

1Jn 04 - Disciples Follow The Word - 1Jn 2:3-6

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Let's Pray - right up front today

The topic of **"The Assurance of our Salvation"**
runs all thru **1John**

The Apostle John tells us **WHY** he's writing - at the end of his letter
(turn over to) **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.

But **look** at the 2 Vs's just before **V.13**

These are the Vs we are really **more used** to hearing
than what we'll be **studying** today

& these **Vs's** are absolutely **TRUE**

1Jn 5:11-12 - ESV

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

That is **absolutely**, **undeniably**, 100% **TRUE**
without adding 1 thing at all

God gave us eternal life - IN HIS SON
& Whoever HAS the Son - HAS Eternal Life - PERIOD

There is **NOTHING** that we can ever
add to or **take away from** that

Eternal Life is **IN Jesus Christ**

& whoever **HAS** Jesus Christ - **HAS** Eternal Life (*right ?*)

But then - **look again at 1Jn 5:13**

I write these things to you who believe . . .

that you may know that you have eternal life.

So **still** - there was **some question** in the churches
about the "**Assurance of Salvation**"

We **can assume** John taught them the Believer's **Assurance**
that's recorded so well in the **Gospel of John**

& **we teach** that Exact **Same** assurance

John 10:28-29 - ESV

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

We believe **THAT**

We know that **THAT** is absolutely - a TRUE fact

But **something** had happened in the **churches**

that **caused** John to write this letter

about how we can **KNOW** that we have eternal life

& it's **something** we see happen in our **own churches**

& that is - people **INSIDE** the church (*probably even leaders*)

had shown themselves to be - **False Teachers**

They had caused **Division** & **Dissention**
& had ultimately had **drawn many** away from Christ

& **THAT** had caused the **questions**
about the Assurance of these **False Teachers** Salvation

Because it **APPEARED** - they **HAD** salvation in Christ *at one point*
& **then** - it appeared - they had . . . **LOST IT**

& before **Ch 2** is over
Paul is going to **directly address** these False Teachers

He says in **1Jn 2:19 - ESV**

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

Those are **Pretty Strong words** for those **INSIDE** the church
(*probably even leaders*)

These **False teachers** knew
about Salvation by **FAITH** in Christ **ALONE**

But **they distorted** what True Faith meant

They **claimed** you could have TRUE FAITH **even if you were;**
Walking in Darkness
Disobeying God, &
Hating your brother

& **John** makes it clear - that those who **SEEMED** to "Fall Away"
did not actually **HAVE** True Faith at one point,
& then **LOSE IT**

But **instead**, it just eventually became **apparent**,
that they **NEVER HAD TRUE FAITH** to begin with

& **so** the **question** among the believers Must Have Been . . .
What about **ME** - How do **I KNOW** - if I have **TRUE FAITH**

If **they claimed** to have True Faith - & **DIDN'T** . . .

How can I be **Assured** that My Faith is **Genuine**
& that **MY** Salvation is **Guaranteed** & Assured

& **so** - in essence - **John** says
Let me **tell you** how you can **KNOW** that you **KNOW**

that **your Faith** - is a **Genuine Faith**
that **Absolutely Guarantees** your Eternal Salvation

Does that make sense?

I need to make sure no one **misunderstands**
these very **direct teachings** of 1John

John is **NOT** saying that if you **work really hard**
to **MEET** these **requirements** - that you will **EARN** eternal life

He's saying - **IF** you truly **HAVE** Eternal Life in Jesus Christ

Then, **as a RESULT** of your Genuine Faith
you will **HAVE** these **Marks** (signs) in your life

John says - he is writing that **WE MAY KNOW**
that **we HAVE** Eternal Life

& **so** he says - These are the **LITMUST** tests - that **PROVE**
that we **Truly HAVE** Eternal Life

& **so** - when we **see these MARKS** (signs) in our life

we can have **absolute** confident **assurance**,
that we are **IN CHRIST** - & that He is Truly **our LORD**

THAT is the **primary purpose** of 1John
We all **understand** that now - *right ?*

Let's **dive in** then

1Jn 2:3 - ESV

3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

[REPEAT]

Let's start with one of **my** favorite GK words - **GINOSKO**

The word used here for **KNOW**
is **FAR MORE** - than **intellectual knowledge**

This word means

An Intimate, Relational, Being One type knowledge

This word is **the OPPOSITE** of "***Knowing ABOUT***" someone

I know ABOUT George Bush (for instance, I know George Bush was NOT on a personal mission to insure the free murdering of innocent human life like our current President is)

I know ABOUT George Bush, & some other Presidents
But I KNOW my wife in a much different way - *right ?*

