today is the very frightening subject of Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, and the fact that Jesus says here in this Passage that we can blaspheme God the Father and we can slander and blaspheme God the Son and still be forgiven, but if we blaspheme God the Holy Spirit we cannot and we will not ever be forgiven.

And I told you last week that this Passage right here in **Luke 12** has been misused, misapplied, and misrepresented probably more than any other Passage in the entire Bible. It is used to silence the critics about unbiblical behavior and practices and beliefs concerning the Holy Spirit. When I was first saved in the early 1970's- this Passage was drilled into me to keep me from saying that clearly unbiblical behavior was just that- unbiblical. And yet the subject of blasphemy is very serious- so we need to know what this means.

So what exactly does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? Some people think it means to deny or to reject anything that anybody does or

says that they attribute to the Holy Spirit. And that puts instant credibility on whatever they do or say because it strikes fear into the heart of God-fearing people.

And the worst and the most bizarre and the most destructive activities have been carried out with little or no resistance due to the fact that anyone who honestly loves Jesus and wants to serve the Lord does not *want* to blaspheme the Holy Spirit- he loves the Holy Spirit and wishes to worship and adore Him. And so out of their respect for the third Person of the Godhead- they are silent about the great sins and excesses and abuses that are done every day- in the Name of the Holy Spirit.

So somebody's tongues, or somebody's encounter with God, or somebody's revelation, or somebody's word of wisdom, or somebody's word of knowledge, or somebody's claim that the Lord led him to do this, or led him to do that, or that God spoke this or that to them- all of that is carried out all the time and when honest Christians use the very tests that God the Holy Spirit put into the Bible to see if those things are from God or not- this verse is thrown in their faces in order to shut them down.

So right of jump street- let me say that this verse has absolutely nothing to do with any of that. It is proper and correct to hold what somebody says or teaches to the Authority of Scripture- and no true Christian Leader has a problem with that- in fact- he *welcomes* it. A true man of God lives in constant fear that he might in some way lead somebody astray and that he might misconstrue a portion of Scripture and deceive somebody. So a true man of God spends an enormous amount of time studying God's Word- but he spends even more time praying- begging God to help him understand the Truth so he can lead the people correctly. So if the man who is leading you is not doing that- then I suggest that you have the wrong man leading you.

We have to understand that the goal of Christianity is that each individual knows *what* he believes and *why* he believes it. Contrary to what the world teaches about the Church- Biblical Christianity has never and will never ask or want "blind faith". Man-made religious systems *have* asked and they *do* want and they *do* require that you have blind faith- but not Biblical Christianity.

The goal of God is that you see and that you hear and that you understand so that your devotion to God and your service of God and

your faithfulness toward God is with joy- that you gladly submit to God and His Ways because you have come to believe that it is not only the way that God is glorified- but it is also the pathway to the fullness of your own joy.

And that requires that your mind and heart be engaged together and that your reasoning capabilities be engaged and that you take in the things that God has said and that God wondrously and sovereignly works in you so that you can grasp the Truth of God.

You see, Truth- Divine Truth does not mind examination. It does not mind questions and analysis- it really doesn't even mind rejection. Divine Truth is true, and, therefore- you can *hate* the Truth and you can *reject* the Truth and you can *discard* the Truth- but you cannot *change* the Truth. Truth was true yesterday and Truth is true today and the Divine Truth of God will be true tomorrow. So simply because somebody doesn't believe or accept or adhere to the Truth today does not mean that God will not deal with that person and he will gladly receive the Truth tomorrow.

So the Church of Jesus is all about Truth and proclaiming that Truth and proclaiming it *loudly* and proclaiming it *clearly* and proclaiming it *repeatedly* and proclaiming it without apology and without hesitation because they know it and believe it to be true and *worthy* of being proclaimed.

Let me clear to you. I do not believe that the lost world out there has any answers to any of life's questions and problems that are true. I believe that the world is wrong about *everything* they do and *everything* they teach and *everything* they try to accomplish. All of it is wrong. Their *answers* are all wrong and their *motive* is all wrong and their *results* are all wrong.

So I want you to have the *right* answers and I want you to understand what it is that you believe and I want you to think and ponder and meditate and grasp the deep and the wide and the high and the hard and the tough and the beautiful and the sweet issues that are infinitely important- eternally important.

And because that is true- therefore- what you are reading and what you are watching and what you are listening to, and what you believe and what you accept and what you are being taught is very, very important. And, therefore, God desires that you find out if what you are

being taught is true and right and holy and godly and that it is what the Holy Bible says so that you will be in right standing with Him.

