

1Jn 08 - Disciples Live Their Faith - 1Jn 2:28-3:10

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Remember - 1John is written that you may **KNOW**
that you have eternal life - *John tells us that in*

1Jn 5:13 - ESV

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

& along that line - our text today
brings **BOTH** GREAT **News** - & a GREAT **Challenge**

to help us either **KNOW** that we have Eternal Life - OR -
KNOW that we need to be concerned about our Eternity

Pam & I had the real privilege of getting to know
an extremely pleasant, **retired Catholic Priest** this past week

& we actually **spent many hours**
talking w/ him - & enjoying his company

& we came away considering this man our **friend**

& during those conversations I learned of some **similarities**
between our **Evangelical** faith & the **Catholic** faith

in fact - some **similarities** I was pleased to learn

But in our last night of having dinner together
my heart absolutely broke for this Retired Priest,
and for all those of the **Catholic faith**

Not because of the *sometimes over-dramatic* things we evangelicals have a tendency to say about the Catholic faith

but my heart **BROKE**, over one brief, & shocking conversation

After spending quite some time with our new friend the conversation turned to **the Assurance of Salvation**

of whether we can **KNOW** that we have **Eternal Life**, or not

& this Catholic Priest of **23 years** said to me
in a moment I will never forget

he said ***"I'd give anything to KNOW for certain, that I will make it to heaven"***

& as I stared at him with my jaw hanging open - he said to me
"for Catholics, we really don't know until we get there, whether we've made it in or not"

I was **stunned**, & I was (nearly) **speechless**,
& my heart broke so much

for this Priest, & for all those who truly **love Jesus** in the Catholic faith,

& who have **been taught** that they can't know for sure if they have Eternal Life - - - ***until they get there***

Which, I suppose, is where all the **St Peter** at the **Pearly Gates** jokes come from

So please - **remember that** - as you *gracefully & lovingly* **share** the words of the Bible with your Catholic friends & family

Guys - Pls hear me - God's Word says
we can **KNOW** that we have eternal life

& God's Word **ALSO** gives us clear Warning Signs
when we might **NOT HAVE** eternal life

The Bible tells us how we can know **BOTH**
& our text today - gives us **BOTH** of these very clear signs

Let's Pray

We pick up today - where we left off last msg - in **1Jn 2:28**,

Vs's 28-29 of Ch 2 - actually form a **bridge**
from John's previous section of **ABIDING** (our last msg)
to this section of being **CHILDREN** of God

& so we need to **start** there

1Jn 2:28 - ESV

28 And now, little children (a father's endearment), ***abide*** (settle in, be permanently immersed in) ***in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence*** (a settled assurance, knowing things are right, in order) ***and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.***

Guys - Jesus Christ **IS coming** - & we need **MORE**
than to just "**Look Busy**" when He shows up

& we can have a **CONFIDENT Assurance**
that we will be "caught up" in the clouds,
to meet the Lord in the air, & so to **EVER** be with Him

& that confidence comes from **ABIDING** in Christ
& in that **ABIDING** - there will be **NO SHAME** at His coming

& so this closes John's previous section
on "**ABIDING** in Christ"

But let's stop to review just **HOW** we can have this Confidence
in the first place

Thru-out the **NT** - we find the clear truth of
the **Imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ**

2Cor 5:21 sums it all up in one verse - ESV

***21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***

When you **put your Faith** in Jesus Christ as your **Savior & Lord**

At that point - God **IMPUTES your sin** - to Christ
for full payment to be made BY HIM

& He **IMPUTES** the **righteousness of God** in Christ - TO YOU
so you stand before God - in the Perfect Righteousness of His Son

& from **GEN** to **REV** the Bible says this Righteousness
occurs **BY** His **GRACE**, & **THRU** your **FAITH** alone

In Phil 3:9 Paul says - ESV

***9 [that I may] be found in him, not having a righteousness
of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes
through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that
depends on faith***

This is the **ONLY Way** we can ever stand **righteous** before God !!
Thru **FAITH** in Jesus Christ

But the question today is - How can we **KNOW**
that we have this Righteousness that Assures us of Eternal Life ?

We know that this Righteousness is **BY FAITH**
& that the **PRESENCE** of the **Holy Spirit** in our lives is the SEAL

But are there possibly some "**TANGIBLE**" signs ?
Let's see . . .

1Jn 2:29 - ESV

29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him

When we are truly **BORN AGAIN**
We are given a **NEW NATURE** - to Overcome our Sin Nature

& This **NEW** Nature - is **HIS** Nature

& this **NEW** Nature (which is Christ in us) can be **SEEN**
in **How** we LIVE - in **What** we practice

This is what **ROM CH 6** teaches us

that in our **NEW NATURE** we have been identified with Christ
BOTH - in His **DEATH** to sin - **AND** in His **LIFE** to God

& so **v.29** is saying - if we have truly been "***Born of Him***"
IT WILL SHOW in how we live

& so - in our **1st warning** of the day - we have to say
if it **DOESN'T** show - maybe we need to ask ourselves **WHY?**

2Cor 5:17 says - ESV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

& **HOW** New - is this **NEW** Nature
that we receive "In Christ" ?

