

ELEMENT OF WORSHIP:

Assurance of Pardon

God reminds us of his promise of forgiveness in Christ.

DEFINITION

The Assurance of Pardon is God's very Word that all who believe in Christ are forgiven. It is the declaration of the gospel that there is forgiveness for all who trust in Jesus.

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23 (ESV)

DEVOTIONAL

What things in your life are so consistently true that you never really doubt them? Silly things come to mind - grass is green, the sky is blue, flowers bloom in the spring. More than anything, though, the "truthiest" truth you could ever know is that you are eternally forgiven, loved,

and cherished in Christ. Indeed, we know that the flower fades and the grass withers, but it is the Word of the Lord that stands forever (Isaiah 40:8). What does the Word of the Lord declare? That you are forgiven as surely as if God himself takes your sins and hurls them into the sea (Micah 7:19). In the Assurance of Pardon, we take the truth of Romans 8:1, that there is really and truly no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and allow it to wash over us. The Assurance of Pardon is always the Word of God for it is God alone who has the power to forgive sins (Luke 5:17-26).

APPLICATION

What area of your life are you least likely to believe in God's promise for forgiveness? Applying the power of the gospel is difficult in the places we experience the most shame and guilt. And yet, this is exactly where the gospel acts most substantially. Immediately after confessing your sins in your personal devotions, make time to reflect on and celebrate the promise of forgiveness that is yours in Christ. Use the Assurance given each week in the service to help remember the promise.

Merciful and gracious Father, thank you for Jesus. Lord, can you really forgive me? In this moment of fear and doubt, help me to draw near to your throne of grace. Give me confidence not in myself but in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Teach me the truth of your gospel. In the name of Jesus, my Savior and my friend, amen.