After all- it was God the Holy Spirit Himself that put those tests in the Bible so that we would have confidence in the men whom God has chosen to lead us. So it is never wrong to ask or to make sure or to check and so that use of the term "blasphemy" has nothing to do with the context of this passage or its meaning. So let's find out what this does mean.

Now last week I told you that the Reformers were clear that we are to interpret the Word of God- not by using personal experiences as so many in the modern Church do today- but by using the Word of God itself to interpret other parts of the Word of God, and so I want to do that by asking you to go to another place in the Bible that teaches the same thing that Jesus was saying here in **Luke 12** and that is another very controversial Passage found in **Hebrews 6**- so please go there with me- **Hebrews 6:1-8**

**1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,**

**2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.**

**3 And this we will do, if God permits.**

**4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,**

**5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,**

**6 and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.**

**7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;**

**8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.**

Now look closely again at the first part of verse 1:

**Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity...**

Now right off the bat you must understand that the writer is *not* talking to Gentile believers in this Epistle. This man was moved upon by God the Holy Spirit to write this inspired and inerrant Epistle to Jews or "Hebrews"- who were divided into three groups:

1. Saved Jews who were born again but still confused about the relationship that the Old Covenant had with the New Covenant
2. Unserved Jews who were *interested* in Jesus and were considering the possibility of trusting Him for Salvation
3. Unserved Jews who were either the family members of the other Jews or friends who were completely *uninterested* in Jesus and couldn't care less about Salvation in any form

Now this man wrote this Epistle to a small Church in what is today Asia Minor that was dominated by Jews in approximately 68 AD- just a few months before the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans which ended Jewish life as they knew it- up to this very day.

So at this time- many of the Jews who were genuinely saved- were still sacrificing animals and were still involved in Jewish Temple Worship and still held the Levitical priests in high regard- even though God had already provided an infinitely superior Covenant brought about through an infinitely superior Sacrifice- offered by an infinitely superior High Priest. The change from the Old Covenant to the New was not a clear line; it was very clumsy and very sloppy and it took several decades before the transition was made. These Jews had a hard time putting the pieces together of what it meant for all that Jesus said and did- hence the need for this Epistle.

Now this 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter has historically been very controversial and there are a wide range of interpretations as to what the writer meant when he wrote it. And that is a shame because if you understand that the writer began talking to the saved Jews, and then periodically he stopped talking to them and he began to address the lost but *interested* Jews, and then he stopped talking to them and he began to address the lost but *uninterested* Jews- and he rotated between these three groups- you can piece this Chapter and this Epistle together rather easily.

So right off jump street- we need to understand that this writer is telling his Jewish listeners to do two things:

1. Leave Something
2. Press on to something else

And the thing that he tells these Jews to “**leave**”- he calls “**The Elementary Teaching about the Christ**”, and the thing he tells them to “**press on to**” he calls “**Mature**”. So from this we know that what the writer is telling these Jews to “leave” is the partial shadowy Old Covenant with its types and signs- which were the *elementary teachings about the Christ*- and what he is telling them to “press on to” is the “mature” and the final, and full, and finished Revelation of God contained in the superior New Covenant.

And then in the rest of verse 1 and all of verse 2- the writer lists those 6 attributes of the Old Covenant that he has already told them to *leave* or to completely *abandon* precisely because- even though all of these Old Covenant aspects are absolutely true- they are also absolute *inferior* when compared to the glorious New Covenant.

And then in verse 3- the writer illustrates the Sovereign Grace of God in allowing those who hear and those who see and those who understand to go ahead and press on to the fullness of God in Jesus Christ through the new Covenant.

And then he comes to the really difficult part to understand in verses 4-6:

**4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,**  
**5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,**  
**6 and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.**

Now as I told you last week- the writer is not writing this portion of inspired Scripture to the Jews who were saved- but to those Jews who were in the other two groups- those Jews who had heard about God all their lives, people who had memorized entire sections of Old Testament Scripture, people who were intimately aware of the great

stories of how God moved to take their fathers out of Egypt and how they got into the Promised Land, and of all their struggles with idolatry and pagan nations, and some of them were interested in coming to Jesus while some of them were not interested at all.

And the writer is telling the unsaved Jews of both groups here that since Jesus was God in human flesh and since the only way to be saved is to repent and trust in the finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ- if they fall away from this Truth, or in other words- if they reject the Gospel- they can't do anything else to be in right standing with God. These Jews are being taught that there is no such thing as going back to the way things were before Jesus came. They could not renew the Old Covenant provisions- so they must come to Jesus or remain lost.