It's **INCREDIBLY** new !!

1Jn 3:1 - ESV

1 See (behold, consider) ***what kind of love*** (LIT - what exotic, foreign kind) ***the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.***

Consider for a second - what an **incredible** *kind of love*
the Father has **given** to us
that we should be called - "Children of God"

This is the **highest possible**, most incredible love we can imagine

Guys - **I am a Sinner**, in a **fallen** nature
but I will tell you something - I pray is absolutely true for you also

My Children - Will **ALWAYS** be my Children

I am a **sinner**, in a **fallen nature** - but by God's grace
I will **NEVER** leave my children, I will **NEVER** forsake them,
& **NOTHING** will ever separate them from my love

HOW MUCH MORE SO WITH GOD

in His perfect love - to us, as His own Children

If you are God's Child today - you can be **SURE**
that God has showered upon you - the highest possible love there is

It's a love He has had for you - from **BEFORE** time began
it's a love that **CAN NOT** be earned - it **CAN NOT** be deserved

God does not love you because you're a "**Good Person**"

Rom 3:23 = *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

& so if you Can't **EARN** it - then **HOW** can you **RECEIVE** it ?

Jn 1:12 - ESV

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Receive Him - **Believe** in His name

& **by** HIS GRACE - you will become a child of God

But know this - if you **watch my children** around me
you will easily be able to **tell** - they are my kids

& **how much more** - should it show
that we are children of God ?

1Jn 3:2 - ESV

2 Beloved, we are God's children now (absolute assurance), and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Guys - some day, **maybe today**,

the **trumpet** call of God - is going to break open the sky
& Jesus Christ is going to **return** for His church,

& the **dead in Christ** will rise first,
then we who are alive & remain are going to be "**caught up**"

Raptured - to meet Him in the air,
and so we will forever be with him - **1Thes 4:16-17**

& then - 1Thes 4:18 says - ESV

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

& here in **1John 3:2** - John says - ***we are God's children now . . . & we know that when he appears we shall be like him,***

Guys - this is our **Confident Expectation based on solid certainty**
That's the **definition** for Biblical **HOPE**

This is our **confidence** - This is our **assurance**

& if this is Truly **YOUR** Hope, **YOUR** confidence. . .
then 1John says - your life ought to reflect it

1Jn 3:3 - ESV

3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies (LIT - is constantly purifying) himself as he is pure.

HOPE = A Confident Expectation

PURIFIES = to be constantly working sin OUT of your life

We're **not** talking about **Sinless** Perfection here

John's saying if you really have this **ASSURANCE** in Christ
There's **probably stuff** in your life you need to be dealing with

To **EARN** something? NO

To **ATTAIN** to something? NO,

in **RESPONSE** to the fact that you are a **Child of God**

in **RESPONSE** to what He's **done for you,**

in **RESPONSE** to **who you are** IN HIM

I promise you guys

The More you **LOVE** Christ - - The More you'll **HATE** Sin

The more we understand **who we ARE** in Christ

The more we will be **APPALLED** by our sin

& the more we will want to **PURGE IT** from our lives

NOT PERFECTLY remove all sin (*not in this life*)

But **INCREASINGLY** Purge our lives of sin

In **RESPONSE** to who we are - **IN CHRIST**

That's what **John means** when he says

if we have this hope in Him - we will continually "**purify**" our lives

OK - We've been talking about the **POSITIVE** side
of us **KNOWING** that we have Eternal Life, as children of God

But now - starting in **V.4** - John switches
to the **NEGATIVE**, or **WARNING** side of this same subject
& he's going to start talking about SIN

& we need to **clear one thing up** before we dive in here

From **V.4** thru **V.9** - **KJV** & **NKJ**
do NOT apply the GK "Tense" to their translation of the word **SIN**

& so it **appears** (*in those translations*)
that John is possibly talking about committing a **SINGLE SIN**

But that's not the case - the **TENSE** thru-out this section
is referring to a **CONTINUAL PRACTICE of sin**

A **Conscious choice** to Abide (remain) in a life of Sin

1Jn 3:4 - ESV

***4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also
practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.***

John is talking about a person
whose ***"Pattern of Life is SINNING"***

& it **doesn't matter** whether this person claims to be saved or not
He's not talking about **WHAT** we **SAY**
He's talking about **HOW** we **LIVE** our lives

He's talking to the person
who makes a continual "Practice of Sinning"

& then he says in 1Jn 3:5 - ESV

5 You know that he (Christ) *appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.*

So John makes a very Simple - but very Dramatic - CONTRAST

We know Jesus came to Take AWAY sins
& IN HIM there is no sin

So . . . what does that say
about a person who is "Making a Practice of Sinning" ??

