Three Certainties We KNOW!

1 John 5:18-21
9-8-2019

Introduction:

You may not know much, but if you know this, you know what is most important!

**** Rest assured, You can KNOW the difference between you as a child of God and the rest of the lost world!***

Since you have been "born of God"

I. You KNOW <u>you can't give your life over to sin</u> or <u>Satan</u> (v.18)
(You know the difference between <u>right</u> and <u>wrong</u>)

Since you have been "born of God"

II. You KNOW <u>you belong to God</u> and <u>not</u> the <u>World</u> (v.19)
(You know the difference between <u>your Father</u> and <u>the world's "father"</u>)

Since you have been "born of God"

III. You KNOW who <u>Jesus Christ is</u> and <u>what He has done for you</u> (v.20-21)
(You know the difference between <u>the true Christ</u> and <u>false Idols</u>)

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I. You KNOW <u>you can't give your life over to</u>_____ or _____ (v.18)
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III. You KNOW who _____ and <u>what He has</u>_____ <u>for you</u> (v.20-21)
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Three Certainties We KNOW!

1 John 5:18-21
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Introduction:

Many things are perplexing, confusing, uncertain. There are many things in life that we may not know.

--How electricity works
--How computers work
--How a rocket flies
--Triginometry
--Nuclear Physics
--The Intricacies of DNA
--How many stars are in outer space, etc.

In verses 18-20, the phrase "we know" occurs in each verse.

I John is the book of assurances; John uses the term "know" over and over throughout.

Vv. 18-21 describe 3 certainties believers can "know".

You may not know much, but if you know this, you know what is most important!

** Rest assured, You can KNOW the difference between you as a child of God and the rest of the lost world!*

Since you have been "born of God"

I. You KNOW you can't give your life over to sin or Satan (v.18)

(You know the difference between right and wrong)

"Is born of God" - perfect passive participle.

1) The new birth begins at a point in time but has continual abiding results (as evident by the perfect tense)

2) The new birth is a work of God (not man) (as evident by the passive voice)

"Sinneth not" - The present tense verb implies a continual or habitual activity. He is not saying that a believer does not have a sin nature or that he does not ever commit acts of sin (I Jn. 1:8; 2:1), but that his life will not be marked by an overwhelming, sold-out-to, unrepentant lifestyle of sin.

"A child of God may sin; but his normal condition is one of resistance to sin" (Findlay, cited by Hiebert, p. 264).

Can such a monster exist as a life-long "unsaintly saint"??

Why is it impossible for a born-again believer to live a lifestyle characterized by sin?

1. He has been transformed ("new creature" - II Cor. 5:17)
2. He has a new nature (Col. 3:10)
3. The Spirit lives inside (Rom. 8:9)
4. God spanks those who are His (Heb. 12:6)

"Keepeth" - to guard; to conscientiously protect

"Himself" - *heauton* - T.R. - a reflexive pronoun, meaning that one who is born of God conscientiously pays careful attention to his relationship to sin.

In this epistle, the born-again believer is identified as one who:

--keeps His "commandments" (2:3, 4; 3:22, 24; 5:2, 3)

--keeps His "word" (2:5)

and now,

--keeps himself

"Keepeth himself" - in v. 21, John again appeals to believers to "keep themselves" from idols.

Prov. 4:23 - Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

It is evident that even in the believer's guarding of his heart, it is God doing it in him (Phil. 2:13 - For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

Christ protects us from the enslavement of Satan. We were slaves to sin, but not anymore. Rom. 6:17-18 - But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Satan cannot recapture the believer. Lk. 22:31-32 -And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have* you, that he may sift *you* as wheat:

> 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

"Wicked one" = Satan

"Ruined himself, his (Satan's) whole purpose and effort are to ruin others. Wickedness is the element in which he lives and delights" (Morgan, cited by Hiebert, p. 267).

"Toucheth him not" - In this context, word "toucheth" means "to lay hold of"; to "grab on to"; to "cling tightly to and not let go" – as in John 20:17, where Jesus said to Mary after His resurrection: "Stop clinging onto Me."

"The verb "touch" (*haptetai*) denotes more than a superficial touch, but rather suggests firm contact. In the middle voice, it means "lay hold on" or "fasten to," and thus conveys the picture of the evil one seeking to fasten his grip on the believer. The present tense depicts his persistent effort." (Hiebert, p. 267).

Middle voice: It means to take to oneself. To capture for oneself.

Satan cannot lay hold of us and keep a Christian captive. He cannot harm or damage our relationship to God.

He can make our physical life miserable at times (EX: Job), but cannot do permanent damage to our spiritual life.

Though the wicked one may "lay a hand" on you, he cannot "lay hold of" you (King, p. 123).

The devil <u>can</u> afflict a Christian physically (EX: Paul's thorn in the flesh came by a messenger of Satan—a demon—I Cor. 12). But the devil cannot latch on to and destroy a Christian spiritually.

God puts as it were an invisible wall of protection around his own. Satan may try to dig his grimy fingers into us and bring us captive, but at every attempt his fingers (as it were) collide with that barrier (whether angelic or otherwise - cp. Heb. 1:14). And we elude his grasp by God's grace.

Since you have been "born of God"

II. You KNOW <u>you belong to God</u> and <u>not</u> the <u>World</u> (v.19)

(You know the difference between <u>your Father</u> and <u>the world's "father"</u>)

"We know" - We have an abiding inner assurance concerning our spiritual origin (Hiebert, p. 267).

