

God Wants You to Know

Lesson for Sunday, April 27, 2025

TEXT: 1 John 5:13-21

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ If you are a parent, what are some things you really want your children to know before they are out on their own? *Allow for some feedback...*
- ⇒ Just like a good parent with their children, our Heavenly Father has certain things that He wants to be sure His children are certain of.
- ⇒ In today's text, John outlines five specific truths.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. We can know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13).
 - a. This verse is really the climax of the entire epistle. John wants us to know that we can know!
 - b. Remember that John is writing at a time when the heresy of Gnosticism was prevalent. At the heart of this false teaching was the idea that you had to obtain a deeper, secret knowledge and in some ways, one could never be 100% certain.
 - c. That is why the key word of 1 John is "know." In an age that said there was no certainty, John proclaimed that we can know.
 - d. Notice, that John implies that one can have eternal life and yet have doubts. But John doesn't want us to doubt – he wants us to know!
 - e. It's a powerful reminder that we are not saved based on what we feel. Our salvation is grounded in the truth of the Gospel and the veracity of God's Word. If you are a child of God, you can know that you have eternal life.
2. We can know that God answers prayer (1 John 5:14-17).
 - a. This isn't the first time John has addressed the topic of prayer in his writing. In 3:22 John taught us that God answers our prayers when we meet two specific requirements:
 - i. We are keeping His commands, and...
 - ii. We are doing those things that please the Lord.
 - b. Now John adds a third requirement: we must ask according to His will.
 - c. When these three requirements are met, we can be confident that God will hear and answer our prayers.
 - d. This ought to change the way that we pray! This demands us to put thought into our prayers. Are we meeting the requirements so we can pray effectively?
3. We can know victory over sin (1 John 5:18).
 - a. In this verse, John makes three powerful affirmations that assure us once again of our victory over sin.
 - b. First, we know that the person born of God does not keep on sinning.
 - i. Sinning is no longer the pattern of his or her life.
 - ii. John is affirming the purity of our lives, not perfection.
 - iii. Our salvation should lead to our sanctification.
 - c. Second, the one who is begotten of God (that's Jesus) keeps or protects him.
 - i. This is a theme throughout the NT – John 17:12; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24.
 - ii. Jesus, by His work on the cross, obtained our salvation.
 - iii. Now, by His work in heaven, He maintains our salvation (Heb. 7:25).

- d. Third, because Jesus protects me, “the wicked one” does not touch me!
 - i. The word “touch” in this verse has the idea of grabbing hold of something with the intent to do harm.
 - ii. Satan may tempt us, but because of the power of Christ he cannot get us.
- 4. We can know that we belong to God (1 John 5:19).
 - a. Christians have a certain and settled knowledge that they are God’s.
 - b. It’s a truth that we must hold on to. We live in enemy territory. Sometimes the opposition we face can be overwhelming. But we rest in the truth that we belong to God.
 - c. Discuss: What difference should this truth make in our daily lives?
- 5. We can know what is true (1 John 5:20-21).
 - a. John ends his letter as he began it: talking about Jesus.
 - b. He affirms the reality of the incarnation, and he affirms that it is Jesus who gives us understanding so that we may know Him who is true in and through Jesus Christ.
 - c. Because of our union with Christ, we understand the truth of the Gospel, we are safe from the evil one, we know the Father, and we abide in Jesus Christ.
 - d. John contrasts the truth (20) with idols (21). Idolatry is anything you love, enjoy or pursue more than God.
 - e. Discuss: What are the common idols that we face in our times and culture? How do we overcome them?

APPLICATION/DISCUSSION:

- ⇒ How does what we know (like these five truths) supposed to impact how we live?
- ⇒ Which of these truths do you find the most difficult to cling to? Why?
- ⇒ In what way is 1 John 5:21 a summary of the entire book? Why is idolatry an issue still today, even in secular cultures?