The Demons KNOW ABOUT Jesus Christ
just like most people in America KNOW ABOUT Jesus Christ

But a Christian KNOWS Jesus - in a Much Different way

We know Him Intimately, Relationally
As in - being ONE with Him

THAT is the Level of KNOWING Jesus
that brings Eternal Life

The Apostle Paul stated his ultimate life's goal in PHIL 3:10
which is my life's verse, & this church's foundational verse

Phil 3:10 - THAT I MAY KNOW HIM

& THAT is the level of KNOWING Jesus - John is talking about here

& this is the same level of KNOWING Jesus
that many will ultimately find out - they DID NOT HAVE

In Mat 7:22-23 Jesus says - ESV

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you (ginosko); depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

So - **remember** - the point of **1John** is

How can we **KNOW** - that we **KNOW** Jesus in **THIS** way

1John 2:3 tells us

3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

We can **KNOW** - that we have come to **KNOW** Him *in this way*
IF we **keep** His commandments

Now - **does that mean** we have to be Absolutely **perfect?** - **NO**

Remember - we talked about that **last week**

A Christian is not sinless - but he does Sin Less!

Meaning, one of the **MARKS** of Salvation - is an *increasing desire*
to **follow Jesus MORE**, and **follow Sin LESS**

& **V.3** says - *by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.*

Not **perfectly**, But **increasingly**

as 2Cor 3:18 says - **ESV**

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another . . .

So guys - let's **keep following Jesus** closer & closer
which is a **CLEAR SIGN** - that we truly **KNOW HIM**

Now - What about the "***Other Side***" of this Equation

If we now KNOW - the SIGN - of KNOWING JESUS
with a True Saving Faith

Then - how can we KNOW - if we DON'T KNOW Jesus
with a True Saving Faith ??

& our Next Vs - answers THAT question

1Jn 2:4 - ESV

4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

OUCH - man, that is definitely NOT "Politically Correct"

You could OFFEND some people with a statement like that !!

MAYBE offend them enough
to cause them to actually get saved

People who say - they have their "***OWN THING***" with God
Who think they're "***OK***" with God - ***while living in sin***

The Bible has one very clear word for them - - LIAR !!!

In Vs 3 we made it clear - a Saving Knowledge of Jesus Christ
is much different than an Intellectual Knowledge

& then - V.4 describes the person
who has ONLY an intellectual knowledge

This is the person who thinks they're a Christian because they

Live in America - Eat Apple Pie
& Go to Church a few times a year

& they say - **"Yeah, I know Jesus"**

But **really** what they mean is - **They know ABOUT Jesus**

At the **SAME LEVEL** - that the **Demons** know **ABOUT** Jesus

But they **Don't know Him** with that
Intimate, Relational, Saving Knowledge

Because **IF** they **KNEW** Him - *that way*

It would have a **Direct Effect** on their **Actions**, & their **Choices**

John's saying - if you have this **True Love Relationship** with Jesus
you won't **BE ABLE** to go on sinning

Because the Love you have for Christ - **Constrains You**

& the **Love of God** that fills your life
will actually **change** - your **Actions**, & your **Choices**

Which is exactly what our **next verse** says

1Jn 2:5(A) - ESV

***5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is
perfected . . .***

The word "**Perfected**" here - means **BROUGHT TO COMPLETION**

It doesn't mean the person - has **become perfect** - it means
the **Love of God** has been **brought to completion** - in them

meaning The Love of God
has **FINISHED (completed) its saving work** in them

To give you an idea of the EMPHASIS John is making here

This Word "PERFECTED" here in V.5 - is the same word recorded as the last word of Jesus Christ on the CROSS

When His Work of Love was finished on the cross the last thing Jesus spoke was - TETELESTAI

Which we translate - It Is Finished,

meaning - the Work of Christ on the Cross - *Had been Completed*

& that's the same thing John's saying here

that we can KNOW whether the Love of God has FINISHED it's saving work in us - or not

By WHETHER - we are keeping His Word - or not

So - keeping God's Word - is a SIGN that the Complete (True) Love of God - is in us

Because that Perfected Love of God - causes us, to increasingly Follow God, MORE than we Follow Sin

The Perfect Love of God
CONSUMES YOU - & CHANGES YOU

& the person who is Keeping God's Word *because of the Love of God in them . . .*

Has a Real, Rock Solid, Guaranteed Assurance of their Eternal Life - IN CHRIST

Which is exactly what **V.5(B) & V.6** say

The **Best Translators** say - the end of V.5 can **EITHER** apply to what has gone **BEFORE it** - or to what **FOLLOWS it**
(*but either way the meaning doesn't change*)

The ***ESV*** connects V.5(B), to V.6 ***with a COLON***
So we'll use ***THAT sense*** to study it

1Jn 2:5(B)-6 - ESV

***5 . . . By this we may know that we are in him:
6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.***

It **seems to me** - John is trying
to **make his point** - Extremely **CLEAR** (*which he often does*)

& he says - ***THIS is how we can know we are truly IN CHRIST***

***If we SAY we abide in Him - we OUGHT to WALK
in the same way HE walked***

The word "**ABIDE**" means - ***to settle down, to remain***

Whoever says he is "**Abiding in Christ**"
ought to be walking in the same way He walked

Jesus said the same thing in John 15:5 - ESV

5 . . . Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, . . .