In other words since Jesus is the only game in town- if they reject Jesus- they cannot then go back to animal sacrifices and Old Covenant worship and renew those things that have now been abolished and expect God to forgive and receive them- precisely because God Himself has gone to great lengths to abolish the Old Covenant by bringing in the New.

Another way of looking at this is that the moment that Jesus rose from the dead- the Old Covenant was replaced by the superior New Covenant- even if these people didn't understand that- and, therefore, each and every single component of the Old Covenant that God instituted and that God required of them and that God expected from them was at that moment- forever replaced by the infinitely superior Lord Jesus Christ- Who all by Himself accomplished what the Old Covenant only could dream about.

And since that was true- for any Jew to think that he could reject all that God had done in Jesus Christ and then return back to the inferior Revelation of the Old Covenant and be safe with God was tantamount to spitting in God's Face, and that is neither worship nor pleasing to God.

So this writer is speaking to these unsaved Jews in this Section telling them that it is Jesus or nothing; it is Jesus or hell; it is Jesus or zero because Old Testament Judaism is dead and gone and they cannot ever go back to it.

That is what he is saying here. This has absolutely nothing to do with genuine believers "going too far with God" or of Christians losing their Salvation or of people going into sin so far that they can't ever get

their Salvation back. All of those interpretations are just flat out wrong and they are completely out of context with the main thrust of this entire Epistle, and, therefore, should be rejected by the believer.

And just a few short months after this Epistle was written- God put His Own unmistakable stamp on the total elimination of the Old Covenant in 70AD when the evil and unsaved Titus Vespasian was Sovereignly used by God to bring down God's Wrath upon the unsaved Jews and destroyed the Temple and sacked Jerusalem, and with that- completely ended the entire OT system of worship- to this very day.

Now it is hard for those of us who love and worship Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century- to understand the significance of this event. But everything changed after 70 AD. The cataclysmic event of 70 AD shook the Jews down to their core. Every important aspect of Jewish life was eliminated and they literally had no connection to their past- including the destruction of all their meticulously kept records and genealogies and land titles so that to this day- the Jew can only trace his lineage back to 70 AD and the rest is just guess work.

The 70 AD event was a far more destructive event than when the southern Jews were carried off into Babylon in 586 BC, and when Assyria took away the 10 northern tribes. The Event of 70 AD ended Jewish life as they knew it, and they have never and they will never recover it- because God has Sovereignly decreed that their Old Covenant way of life has been forever replaced by the New Covenant and nobody can ever be in right standing with God anymore by following the tenets of the Old Covenant.

Now please allow me to break this down for you so you can grasp the enormity of all this. Everybody must come to Jesus for Salvation now- Jew or Gentile. It is not enough for a Jew to believe in God- they must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. And all saved people- Jew or Gentile- are automatically a part of Christ's Church- not the nation of Israel. Nationalities are completely irrelevant under the New Covenant; race is completely irrelevant now; culture is completely irrelevant now; customs are completely irrelevant now.

Salvation is not achieved by knowing or loving God- Salvation is only accomplished now by hearing and believing and obeying the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ- period. Nobody talks to God- Jew or Gentile- unless they go through Jesus Christ, nobody knows God unless they know Him through the Lord Jesus Christ, nobody loves God today



unless they love the Lord Jesus Christ, and nobody can even please God apart from knowing and loving and enjoying Jesus Christ.

Those who are saved must confess out loud that Jesus is God Almighty in human flesh, and they must believe in their heart that God approved of all that Jesus said and did, and that He showed His approval by raising Jesus from the dead three day after His Resurrection.

Those who try to worship God today by sacrificing an animal are sinning. Those who go to a priest for that priest to intercede to God for him are sinning. All priesthoods have been eliminated by the New Covenant, dear friends. The Reformers taught the concept that every believer is a priest unto God and we have one mediator between God and Man- the Man Christ Jesus. Those who try to keep God's Law for the purpose of trying to gain God's Favor are sinning. Those who reject the Gospel are sinning. Those who reject the superior Teaching of the New Testament Epistles are sinning- and this is true even if they try to hold on to the first five Books of Moses.

Now to prove to you that this writer shifts back and forth between the Jews who were saved and those who were *not* saved- read the very next four verses – **Hebrews 6:9-12-** with me:

**9 But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way.**

**10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.**

**11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end,**

**12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

So even though the writer used very harsh language to those Jews who were lost in the first 8 verses of this Chapter- he speaks very kindly towards those who were saved here in these four verses and tells them that God will not forget them and he encourages them to hold on and persevere to the end.

