**That You May Know**

*1 John 5:13*

**Introduction**

1. John wrote his first epistle to its audience to reassure them of the hope of eternal life they had as Christians **(cf. 1 John 5:13)**, and to urge them to continue faithfully.
2. There are some who are unwilling to state with confidence that their salvation is presently secured – that is, if they were to die now, or Christ were to return they would be found by Him in peace.
   1. Also, some are unwilling to suggest a person who has not followed God in his life is without hope, and those who die having not followed God died without hope.
   2. Is this something we can know?
3. **Some are simply lacking the surety of their standing with God. Even though they are trying to live right, they lack a confidence that a Christian should have.**
4. **The content of John’s epistle puts such doubts to rest. Upon reading 1 John, one should be able to KNOW with surety whether his standing with God is good or bad.**
5. Their reason for lacking confidence.
6. Deceivers **(2:26).**
   1. *There were false teachers seeking to undercut the confidence of these brethren by deception.*
   2. Gnostics – from *gnosis* – knowledge. They believed:
      1. **Special knowledge** – through a special anointing of the Holy Spirit (separate from the revelation – scriptures).
         1. **Salvation through illumination, not faithful obedience to Christ’s doctrine.**
         2. **2:18-19** – Separated themselves from the brethren. (*Claimed to have true knowledge of God by special anointing, and implied the others were lost.*) (**Antichrist? – v. 22-23; 2 John 7**)
            1. John’s audience in part worried and lacked confidence because of this division, and claim the Gnostics were making.
            2. ***Did they do something wrong?*** *No. The Gnostics changed and left, but John’s audience remained grounded in the truth.* 🡪
         3. **They have the true anointing from God**.
            1. **V. 20-21, 26-27** – They were consecrated to God by the anointing of the HS in obedience to the revealed word of God (*HS dwells in them through obedience to the word.*). (**cf. 1:1-4** – declared to them the Word of life so they may have fellowship with God.)

**V. 27** – do not need anyone to teach them, because they have God’s word.

**They aren’t lacking knowledge, and the Gnostics do not have a supreme knowledge**. (Their knowledge is not true.)

* + - * 1. **V. 24-25** – Abide in God if follow what you heard from Him in the beginning.

**Cf. 2:7; 2 John 5-6** – Love God and brother by keeping God’s commandments.

**We must follow God’s word – if we do, we will have God. (*And have hope of eternal life*)**

* + 1. **Flesh inherently evil –** so Jesus Christ did not come in the flesh. (It only appeared that he was.)
       1. **A logical consequence of this belief that all matter is inherently evil is the incapability to do what is right with our flesh.**
       2. **As such, they lived immoral lives, but John will suggest this is not what one who has God does.**

1. Test the spirits **(4:1-3).**
   1. ***“do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits”*** – their confidence was shaken because they were lending an ear to the Gnostic false teachers.
   2. *Instead of wavering in confidence, we must test teachings with God’s word we know to be true, and then follow that which is of God.*
   3. **If we are doing such, we know we have God!**
2. John wrote the epistle, not to inform them of the gospel, but to reinforce their confidence that they have God, and as such, the hope of eternal life*.* ***If they are acting as John says the one who has God acts, then they need not worry, but continue faithfully.* 🡪**
3. ***“These things I have written…that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13)***.
4. Walk in the Light **(1:5-7)**
   1. Paul said, God ***“commanded light to shine out of darkness” (2 Corinthians 4:6)***.
   2. ***“God divided the light from the darkness” (Genesis 1:4).***
   3. *This became symbolic in the revelation of God through the HS to represent the contrast between God, and the world.*
   4. **Light (Morally) = truth, purity, and goodness.**
   5. Light and darkness do not blend. They are entirely separate. (*Cannot be with God if you are in darkness.)*
   6. ***“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Colossians 1:13)***.
      1. We cannot be in fellowship with God if we return to that ***“power of darkness.”***
      2. **We must continually dwell in His kingdom by acting as the citizens God has made us.**
      3. **2:29; 3:4-9 – Those who are of God, that is, in the light, are practicing righteousness. (Continual practice.)**
   7. Walk – continual action. Not a mere step, but continual steps.
      1. **V. 8-2:2** – if we sin, and confess those sins, we will be forgiven.
      2. NOTE: repentance is needed (**cf. 5:16-17** – sin not leading to death is sin that is repented of.)
   8. How do we know the path of light?
      1. ***“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).***
      2. **We must follow God’s word – His commandments 🡪**
5. Keep His Commandments **(2:3-7)**
   1. The commandments of Christ are given to us to follow.
   2. Those who are proponents of the erroneous concept of *“relationship over religion”* misunderstand that ***our relationship with Christ is established in the practice of His religion.*** 🡪
   3. ***“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27).*** (Do positive commands of scripture, and abstain from the evil.)
   4. When we follow His commandments we know Him, and become like Him.
      1. *This extends even to His aversion for sin.*
      2. **One who walks in the light by following Christ’s commandments does not love the world 🡪**
6. Do Not Love the World **(2:15-17)**
   1. Already, John has indicated the one who truly has God can’t be in both light and darkness, and must follow God’s commands.
   2. *Furthermore, there cannot be a split interest, love, or allegiance between God and the world.*
   3. ***“Do you not know that friendship [fondness] with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4).***
   4. ***“all that is in the world”***:
      1. ***“Lust of the flesh”*** – fulfillment of fleshly appetite. Using your body, and anything you have in a sinful way so as to fulfill a lust.
      2. ***“Lust of the eyes”*** – satisfying sinful desires with the viewing of the mind. Thoughts dwelling on the sinful things.
      3. ***“Pride of life”*** – Pride and arrogance in your material, and immaterial things. (Possessions, as well as positions in life – ideally placing yourself above God.)
   5. The Christian is not to take part in these things. **The Christian is not even to have an affection for these things.**
7. Love Your Brother **(3:10-18)**
   1. Children of the devil – do not love their brothers.
   2. Children of God – love the brethren.
   3. **The Gnostics separated themselves from the brethren, and treated them with hatred, not love.**
      1. Just as Cain did Abel **(v. 12).**
      2. **The Gnostics hate these brethren because their works are evil – that is, they are not in God. (Which is manifest in their hatred.)**
   4. **Cf. 4:7-9** – If you love, you are born of God – His child, and known by Him and knows Him.
      1. **The one who is born of God naturally is to love others born of Him**.
      2. ***“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again” (1 Peter 1:22-23)***.
   5. **Cf. 4:20-21** – Cannot claim to love God if you do not love your brother who is from God.
   6. **3:17-18** – This love that is necessary is active. It does, it does not just say.

**Conclusion**

1. John’s 1st epistle suggests we can know whether we are of God, and as such have the hope of salvation.
2. If we are practicing these things, living the way God intends, we can have that confidence.
3. However, it is at its foundation only within us and God to know if we are truly right with Him.
   1. **Cf. 3:19-21** – Our conscience will tell us if we are right with God. If it be that we are honest with ourselves.
   2. We know if we are doing right or not.
   3. **If we are doing right, then we can have confidence that we are in God, and know God, and have salvation.**