

BLESSED ASSURANCE: (1 JOHN 5:14-21) | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 2/19/2023

I. ...In Prayer (14-17) | II. ...Over Wickedness | III. ...In Knowing God (18-21)

INTRO: As we conclude with this last section of John's 1st epistle, the apostle seems to purposefully make it his aim to accentuate the word KNOW! As almost to finish with a grand conclusion he uses the word **seven times** to speak of the certainties that we have in **KNOWING GOD** and the fellowship that He offers to us in His Son. I have entitled this sermon: **BLESSED ASSURANCE (1 JOHN 5:14-21)**

I. **ASSURANCE IN PRAYER (14-17)** *We can pray to God, and He hears us!*

A. Asking For Prayer (14a) – PRAYER is one of the greatest privileges that believers have, yet it is seemingly the most neglected. (James 4:2b) says, *Yet you do not have because you do not ask.* In (Jer 33:3), God tells us that prayer is the prerequisite to God's action: Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

1. **We can ask with confidence** – This is possible because *"we have a great High Priest who passed through the heavens...Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* (Heb 4:14a,16) – Approach is not only granted but knowing that God wants us to ask of Him is encouraged also!

2. **We should ask according to His Will** – Herein lies the secret to answered prayer! As we grow closer to Jesus, we understand the will of our Father more and more each day. Jesus makes this clear in (John 15:7), *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.* **Prayer is relational...** God desires us to Know His will and Pray it back to Him so that we can watch His respond.

B. Answers To Prayer (14b-15) – John informs us that two things happen when we pray.

1. **He Hears us** – It's obvious that many people pray, but not all prayers are answered! But **God hears the prayers of His people:** This was the case with the **Daniel the prophet**, who prayed and fasted for 21 days... **READ (tt.Dan 10:10-12).** Wow!

2. **He Grants our Petitions** – John tells us that by faith, if we ask anything in prayer that is in accordance with His will, He will **grant it to us.** **Getting God's will accomplished is the goal of prayer!** – God is not a genie in a lamp who grants you whatever you desire!

- When Jesus taught on how to pray, he mentioned: **(Matt 6:10) "Thy Kingdom come, THY WILL BE DONE on earth as it is in heaven."** (The model prayer is for God's will to be!)
- God wants us care about what He cares about and pray fervently for it!
- God is also kind and gracious enough to not listen and not answer if I ask something that is NOT in accordance with His desire. (Nevertheless, we should be persistent in asking; Matt 7:7-11)

C. Assessment When Praying (16-17) – John now illustrates How to Pray according to God's will when dealing with a sinning brother. (Loving our brothers was a key theme in 1 John 3:16-17)

1. **Ask God how we should pray for them!** – Because all circumstances are different, we must allow the Spirit of God to give us wisdom when assessing a real-life circumstance. (*Don't be quick to judge, and especially do not be partial in your assessment!*)

2. John mentions **TWO TYPES OF SIN**: One is *unto death* and the other is *NOT unto death*.

a. Re: **Sin which leads UNTO death (16b)**: What DEATH is referred to here? I do not believe it is spiritual death because John refers to him as a “**brother.**” It must therefore mean physical death, as a result of premeditated action or unconfessed sin. [**Sin Kills!**]

- Whatever the case, God sovereignly determines how to administer corrective judgment.
- **Failure to repent of or forsake sin may eventually lead to physical death as a judgment from God.** – (Rom 6:23a) *the wages of sin is death...* As in the case of...
 - Ananias & Saphira (**Acts 5:1-11**) – *They died for lying to the Holy Spirit*
 - The man sleeping with his father's wife (**1 Cor 5:5**) – *To be delivered to Satan...*
 - Taking Communion in an unworthy manner (**1 Cor 11:30**) – *Sick, Weak, or Death*
- In (v.17) John says that *ALL unrighteousness is sin*, NO SIN should be taken lightly!
- John tells us NOT to pray for these! **NO INTERCESSORY PRAYER WILL BE EFFECTIVE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED SUCH DELIBERATE SIN! – J. MacArthur**

b. **Sin which Leads Not Unto death (16a,17b)**: John tells us that we OUGHT to pray for these! I.e., those who have a repentant heart should be prayed for *that the Lord would grant them life*. – Again, this is to be understood as **physical life** *as with Hezekiah*, who **wept before God** when Isaiah told him to get his house in order because he was about to die (**Isa 38:1-5**). *God granted him another 15 years of life.*

CLOSING THOUGHT: What does this all mean? **Only genuine believers can approach God in prayer and have the confidence that He hears us!** We should then pray with Confidence and Compassion when dealing with other's shortcomings, asking God how to pray for them accordingly!