Now there is another section of warning just like this found over in **Hebrews 10-** so let's go there for a few minutes- **Hebrews 10:26:**

**For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,**

Now again- this verse has been used by many wayward ministries to strike fear into the heart of people who are wrestling with a particular sin. But like **Hebrews 6**- this verses in **Hebrews 10** has absolutely nothing to do with saved people losing their Salvation. This is simply another warning to those unsaved Jews who have heard the Truth but as of yet- have not repented and trusted in Jesus for Forgiveness and Salvation.

And the writer is warning them that since Jesus is the only game in town- if they reject Him- they have no other sacrifice that can wash their sins away and they will go to hell.

So the phrase here "go on sinning willfully" has nothing to do with a bad habit or a struggle that a genuine believer is having with a particular sin. The "sinning" in mind here is the continued rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ for Salvation by these Jews in the first place.

And these unsaved Jews have "received the knowledge of the Truth" only in the sense that they have heard the Gospel preached rightly and fully and now they must believe and obey.

Now try to keep this logic of Scripture in your mind that we have learned from **Hebrews 6** and let's return back to **Luke 12** to see what Jesus was talking about when He warned people not to blaspheme the Holy Spirit. Please read **Luke 12:10** again:

**And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him.**

Now blasphemy of the Holy Spirit has absolutely nothing to do with somebody rejecting a claim that somebody has a Word from the Lord outside of Scripture or that they have seen a vision or that they have new revelation for the Church or they have the gift of prophecy.

We are told by none other than God the Holy Spirit Himself to test and try what we are being taught and what we are told and hold that Teaching to the Authority of Scripture. And if it is not from Scripture

or if it is contradiction to Scripture- then we are free to reject it and discard it with the blessings of God.

So blaspheming the Holy Spirit is nothing more or less than rejecting the Holy Spirit's Revelation as to the Truth about Jesus Christ. And the reason that you can't be forgiven of this rejection- is because if you reject the Revelation that the Spirit has given us- if you reject the Scripture- if you reject the external Objective Propositional Record of the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ- you can't be saved. That is what this means. And this rejection is not a one- time rejection- because as I said last week- every human on earth has rejected Jesus and rejected the Truth about Jesus at some point in their lives. This rejection is a *final* rejection- a *complete* rejection- a *life-long* rejection that *never* repents and *never* changes and that *never* surrenders.

And so there were some people who not only had heard the teaching but had actually seen Jesus Christ, and they had seen the miracles both done by Christ and the Apostles, and if they reject that Revelation of the Spirit to the Truth of Christ and the Gospel- you can't be saved.

You've just insulted or blasphemed the Holy Spirit. So really this is simply another way of illustrating how important it is to have and to know and to believe the Truth. There will be no forgiveness if there is a *final* and *complete* rejection of Divine Truth because nobody can be saved apart from knowing and believing the Truth about Jesus. Now please turn with me to read **1Thessalonians 5:19** with me:

**Do not quench the Spirit;**

... so how do you quench the Spirit? Look at the very next verse,

**1Thessalonians 5:20**

**do not despise prophetic utterances.**

... and in Biblical terminology- that means "*Do not despise preaching... do not despise Scripture proclamation.*" So how would you quench the Spirit? By despising or belittling the Revelation of God in Scripture about Jesus. That is God the Spirit's Revelation- His disclosure and the heralding or the proclamation of that Revelation through preaching and teaching.

So you "quench" the Spirit when you will not respond to the Truth that God the Holy Spirit has revealed when it is preached. So if you want to escape the damning hypocrisy of false religion- you must honor the Father. And you can only do that by honoring the Son. And that means confessing Jesus as Lord. And you can only honor the Son by honoring the Holy Spirit. And that means by affirming that what the Spirit says about Jesus Christ on the pages of Scripture is the Truth.

Now I want you to look at the final two verses in this Passage in **Luke 12:11&12:**

**11 "When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say;**

**12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."**

Now these two verses are a wonderful Promise to those who do not reject the Spirit's Testimony concerning Jesus but who believe it and are saved.

Now this is a wonderful thing about believing the Holy Spirit. If you will once believe the Holy Spirit concerning the Gospel- you will have the Spirit as your permanent Teacher throughout all your life here on this earth.

If you will believe the testimony of the Spirit of God to the Truth of Jesus Christ- if you will embrace the Gospel and believe in what the Spirit has revealed concerning Jesus Christ- the Promise here is that the Spirit of God will come to take a residence inside you and be there even in the hardest times when you will be literally called on the carpet and your life is on the line and the Spirit of God will sustain you- even at that hour.

