

The Letters of John

Sunday, February 26, 2017

1 John 5:13-21

Introduction

But these tests also served another purpose: to give greater confidence and assurance to every genuine believer. John gives five things genuine Christians can be assured of now and in the future.

“As Christians we have assurance through Jesus Christ and should not let doubt rule our lives.”

I. Christian Assurances

a) Eternal Life (v.13)

John explicitly states for the first time he wrote this letter. He wrote this letter for his readers ‘to KNOW that you have eternal life.’ John begins (1:1,2) and ends (5:20) with the emphasis of eternal life and its theme runs throughout the letter.

Those that read this letter showed authentic marks of those who believe in Jesus and have eternal life. They continued in the faith proclaimed by the eyewitness, obey the commands of the Lord, and loved the children of God which was the main point of those who have eternal life.

John 20:31 – John’s Gospel – evangelistic appeal to it. Both end on the note of ‘life.’

b) Answered Prayer (v.14-17)

‘And’ – important (NIV leaves this out) – John wants to say that along with eternal life believers experience confidence in our relationship with God and in particular in prayer.

1 John 3:21,22 - Confidence is prayer first mention in John’s letter.

“He hears us...” – do you have confidence God hears you?

v.16,17 – Don’t know all, but certainly a denial of the Deity of Christ would fit.

“John’s point is that prayer for those committing a sin leading to death will not result in the outcome that might otherwise be expected. Although God mercifully does not immediately punish every sin with death, every sin is nonetheless a serious matter to Him. Every sin is a violation of His law and an affront to God, and is to be confessed, forsaken, and mortified.” John MacArthur

c) Victory Over Sin (v.18)

The third assurance we have as Christians is the promise that because we have been born of God and transformed by this new birth we no longer live in an unbroken pattern of sin.

“...but He who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.”
This one who has been born of God speaks of Jesus Christ. He is the great shepherd who will protect his flock from the evil one (Satan) and he can't touch (fasten his grip) us.

John 17:12 – *“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.”*

Satan can tempt and harass us (look at Job and Peter), but he can never reclaim us!

d) We Belong to God (v.19)

What an incredible assurance – we belong to God! We not only have eternal life, answered prayer, victory over sin, but now we KNOW that we are from God!

The world - it lies in the power of the evil one, you don't have to look far and see the truth of this. It doesn't mean we don't participate in this world while we are here, but we must make sure we are not contaminated by it.

e) Jesus Christ's Deity (v.20,21)

John uses the word 'true' three times in this verse and it shows the importance of understanding truth in the midst of a world full of lies. (FAKE NEWS!!!)

It points to the reality of the most significant truth – that Jesus Christ is the TRUE GOD and ETERNAL LIFE. The deity of Jesus is the essential element of the Christian faith and anyone who rejects this cannot be saved.

v.21 – *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols*

John is wanting them to worship the true God – Jesus Christ exclusively! Don't look for life or purpose in anything but Jesus.