

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1John 5:1-21**.
- B. For the Elder/Preacher Symposium; Decatur, IL.
- C. Outline from J .W. Roberts, *The Letters of John*, The Living Word Commentary.

I. THE PRACTICALITY OF LOVE.

- A. Scripture text: 1Jn. 5:1-4.
- B. Verse 1:
In syllogistic form the statement can be understood as follows;
Everyone with obedient faith in X is a child of God.
Every child of God loves the Father.
Therefore, everyone with obedient faith loves God.
Everyone with obedient faith loves God.
Everyone that loves God loves God's children.
Therefore, everyone with obedient faith loves the children of God.
- C. Verse 2:
This thought echoes Jesus' words in Jn. 14:15, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.
- D. Verse 3:
Not simply obedience, but joyful obedience! Jesus promised that His yoke was easy and His burden light (Mt. 11:30) unlike the burdens of the Pharisees which was heavy and hard to bear (Mt. 23:4). Imagine turning statues into songs. Suppose the local symphony presented a concert of the traffic code set to music! Yet, the Psalms does just that with God's word. Christians love the law of God enough to sing about it.
- E. Verse 4:
By faith we are born again. We now belong to Christ and have the victory that is in Him. Jesus has overcome the world (Jn. 16:33), and by faith and love we also overcome world. A

II. THE VICTORY OVER THE WORLD.

- A. Scripture text: 1Jn. 5:5-12.
- B. Verse 5:
Belief in this verse is more than simply saying what God says is true; true faith is acting on what God says because it is true. People slip back into the world in stages, and so must they respond to Christ in stages.

<u>Falling Away</u>	<u>Becoming Faithful</u>
1. Friendship with the world (Jas. 4:4).	1. Initial belief (Heb. 11:6).
2. Spotted by the world (Jas. 1:27).	2. Beginning belief (Ac. 4:12; Jn. 8:24).
3. Loving the world (1Jn. 2:15-17)	3. Obedience belief (Jn. 3:36; Ac. 16:31; Jas 2:19).
4. Conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2).	4. Maturing belief (Mt. 5:16; 2Cor. 4:13; 2Tim. 1:12).
- C. Verses 6-8:
To help combat many false doctrines concerning Christ (His deity, His fleshly nature, etc.) John gives three witnesses that testify to Jesus being the promised Messiah, the Son of God incarnate.

<u>At the Time of Christ</u>	<u>At the Time of John's Writing</u>
1. The Water (Jesus baptism by John)	1. The Water (Christ's baptism for forgiveness).
2. The Blood (Jesus death at Calvary).	2. The Blood (The Lord's Supper).
3. The Spirit (working miracles by Christ).	3. The Spirit (the Word confirmed).

D. Verses 9,10:

1. The Law required two or three witnesses for a matter to be settled (Deut. 19:15); and John supplies three witnesses that every fact about Jesus may be confirmed in the hearts of Christians. If the witness of two or three men can establish every fact, then the witness of God is even greater (it can establish the facts of deity, and spiritual blessings).
2. The Christian has this witness in himself by virtue of his obedience to Christ. He believes in his heart about the water, blood, and Spirit working in the ministry of Christ, and believes in his heart that the water, blood, and Spirit are working in his own life. To dismiss these three witnesses is to call God a liar, and reject the testimony provided that one might believe in Christ.

E. Verses 11,12:

This is the consequence of the witnesses' testimony. To have eternal life, one must be in Christ. The three witnesses gave their testimony so that we might gain Christ, and in Him have eternal life. All other issues and doctrines are secondary as compared to this one. God has given mankind eternal life, and this eternal life is available only in Christ.

III. SOME ASSURANCES OF SALVATION.

A. Scripture text: 1Jn. 5:13-17.

B. Verse 13:

This is John's purpose in writing the entire letter. Throughout, he has stressed the theme of eternal life (see 1:2; 2:25; 3:12,13; 5:11,12). He wants the brethren to have confidence in their salvation, which will bring confidence to other parts of their Christian walk--namely prayer.

C. Verses 14,15:

John has already mentioned that Christians should have great confidence in the coming judgment (2:28; 4:17), and now he says that same confidence should come in prayer. If we ask according to His will, God is ready to give us what we ask. With this truth in mind Christians are to pray with great boldness.

D. Verse 16:

The subject of this verse is prayer, not sin. John differentiates between a mortal sin (one leading to spiritual death), and a venial sin (one not leading to spiritual death that may be overlooked or pardoned). The apostle states that if one prays for a brother that has committed a sin not leading to death that brother may be forgiven. If one sees a brother committing a sin leading to death, he/she is not under obligation to pray about this.

1. The sin not leading to death is any sin that is not willful or intentional. It is committed by commission or omission by a Christian who is trying to walk in the light (1:7) and be faithful. The prayer offered in behalf of this brother or sister will be answered, and the sin will be forgiven (Jas. 5: 15,16).
2. The sin leading to death is any sin of one who intentionally and willfully transgresses and/or omits doing what is right. This type of person has no desire to repent or make amends for what they are doing (Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-31). John says the brethren may pray about this sin, but they are not under obligation to do so. The sin leading to death is not the unforgivable sin of Mt; 12:31.

E. Verse 17:

Here the apostle reminds his readers that all unrighteousness is sin. It makes no difference whether a faithful Christian sins, or one completely unconcerned about spiritual things sins, in both cases it is still sin. However, in the case of faithful brethren, the atoning sacrifice of Christ is available to forgive all sin and wrongdoing (1:7-9; 2:1ff; 4:10).

IV. THE CHRISTIAN'S CONFIDENCE.

A. Scripture text: 1Jn. 5:18-21.

- B. Verse 18:
In summary of the entire epistle John recaps some earlier themes. In v18-20 he begins with the words, "we know." He states that the Christian will not continue to practice sin (3:9), and will receive protection from Satan (1Cor. 10:13).
- C. Verse 19:
To say that "we are of God" is to say the following that is found in the entire letter.
1. One who truly knows God:
 - a. Knows that he is in Him (2:5).
 - b. Knows that he knows Him (2:3).
 - c. Knows that he has been born of Him (2:29).
 - d. Knows he is His child (3:1f).
 - e. Knows that he is of the truth (3:19).
 - f. Knows that he is abiding in Him (4:13).
 2. We know such things by:
 - a. Keeping His commandments (2:3).
 - b. Keeping His word (2:5).
 - c. Walking in the light (2:6).
 - d. By doing right (2:29; 3:10).
 - e. By loving the brethren (3:10).
 - f. By the Spirit's witness (3:24; 4:13).
 - g. By listening to God's teachers (4:16).
 - h. By our confession of faith (4:15).
 - i. By our loving God (5:2).
- D. Verse 20:
Because Jesus has come men and women may have understanding in knowing God. There can be perception and enjoyment of the experience of God through Christ. The revelation of Jesus is how we can come to know God and the eternal life the Father offers.
- E. Verse 21:
Remember, we become like the god we worship! Matthew 4:10 says that we should serve our God. The thing we serve is the thing we worship. An idol is a temporal thing, but Jesus Christ is the eternal God incarnate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

- A. The New American Standard Bible. (1973). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.
- B, Coffman, J. B. (1979). Commentary on James, 1&2 Peter, 1,2&3 John. Austin, TX: Firm Foundation.
- C. Roberts, J. W. (1968). The Letters of John. The Living Word Commentary. Austin, TX: R.B. Sweet.
- D. Wiersbe, W. W. (1989). The Bible Exposition Commentary. Vol. 2. Wheaton, IL: Victor.