'We <u>are</u> of God" - A present fact; a present reality; not merely a future possibility (cp. John 5:24).

"We are of God" - lit. we are from (*ek*) God; i.e. we have our spiritual rebirth from God; we have been begotten of God. He is our Father, we are His children; therefore, we belong to Him; He cares especially for us; He protects us.

"In wickedness" - lit. in the Wicked (one); a reference to Satan as in v. 18.

Lit. "The entire world lies in the wicked one." The imagery is of the world lying unconscious in the devil's lap (lulled to sleep – "Rockabye Baby" - oblivious to their dangerous position and predicament).

The unconverted are passively under the complete control and domination of the wicked one. At any time he wants, he pulls the strings and his people like puppets obey his bidding.

Therefore, it does not surprise me when the world acts wickedly.

What are the marks of someone who is lying in the comfortable lap of Satan?

1. They are very <u>content</u> to be without Christ and His salvation.

2. They assume (by their seemingly comfortable life) that <u>all is well</u> (nothing to worry about)

3. They do <u>not want to be disturbed</u>**!** When you shake their cradle with the gospel, they get upset.

4. They are very <u>sleepy</u> (in a deep fog) regarding spiritual things.

   [They are not tuned in; if they come to a Bible-preaching church, they sit there like zombies and remain unaffected by the Bible's truth.]

The world (in its masses of humanity) will always be "nonresistant" to the deceptions of Satan.

"The <u>whole</u> world" - no one excluded; even those who assume they are "their own man" and under no one's control or influence, are deceived by Satan as he smiles at their delusion and cradles them in his arms.

Jesus described Satan as the "ruler of this world" (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).

Paul described Satan as the "god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4) and the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2).

All people belong to one of two categories. You are on one side or the other (no middle ground, no other alternatives).

You either belong to God or you belong to the Devil. As John said previously, You either have the Son or you do not; life or no life (5:12).

Since you have been "born of God"

III. You KNOW who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for you (v.20-21)

(You know the difference between the true Christ and false Idols)

v. 20

"the Son of God is come" - Deity entered the human race; we are not waiting for the Messiah's first coming; He has already come in the flesh (4:2-3).

"Hath given us an understanding" - (*dianoia* - insight or discernment) Our spiritual understanding of God does not originate with us. It comes from Jesus Christ. It is the Spirit of Christ who illuminates or enlightens our minds as to who God is and what He has done based on the Scriptures. Lk. 24:45 - Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

"Know Him" - Jesus has brought us to the point where we not only know about God, but we really know God.

We don't merely know theological, conceptual truth, but we know the Person of Truth, yea, the exclusive source of all Truth: God Himself.

Not only has Christ given us an understanding that we might know Him personally, but that we might know Him relationally.

"In Him" - i.e. we have a relationship with God; we are in His family; we dwell in an abiding oneness with our Heavenly Lord.

The theme of the believer's union to Christ is repeated over and over in John (2:5, 24, 27-28; 3:24; 4:4, 12-13, 15-16).

We are not only "in" the Father (the True One), but because of the oneness of essence between the Father and the Son, we are also **"in His Son."**

The only reason you are in unity with God is because you are in unity with His Son (Jn. 14:6; I Jn. 2:23).

"This is the true God" - Who does the "this" refer to?

1. It naturally and most obviously refers to the closest antecedent in the sentence; and that is "His Son Jesus Christ."

2. "To make the clause refer back to the Father makes it repetitious and superfluous."

3. In this epistle (1:2; 5:12), as well as in the fourth gospel (11:25; 14:6), Christ is called the Life.

4. As in the fourth gospel (1:1; 20:28), this view fittingly ascribes full deity to Jesus Christ both at the beginning and at the end of the epistle (1:2; 5:20) (Hiebert, p. 271).

Just as John clearly emphasized that Jesus was God in his gospel, so he emphasizes this grand (yet mysterious to the lost world) truth as he closes this epistle.

Jesus is the true God (hence, to have Him is to have God).

Jesus is eternal life (hence, to have Him is to have everlasting life - cp. 5:11-12).

"Eternal life" is a know-so matter:

> --I John 5:13 - These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

> --Rom. 8:38f - For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

> --II Tim. 1:12 - For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

v. 21

"Keep yourselves from idols" - An appropriate ending to this epistle.

In context, Christ is the true God. Any idol is a false god any substitute for Christ.

An idol is not merely a man-made object of worship (although it includes this).
Psalm 135:15 The idols of the heathen [are] silver and gold, the work of men's hands.
Rev. 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

The Bible also speaks of "idols of the heart"

"An idol is anything which occupies the place due to God" (Westcott, cited by Hiebert, p. 273).

An idol is any God substitute:

It may be a:

- Man-made object of worship
- Person or relationship
- Selfish lust
- False object of trust
- Religion without Christ
- Vice or obsession
- Music Star or celebrity
- Sports hero
- Recreation
- Entertainment which preoccupies your day & night
- Career or Job which captures all of your time & attention
- Money or materialism
- A material possession as a house or car
- Any created thing (such as animals/Sun/Moon or Stars)

Anything you love more than God is an idol.

An idol is anything that distracts you from "the true God" (v. 20).

"Keep yourselves" - shows that conscientious personal effort is required on our part.