II. ASSURANCE OVER WICKEDNESS (18-19) – *We can walk in holiness because He keeps us! 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.* (*This can also read, God Keeps him*)

A. We are kept from SINNING (18) – Because we are born of the Spirit, we no longer make it our practice to sin! This was previously detailed by in John in (**3:4-6**). – John mentions this again for believers to **Know** that they have the **BLESSED ASSURANCE OVER WICKEDNESS!**

- **READ (tt. Rom 6:7-11)**: Sin no longer has dominion over us! (*We must choose not to sin!*)
- James emphasizes it this way, *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 1:27b**)

B. We are kept from SATAN (19) – *We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one. (NLT)* – As a result, **the wicked one does not touch us.** We are protected by Him as we walk in holiness! (As in the case with righteous Job, Satan has to ask permission to touch you)

1. We should know this! (Rem... Adam forfeited his Obedience to God's will, when he transgressed!)

- We must remember that we are Overcomers (5:1-5) **Act like it by the choices you make!**
- We should Not use this as a license to sin or tempt God! (But to SERVE GOD ACCEPTABLY!)

2. We must not forget that the world in which we live in is **under demonic influence.** Paul makes this clear in **(Eph 6:12)** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* – Its real folks! But “...Jesus gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil age...” (Gal 1:4)

- When we submit to God, and resist the devil, the devil flees! (James 4:7)
- When we cooperate with God, **Satan has no chance!** **What a Blessed Assurance!**

CLOSING THOUGHT: Based on the (NLT) of verse 18, I see four points that support our **Blessed Assurance Over Wickedness:** 1) **We are...** *God's children*, 2) **We...** *do not make a practice of sinning*, 3) **We have...** *God's Son to hold us securely* 4) **We are untouchables...** *the evil one cannot touch them.* (1 John 5:18 – NLT). – If you are feeling defeated, then meditate on **(Isa 41:10)** *Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.* – The Superbowl add promoted a campaign that said **HE GETS US... Well, Isaiah proclaims that... HE'S GOT US!**

III. ASSURANCE IN KNOWING GOD (20-21) *We can rest in truth because He reveals Himself to us!* – John writes, *And we KNOW that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may KNOW Him who is true (genuine); and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

- *This verse provides a firm, inter-woven declaration of the Godhead Mission!* (Diety)
- John includes it so that we can **KNOW it...**and **KNOWING it** brings the **BLESSED ASSURANCE**

A. We are SECURE (20) in knowing that...

1. We believe in Jesus, i.e., that **He has come (20a)** – As foretold! The prophets told of the coming of the Messiah. When John the Baptist saw Him, he declared: *Behold! the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the World.* (John 1:29b)

2. Jesus gives us Understanding to KNOW the TRUE God (20b) – Jesus gives us true insight concerning God – As John declared in his gospel: *"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."* (John 1:18)

3. We can live in Fellowship with the True God (20c) – This is experienced when we Keep His words and His commandments (John 14:21,23). John spent this entire epistle reminding us to abide in the fellowship that God desired (1 John 1:1-3). – A BLESSED FELLOWSHIP!

4. Jesus is the ONLY TRUE God, and He is Eternal life. (20d) – The expression "*true God*" communicates that He [Jesus] is "*the real God!*" – With this declaration, John is also defining what "*eternal life*" truly is...

- It is to "KNOW" Him who is true
- It is to be "IN HIM" who is true, and "IN HIS SON, Jesus Christ"

Eternal life is that abundant life... which comes from "knowing" and "fellowshipping" with the Father and the Son intimately!

B. We Must Still KEEP Ourselves (21) – With his favorite term of endearment, *Little Children*, John admonishes us to STAY AWAY from anything that would replace our devotion to the One True God. – It is true that God keeps us, but as God's children, we must do everything to 'KEEP OURSELVES' from Idols!

- *For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (Eph 5:5)*
- *Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Col 3:5)*
- **NOTE WELL:** If there was no danger of being led astray, there would be no need for a warning!