

What Church Leaders are saying about Blessed Assurance

Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association

It was our joy to present Jim Winder's superb drama and musical program, Blessed Assurance, for a special evening service in the Ocean Grove (NJ) Tabernacle. What an enlightening and inspiring event! Jim and the team of accomplished musicians interspersed original compositions with his amazingly memorized, and expressive and compelling reciting, of I John. Each section concluded with a probing question that expanded the passages and made them and the musical reflections relevant and persuasive to all in attendance. Outstanding use of lighting helped illuminate and convey the contrast between the confidence of "Blessed Assurance" and the debilitating doubt of uncertainty. The reality and message of I John was demonstrated in a captivating way that made it difficult to leave unchanged. t to leave unchanged.

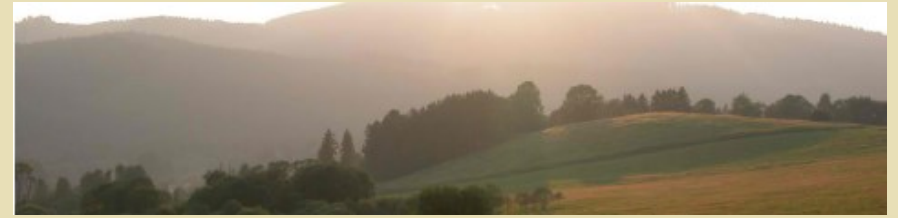
Dale Whilden
Ocean Grove Camp Meeting President

Rehoboth Baptist Church recently hosted the Blessed Assurance Concert presented by Jim Winder and his colleagues. Blessed Assurance is a dramatic, musical presentation of the apostle John's first epistle, better known as 1 John. The quality of the presentation was first class with complete fidelity to the word of God. Jim Winder has committed 1 John to memory (ESV) and combined this with a great collection of original, Scripture based songs. The musical performance was excellent with just the right volume and mix of style.

A few years ago the church also hosted Jim and his friends in their presentation of John Bunyan's Pilgrims Progress (The Hard But The Right Way). The high quality of that earlier presentation convinced us to host Blessed Assurance. We are glad we did. The gospel message was richly and clearly presented and Christ was honored in every way. Highly recommended!

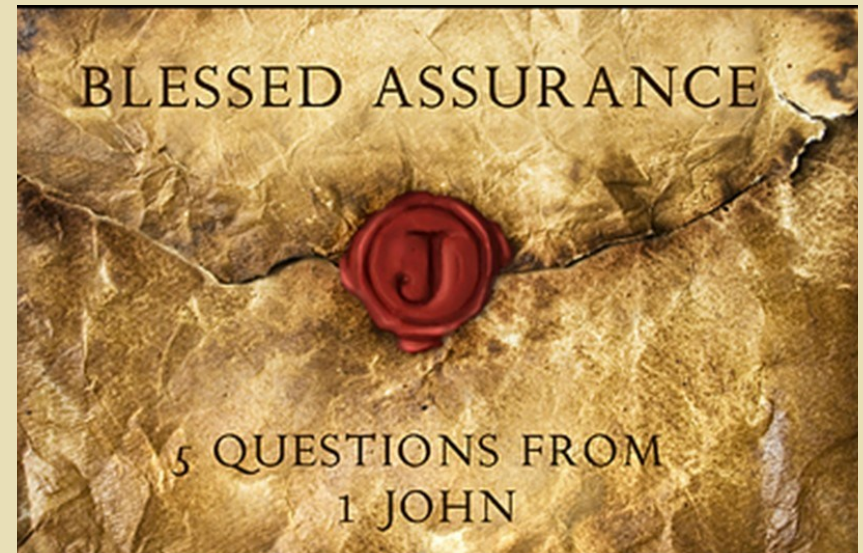
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Your Church...

Presents



John, the son of Zebedee, author of the fourth Gospel as well as 1,2,3 John and Revelation wrote 1 John between 60-100 AD to a church struggling with assurance. Join us for a dramatic, word-for-word delivery of John's letter with new Christian songs grounded in the text.

Date:

Time:

1 John Background

The author of 1 John appears to be writing to a community to which he himself is well-known (and to which he himself may belong). He attempts to reassure those to whom he writes, because their Christian community has undergone a serious split, and a substantial part of the community has withdrawn from fellowship over doctrinal issues. The author of 1 John describes the group that has left as made up of ‘antichrists’ and ‘false prophets’ (strong language by any account). In light of this threat, the author of 1 John is writing both to reassure and strengthen the faithful members of that community, and to warn them to continue to resist the false teachers and their doctrine.

Who wrote 1 John - Although the author’s name is not specifically mentioned in 1 John, the indications within the letter (eyewitness of the life of Jesus, apostolic authority, someone well-known to the readers, and similarities to the Fourth Gospel) are certainly consistent with the traditional ascription of authorship to John the Apostle. 1 John was likely written from Ephesus in 60-100 AD.

John knew his audience well – John often calls them “beloved” and “little children” as would a grandfather who knows his readers intimately. John does not introduce himself nor emphasize his position or title.

John speaks with authority – John is claiming to be an Apostle who heard, saw, and touched Jesus. His delivery is authoritative as an eye-witness who experienced Jesus in the flesh.

John sees the presence of false teachers – John goes as far as to call them “anti-christs” and “false teachers” in this letter. They have spread false teaching, which is hindering the assurance of true believers and fostering a dangerous counterfeit assurance for those following their doctrine.

John sees controversy in progress – John is addressing a current problem. His main goal seems to re-establish right teaching, and He encourages true believers to keep to the old teaching they have received and not gravitate to the new teaching.

John addresses those who left the church – The false teachers once were part of the church but have left. John sees these people as never having been true Christians and their falling away is proof of their unbelief.

John is addressing a doctrinal controversy – John begins by establishing Jesus’ deity and makes it a condition for fellowship with God and in the believing community.

John is adversarial – He uses the “we - they” stance multiple times. John wants to keep more people from following the false doctrine that would inevitably lead to more schism in the church.

John addresses fundamentals about Jesus – John specifically addresses the false teachers’ assertion that Jesus did not in fact come in the flesh. Believing Jesus was truly God and came in the flesh is a test of being a Spirit from God.

1 John is relevant today – It is a timely and necessary thing to test ourselves to affirm that Jesus is in us by faith says Paul in 2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

1 John provides theological and behavioral tests to help true believers rejoice with full assurance.

“I write these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life” - 1 John 5:13

Musicians

Lead Guitar	Mike Lozinski
Bass	Mike Nolan
Drums, Percussion	Jim Oakley
Keyboards, Story audio	Steve Simpson
Guitar, Vocals, Story Telling	Jim Winder