Meaning - there is a pretty **easy way** to **tell**
if we are "**Abiding**" in Christ - & He is "**Abiding**" in us

You know, **one way** you can tell if **someone** truly has the **NEW LIFE** in Christ in them. . .

is to **just WAIT** - just give it a **little time**

& you will **be able to see** - if they're "**Abiding**" in Christ & **HE** - in **THEM**

If you **just wait** long enough - you can **always find out** how **AUTHENTIC** a person's words are

It's really **NOT** so much - what you say in the **MOMENT**
It's where you **REMAIN** for the long run

Are we **ABIDING** in Christ - Are we **REMAINING** in Him

& **V.6** very clearly says - If we **SAY** we are "**ABIDING**" in Him **THEN** - we will be **Walking** the way He Walked

The word **WALK** means to **ORDER YOUR STEPS**
the same way **He Ordered** His Steps

It **DOESN'T** mean living a **SINLESS** life - like His

It means **Ordering your Steps** - by **the Will** of the Father
just like Jesus did

It **means** having your **heart** turned toward **Heaven**
& **Living** your life **Accordingly** - Just like Jesus Did

It means being willing to
Lay down the pleasures of this world
Pick up your cross
And **Follow** Jesus

& **IF you** are **willing** to do that

THEN - you have a **Guaranteed MARK**, a Guaranteed **SIGN**,
that you are **ABIDING IN CHRIST**

& **that** your Eternal Life is **Absolutely Secured** in Heaven

& **THAT** - is **when** we can have True **ASSURANCE of our Salvation**

Guys, **Please Listen** very carefully to me
let's apply this to **our church** - right here in **Nuevo**

The **PROOF**
that God is Truly **AT WORK** in a **CHURCH**

The **ONLY PROOF** . . . is **CHANGED LIVES** for Jesus Christ
& that is the **ONLY PROOF**

It's not - "*is there good worship* "

It's not even - "*is there good teaching*"

It's certainly NOT - are *we making friends & having some fun*

IT IS ONLY - - Are **lives** being **changed** for Jesus Christ
at **Calvary Chapel Nuevo?**

If they are - then God **IS** at work

if they are NOT - then God **is NOT** at work

The **GOOD NEWS** is - **we can** list many people
whose **lives** have been **radically changed** by Jesus Christ

SINCE they started coming to **this church**

Many people - we can name - who are **radically different**
BECAUSE of the Love of God - in their lives

We **get to see** many of you
who have the **TRUE MARKS** - of Salvation

& **THAT** - absolutely **THRILLS US**

& **THAT** is the proof
that God is **AT WORK** in this **CHURCH**

& **THAT** is the proof
that God is **AT WORK** in your **LIFE** . . . **AMEN ?**

So . . . **if your life** has **changed** for Jesus Christ
since you started **coming** to this church

then you are **OUR PROOF**, that God is **at work** here

but if your life has **NOT BEEN** significantly **changed**
since you started **coming** to this church (or any other church)

Please, KEEP COMING - - But please
don't think the Love of God has **been COMPLETED** in you

Because when the **Love of God** has done its **Saving Work** in you
your life will be Measurably **Changed**

& **if your life** has not been **Measurably Changed**
TOWARD following **God** - & **AWAY** from following **Sin**

Then you really need to **hear the challenge** - in **2Cor 13:5**

I'm going to read from the PARAPHRASE called "*The Message*"

2Cor 13:5 - MSG

5 Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.

Guys - THAT is the message to us today

Let's TEST OURSELVES

to make sure we have the MARKS of True Salvation

& if we FAIL the test - - Let's DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

& for that TEST - We need EVIDENCE

that Jesus Christ is Living in us

& that we are ABIDING in Him

& we've seen today

some very KEY EVIDENCE - that we can use

to determine if we are PASSING, or FAILING, this test

To Close - Let's **Re-Read** our Vs's today

& **I think** - the **EVIDENCE** necessary for this **TEST**
is **Very Apparent** in our Vs's today

1Jn 2:3-6 - ESV

3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Let's Pray