

What We Know

1 John 5:18-21

Series: A Sure Salvation

1. Introduction –

- a. In wrapping up his epistle, the Apostle labors to give some final commands that sum up the entirety of his letter.
- b. He summarizes this epistle by stating what he, the apostle, and his readers know collectively
 - i. Each of the proceeding three verses start with the words, “We know.”
 - ii. It is important as Christians to remind ourselves of the things that we know about our faith and to hold ourselves accountable to those collective truths.
 - iii. This is what we call doctrine.

2. Verse 18 – The Impossibility of Living a Double Life – We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

- a. John draws on truths that he has already expounded—He states that we know...
 - i. If they are born again of God, they do not sin—that is, they do not persist in the sorts of sin that John writes this epistle to decry and correct. Deadly sins on their part are of no concern.
- b. Why? The one born of God – Christ Himself protects them.
 - i. Jesus brings eternal life—1:2
 - ii. Cleanses us from sin—1:7
 - iii. Intercedes for us in the Father’s presence—2:1
 - iv. Died a propitiatory death—2:2
 - v. Confirms our knowledge of truth—2:20
 - vi. Destroys the devil’s works—3:8
 - vii. Teaches us the meaning and outworking of love—3:16
 - viii. Etc.
- c. If we truly belong to God, we are not to be anxious about the previous warning—we are kept—
 - i. **Doctrine:** Perseverance of the Saints
 - ii. **John 17:11-12** And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one,

even as we are one. (12) While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

iii. **John 10:28-29** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

d. And the evil one does not touch him

- i. There is no illusion here of a discipleship without suffering and great opposition from the evil one—Remember Job, The Baptist, The Apostles, and Christ to name of few.
- ii. Since the son bestows life, even the worst ravages of “the evil one” is short-lived. His worst blows are not eternally lasting

3. Verse 19 – Two Camps – We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

- a. Are of God and born of God are the same thought.
- b. We are the recreation of God through the redeeming work of Christ
 - i. We are his possession
- c. In contrast to believers – the rest of the world lives under the power of the evil one—whether they recognize it or not.
 - i. This should move us to incredible compassion and motivate us to proclaim the only truth that can liberate sinners.
- d. Comparatively – we are to rejoice
 - i. We have been delivered from this incredible woe, and we have fellowship with God.

4. Verse 20 – Truth and the Son – And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

- a. This third we know summarizes all that we have learned in three reminders.
 - i. We know that the Son of God has come
 1. From the incarnation flow all of the good things the epistle affirms.
 2. Because of incarnation we are assured of his return.
 3. The incarnation is the basis of the big picture.

- ii. We know that the Son of God has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true.
 - 1. In truly knowing Christ we can walk in truth.
 - 2. We see the absolute importance of right doctrine in the life of the believer. **DOCTRINE TRULY MATTERS.**
 - iii. We know that we are in the God who is true, because of his Son.
 - 1. God as knowable and the purveyor of all truth.
5. Verse 21 – Idolatry as a Grievous Sin – Little children, keep yourselves from idols.
- a. Little Children – those born of God—believers
 - b. Keep yourselves –
 - i. Imperative – to live rightly and do what we must
 - ii. Sanctification is synergistic
 - c. From idols –
 - i. Most probably to a people who once were idolatrous—hence the imperative to seek eternal life in the only truth.
 - ii. Continuously – to keep ourselves from anything that would supplant itself against God in affection, worship, or duty.
 - iii. This speaks to us—all the Christian life is Christ.
6. Benediction –
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