

**What We Have Come to Know and What We Must Guard Against:
John's Final Reminders and His Final Warning (1 John 5:14-21)**

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if **we know** that He hears us, whatever we ask, **we know** that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. ¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not *leading* to death. ¹⁸ **We know** that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. ¹⁹ **We know** that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway* of the wicked one. ²⁰ And **we know** that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Little children, **KEEP** yourselves from idols. Amen.

1. WE HAVE CERTAINTY ABOUT PRAYER (14-15)

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if **we know** that He hears us, whatever we ask, **we know** that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

a. We can be approaching God boldly in prayer.

- *Boldness in our obedience (2:28)* • *Boldness in judgment through love (4:17)*
- *Boldness in our standing (3:21)* • ***Boldness in asking for assistance (5:14)***

b. God is hearing us when we are requesting according to His will (Mt 6:9-13).

- *In light of walking in the light (1:5-7)* • *In light of loving our fellow believers (3:16)*
- *In light of confessing our sins (1:8—2:2)* • *In light of keeping His commands (3:22)*
- *In light of not loving the world (2:15-17)* **3:22** And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

c. God is granting the requests which we request from Him.

2. WE HAVE CERTAINTY ABOUT SIN (16-17)

¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not *leading* to death.

a. We care about our sinning fellow believer.

- *By noticing the sin* • *By responding in prayer for this person* • *By further active responses*

Matthew 18:15-16 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'"

Galatians 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15 ¹³ But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good. ¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

Hebrews 3:12-13 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

James 5:19-20 ¹⁹ Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

b. We sometimes leave God to decide.

- *Sin towards death...* • *We do not entreat for them then...*

Matthew 18:17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

Romans 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

1 Corinthians 5:1-13 It is actually reported *that there is* sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles-- that a man has his father's wife! ... ⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered

together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. ... ⁹ I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰ Yet I certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person. ¹² For what *have I to do* with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? ¹³ But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person."

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, ...¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹ For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. ¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. ¹³ But *as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.* ¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

1 Timothy 1:18-20 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, ... ¹⁹ having faith ... which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, ²⁰ of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

c. We recognize the truth about sin.

- *Every unrighteousness is sin (no sin is acceptable to our holy God)*
- *We are responsible and are to respond accordingly (1:8—2:2)*
- *Some sins are aggressively defiant against God's clear teaching, and indicate the rejection of God and His Word, not responding to the truth. God may let you run the ruinous course to destruction, or may allow you to suffer such pain that you turn back to Him.*
- *In this passage, we seem to pray for those desiring to walk with God but are defeated and discouraged, but let God handle those believers that walk away from Him in defiance.*

3. WE HAVE CERTAINTY ABOUT SPIRITUAL BIRTH (18)

¹⁸ **We know** that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

a. We know that believers have a spiritual part that cannot sin (3:9)

3:9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

b. We know that believers have a spiritual part that

- *Is keeping us*
- *Is preventing the evil [one] devil from taking us*

c. Any failure of a believer is not due to God's power & provision, but our rejection of the truth. We have been secured by the Holy Spirit!

d. Align our pursuit and walk with what God has done!

4. WE HAVE CERTAINTY ABOUT OUR SALVATION & SURROUNDINGS (19)

¹⁹ **We know** that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway* of the wicked one.

a. We know we are (~) out of God (believers are born of God (5:1)

b. We know that the entire world system "in the evil [one] lies" – it is our enemy & a danger, not our friend

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

c. We are to live accordingly, loving and obeying God, not the world (2:15-17)

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His own special people, zealous for good works.*

Colossians 3:1-17 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ is all and in all. ¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

5. WE HAVE CERTAINTY OF THE TRUTH (20)

²⁰ And **we know** that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

- a. **We know that the Son of God has come.**
- b. **We know that the Son of God has given us understanding.**
- c. **Why?**
 - *That we might be knowing by experience the True One!*
 - *That we are (~) in the True One!*
 - *That we are in His Son Jesus Christ!*
- d. **This One is the True God!**
- e. **This One is Eternal Life!**

6. ONE FINAL MAJOR WARNING (21)

²¹ Little children, **KEEP** yourselves from idols. Amen.

- a. **“There is only ONE first thing in your life.”**
- b. **Idolatry is making anything else higher than God – it ruins your walk with God (= no fellowship)**
- c. **Idolatry violates Commands 1 & 2**
- d. **Idolatry is putting anything above God (Luke 14:26-33)**
 - **RELATIONSHIPS Cannot Be First**
²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.
 - **AMBITIONS Cannot Be First**
²⁷ "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
 - **POSSESSIONS Cannot Be First**
³³ "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. ³⁴ "Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? ³⁵ "It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, *but* men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"
- e. **Idolatry is allowing anything to distract us from serving God (Luke 8:14)**
 Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
 - **CARES eclipse our fellowship with God**
 - **RICHES eclipse our fellowship with God**
 - **PLEASURES eclipse our fellowship with God**
- f. **Hallowed be Your name, your kingdom come, your will be done...**

Have you come to KNOW what is true? Are you walking with God? Is God FIRST in your life?