

## I. INTRODUCTION.

-  A. Scripture text: **1John 5:1-12.**
-  B. We continue our look at the letters of John.
- C. In our previous lessons from 1Jn. 3,4; we saw:
  - 1. The necessity of a life of purity (1Jn. 3:10).  
*By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*
  - 2. The necessity of loving the brethren (1Jn. 3:16).  
*We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*
  - 3. That love is essential in our relationships, because God is love (1Jn. 4:7,8).  
*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. [8] The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*
- C. Tonight, we look at the victorious, overcoming life of a Xian.

## II. FAITH IN JESUS DEMANDS OUR LOVING THE BRETHREN.

-  A. The text (1Jn. 5:1-3):  
*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. [2] By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. [3] For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.*
- B. John's statement in 5:1 is tied to 4:20,21.  
*(1Jn 4:20-21) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. [21] And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.*
- C. In this context, believing is more than a mental adherence, it is a conviction about the incarnation.
- D. Loving God expresses itself in:
  - 1. Our love for the brethren.
  - 2. Our keeping His commandments.
- E. Why should we love the brethren? Because God loves them!
- F. God's commandments, including a love for the brethren, are not a burden (grievous). It is this lifestyle that works to our benefit.

## III. THE ROOT OF OUR VICTORY.

-  A. The text (1Jn. 5:4,5):  
*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. [5] And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*
- B. Faith is the root of our victory.
- C. John uses the word "whosoever" in 5:1 and the word "whatsoever" in 5:4. I believe the NIV to be in error on this verse. John is telling us that everything that is of God is for our victorious (overcoming the world) lifestyle in X:
  - 1. Faith is victorious!
  - 2. Love is victorious!
  - 3. Repentance is victorious!
  - 4. The church is victorious!
  - 5. Righteousness is victorious!
  - 6. The Word of God is victorious!
- D. John speaks of victory:
  - 1. Victory over the evil one (1Jn. 2:13,14).  
*I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. [14] I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the*

beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

2. Victory over the false teaching (1Jn. 2:26; 4:4).  
**(1Jn 2:26)** These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.  
**(1Jn 4:4)** You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.
3. Victory over the flesh (1Jn. 2:15-17).  
Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. [17] And the world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.
4. Victory at the judgment (1Jn. 2:28; 4:17,18).  
**(1Jn 2:28)** And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.  
**(1Jn 4:17-18)** By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. [18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

#### IV. WITNESSES TO THE INCARNATE JESUS CHRIST.



- A. The text (1Jn. 5:6-8):  
This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. [7] And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth. [8] For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.
- B. The section of Scripture has been used many times as a teaching on baptism, but I find the context will not support it. One of the main themes of 1John is the incarnate Jesus, and John's argument here is that there are three things that give witness (testimony) to Jesus being deity in the flesh.
- C. One of the false teachings of John's day was that Jesus only became deity at His baptism, and gave up that deity just before He died. John says that Jesus was always deity!
- D. The witnesses are:
  1. Water -- This refers to the fact that Jesus was divine at His baptism (not ours).
  2. Spirit -- This refers to the fact that the HS has testified that Jesus is divine.
  3. Blood -- This refers to the fact that Jesus was divine when He died on the cross.
- E. 1John 5:7,8 read differently in the KJV than they do in other versions. Unfortunately, there is an addition to the text in the KJV than is omitted in other versions. The KJV is a translation that came about based on the Latin Vulgate. The insertions appeared erroneously in the Latin texts, and were kept in the KJV. The KJV does not teach false doctrine by this insertion, but it is not necessary.
  1. In 5:7; "in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost" is not in the original Greek.
  2. In 5:8; "in earth" is not in the original Greek.
- F. The water, the Spirit, and the blood are in agreement that Jesus is deity from the time of conception through His ascension. And, of course, He remains deity as He resides in heaven.

#### V. ETERNAL LIFE -- PROMISE OR FACT?



- A. The text (1Jn. 5:9-12):  
If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for the witness of God is this, that He has borne witness concerning His Son. [10] The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son. [11] And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. [12] He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- B. John is telling us we do not have to accept the word of men concerning eternal life. The testimony of God is greater than the testimony of men (see 5:9).
- C. God's testimony is that Jesus is His Son (see 5:11). And everyone who believes that testimony is it in themselves (see 5:10).
- D. Believing this testimony means eternal life! (see 5:11).

- E. Believing means present possession contingent upon fidelity to death (Heb. 3:14; Rev. 2:10; Eph. 1:13,14; 2Pet. 1:10,11).

**(Heb 3:14)** For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end;

**(Rev 2:10)** ‘Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

**(Eph 1:13-14)** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, [14] who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

**(2Pet 1:10-11)** Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; [11] for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

## VI. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.



- A. Faith is the victory!
- B. Faith in the incarnate X brings love for God, the brethren, and eternal life.
- C. Do you believe in Jesus as the Son of God? To do so with lifelong fidelity means eternal life!
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.