Can a person be BOTH
Abiding in Christ - AND - Abiding in SIN simultaneously ??

The answer has to be NO - -
& V.6 makes it perfectly clear

1Jn 3:6 - ESV

6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning (not "does not sin" as in NKJ); no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

No one who truly ABIDES in Christ
Can CHOOSE to continually keep on sinning

The two "Abidings" are incompatible
You can't Abide in Christ & Abide in Sin simultaneously

Again - John is helping us know IF we have Eternal Life
& here he's using the Negative Proof

& he says - No one who's life is in continual sin mode
has either SEEN Christ, or KNOWN Him

That's Pretty Direct - But it's Pretty Clear

John is giving us a LITMUS TEST to KNOW
whether you have Eternal Life - or NOT

& he says very clearly - - if you are continually living a life of sin
you need to be very concerned - about your eternal destiny

WHY ??

Because If we understand WHO Jesus is, & WHY He came,
& if we understand that our true life comes by ABIDING in Him,

then it would be ludicrous for us to CHOOSE
to ABIDE in sin instead

In Fact - the ONLY way we would CHOOSE to keep on sinning
is if we have neither truly SEEN Him - or truly KNOWN Him

& this word "KNOWN" = GINOSKO
meaning a *personal, intimate, experiential knowledge*

this person,
even if they raised their hand & said the magic prayer

if they are continuing to live a life of sin
with no signs of repentance

then they have not SEEN Jesus Christ for Who He is
& they have NOT KNOWN Him in a personal & intimate way

Because when we truly **SEE** Him for who He is
& we truly **KNOW** him intimately & personally

We **CANNOT** flippantly continue in our sin
without being under tremendous conviction of the Holy Spirit

Now - let's read **V.7 & V.8A** together
This contrast - will become perfectly clear

1Jn 3:7-8(A) - ESV

***7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.
8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil . . .***

Whoa - whoa - whoa - are you saying

that just because my life is **Continually Characterized** by sin,
that I am of the Devil & not of God??

NO, I'm not saying that - The **BIBLE** is !

Guys - the Apostle John wants you to **KNOW**
whether you **have** Eternal Life or **not**

& he's saying - if your life is **continually characterized by sin**
you need to **be very concerned** about you're Eternity

2Cor 13:5 - ESV

***5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith.
Test yourselves . . .***

But listen - Please - Don't get mad at me
If you **FAIL** this test - - **GET SAVED !!!**

Surrender your life to Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord
& allow him to radically transform you

& then you can **THANK ME** - for challenging you
instead of allowing you to continue living a lie

Trust me, **it's better** to find out that you're not saved
on **this side** of eternity, than on **the other side**, right?

Now - to really **wrap** this contrast up
I want to read **Vs's 7-9** from the **NLT**

1Jn 3:7-9 - NLT

***7 Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this:
When people do what is right, it shows that they are
righteous, even as Christ is righteous.***

***8 But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they
belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the
beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works
of the devil.***

***9 Those who have been born into God's family do not
make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them.
So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children
of God.***

That - to me - is one of the **clearest descriptions** there is
for how we can **KNOW** - that we have **Eternal Life** - or not

***9 Those who have been born into God's family do not
make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them.
So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children
of God.***

If **THIS** is you - Then you can **KNOW** that you have Eternal Life
God's assurance is in the fact that you are living as His child

If this is **NOT** you - Please - Don't get mad - Get **SAVED**

Truly make Jesus Christ the **LORD** of your Life

Begin **spending time** with Him in His **Word** & in **Prayer** every day

Get a **Discipler** - to disciple you
to teach you how to really **follow Jesus** as your Lord

Just **CALL US** - we'll help you actually start following Jesus in your life

Then **you will know** that you have been "**Born of God**"
that God's Life is in you

& you will have the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit** to overcome sin

& altho you will never be **SINLESS**
your life will be **CHARACTERIZED** by living for God

& then you will **KNOW** that you have Eternal Life !!!

& now finally - **V.10**

1Jn 3:10 - ESV

10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Listen please - if you **SAY** you're a Christian today

but you are continually practicing sin
& **NOT** practicing the Righteousness of God

Maybe you need to **TRULY** turn your life
COMPLETELY over to Jesus as your LORD

Or maybe you need to **get back on track**
& start living for Him again

& **we want** to help you do that

We are creating an entire **Discipleship Community** here
where we can help one another actually FOLLOW JESUS

& I want to challenge you to **JOIN US**

Call one of the Pastors or Elders here
all our phone numbers are on the back of the bulletin

Tell us you want to **learn** how to be a **True Disciple** of Christ
& we'll get you connected with someone to help you do just that

& that begins with a **COMMITMENT**
which I'd like to ask you to make to God **TODAY**

Let's Pray