Now even though the Jew had a basic and vague knowledge of the Holy Spirit- no Jew comprehended that God the Holy Spirit would ever come and dwell within him forever. That is a decidedly New Covenant Truth that was the startling sign that God gave to John Baptist when he was sent to baptize Jesus. God had told John in **John 1:33&34**

**33 "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'**

### 34 "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

In other words- the Power of the New Covenant is not that the Holy Spirit will come and go as he did under the Old Covenant- but that He will now come and remain with you forever!

To put it another way- once you become a believer in the testimony of the Spirit- the Spirit will *assure* that you will always be a believer in the Spirit's Testimony. And, of course, this is the issue of The Perseverance of the Saints- that great Reformed Doctrine that is part of the Doctrines of Grace.

And this was the great fear in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century as well as today- that somebody would believe in the Holy Spirit and believe in His Testimony concerning Jesus Christ and that person embraces Jesus as Lord and they confess Him as Lord, and, therefore, they are honoring the Father, and the Son, and the Spirit- but down the road they are called before a synagogue tribunal or they are called before a court or they are called to give testimony to Jesus Christ and if they remain faithful- they will lose their freedom and they'll get thrown in prison and they will lose their life.

And the fear is *"I might not be able to make it. I might not be able to hang on. I might not be able to sustain that. I'm too weak. I know my own heart."* That is the great fear, isn't it? And so the Promise from Jesus here in these two verses is that you have nothing to be concerned about. So don't be anxious about anything. Don't worry about what you're going to say in your defense because God the Holy Spirit is going to teach you in that very hour what you should say.

In other words, the Holy Spirit becomes your permanent anointing. And that is what John meant when he wrote this in **1John 2:27**:

**As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.**

This verses does not mean that you have no need for any human being to lead and shepherd you, or that you are free from being submitted and accountable to the Authority of Elders, or that you are

spiritual renegade and you can go wherever you want and believe whatever you want, and that you are autonomous in your walk with God, and you can have no sense of devotion or loyalty or faithfulness to other people. That is *not* what this verse means. This verse is simply another way of saying the same thing that Jesus was talking about in **Luke 12**.

The Spirit becomes your internal Teacher and He will *continue* to keep your faith alive and intact- even in the hardest conditions so that what comes out of your mouth- listen to this- to the very end of your life- no matter what the difficulty- what comes out of your mouth is going to be a confirmation of your affirmed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century- there were five martyrs waiting to die in Lyon, France. These people had been imprisoned by the Catholic Church for their association with John Calvin. They graduated from Calvin's seminary. And they wrote to Calvin and they said,

"Please, sir, tell us what to say when it comes time for us to face the guillotine, tell us what to say."

And Calvin in so many words wrote back and said,

"I don't need to tell you what to say, the Holy Spirit will tell you what to say. You don't need to fear that you'll abandon your faith. You don't need to fear that you won't be up for that hour. You don't need to fear that you will deny Christ. You don't need to fear that because the resident Truth Teacher is going to show you in that very hour what you ought to say. You're going to burst forth in an affirmation and a confession of Jesus as Lord even in the face of your own persecution and execution."

Now look at **Luke 21** for a moment- **Luke 21:10-19**:

**10 "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom,  
11 and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.  
12 "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake.**

- 13 "It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.**  
**14 "So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves;**  
**15 for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.**  
**16 "But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put *some* of you to death,**  
**17 and you will be hated by all because of My name.**  
**18 "Yet not a hair of your head will perish.**  
**19 "By your endurance you will gain your lives.**

... in other words, eternal life will be yours through your endurance. Again, this is an affirmation of the eternality of Salvation- the preservation of your Salvation will be rock solid in the hardest and most horrific threatening circumstance you will endure. Why? Because you have the strength in yourself? No. Because if you could fail- you would fail. If it is possible to lose your Salvation, dear friends- you would lose your Salvation. You will endure because the Holy Spirit will be there affirming your confession of Christ to the very end.

So once you have believed the Revealer- He takes up residence in you and your body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit- Who teaches you all things and Who brings all things to your remembrance and Who shows you Jesus Christ and Who confirms your confession in the greatest times of distress. And this is a Promise of perseverance through the ongoing Ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Read, Foxe's Book of Martyrs and read the testimony of saints and martyrs all through the ages- who have- in the last hour under terrible persecution had the Holy Spirit vindicate this Promise and take heart today that even though we do not know what Tomorrow holds- we know Who holds tomorrow and we know Who holds our hand!

Amen. Let's pray.