

1 John 5

1 John 5.1-12

V1 – Just saying that we have been born again really means nothing

-**What was the test, according to John?** To believe that Jesus is Christ and was born of God

-**If we love somebody, what will be our attitude toward his child?** We will love him

V2 – Love is proven when we observe God's commandments

-A parent will ask his son to take the trash out – that is a test of love

V3 – **But what is wrong with above illustration when it comes to God's commandments?** They are not burdensome

-Some people will not obey the gospel because they say they can't live the Christian way of life (as if it is a great burden and filled with problems)

-But just the opposite is true

-**What are some of the joys that come from the Christian way of life?** Fellowship, peace of mind, a non-destructive lifestyle, etc.

-We are all happier as Christians than we would be if we were not Christians

-A very important passage

V4 – **What allows us to overcome the world?** Our faith

V5 – **What is the nature of our faith?** We believe in Jesus Christ

-John is not afraid to keep hammering away at the issue that was tearing up the congregations of his day

V6 – **How did John identify Jesus here?** The one who came by water and blood

-**What is "water" a reference to?** The baptism of Jesus (*Matthew 3.15*)

-**Blood?** His death on the cross

-Those who do not believe in water baptism sometimes say that the water here is water that came from side of Jesus at the crucifixion (*John 19.34*).

-**Answer?** *John 19.34* – blood came first, then water

-John seems to be taking this in historical order

-He emphasizes on length of Jesus' ministry, from his baptism to his death on the cross

-Remember that Gnostics believed that spirit of Christ left Jesus just before crucifixion

-John is still attacking the Gnostics – Jesus endured the crucifixion

V7 – The Holy Spirit confirms this through the Word

V8 – *1 John 5.7* – considered an uninspired statement that crept into the text of *1 John*

-None of early manuscripts had this verse

-The earliest manuscript was from the fifteenth century

-Bro. Woods: This seems to have been a scribe's note in the margin, which later got put into the text

Read *Gospel Advocate NT Commentary (Peter, John, Jude)*, p. 326, Guy N. Woods

-Proof of Jesus' deity: his baptism (dove and voice), his death, and the Holy Spirit

V 9 – We believe human witnesses, don't we? John: "Who are you going to believe?"

-The witness of God is greater

V 10 – The one who believes in Jesus as the Son of God has the indwelling of Holy Spirit

-To disbelieve in Jesus makes God a liar

-Because God said Jesus was His son (at the baptism of Jesus and on the Mount of Transfiguration)

V 11 – What has God promised us? Eternal life from his son

V 12 – What is John saying about the Gnostics? They are still lost

1 John 5.13-17

V 13 – A great passage

-**In what sense do we "have" eternal life now?** In prospect, not in reality

-We can lose eternal life - **Read 2 Timothy 2.16-18**

-Two men had "gone astray" (Christians had fallen from grace, according to *Galatians 5.4*)

-The believer may cease to believe

V 14 – What confidence do we have as Christians in prayer? He will hear our prayers when we ask according to his will

-**Example of asking for things contrary to his will?** Prayers with selfish motives

V 15 – Notice use of word "know"

-**If God hears us, what else do we know?** That God will answer our prayers

V 16 – Connections with previous verse? We must not pray for something "unscriptural"

[Guy N. Woods has three and a half pages on this one verse, with a long discussion of suicide]

-**What is a sin leading to death?** A sin that a person does not repent of (willful sin, with no repentance) and no desire to change

-**Read Jeremiah 7.16, 11.14**

-**Why should we not pray for that person?** That person cannot get forgiveness without repentance

-**Read Jeremiah 14.11-12**

-Therefore don't pray for unrepentant sinners to be forgiven

V 17 – Sin not leading to death? A sin that we ask forgiveness for

1 John 5.18-21 – Concluding remarks, a summary of everything

V 18 – Notice use of "know" in v 18-21 – four times – three things John knew

-**A Christian does not sin**

-**Once saved always saved?** No, we can reject God

V 19 – We are born of God, even in evil world

V 20 – Jesus has come and has given us understanding and knowledge

-**What attacks on the Gnostics did John make in v 18-20?** End of v 20

V 21 – **What is an idol?** Anything people worship in place of God

-Probably John was referring to how we can make other people idols (we follow them too closely)

-In other words, don't idolize the Gnostics

Urge the class members to buy a copy of Guy N. Woods' commentary

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