



“Dear Children, We Know!”

1 John 5:13-21

Sunday | June 3rd, 2018 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 John 5:13-21

(See also: John 20:30-31, 1 Jn. 1:1-4, Ps. 66:16-20, James 1:5-8, 4:2-4)

DISCUSS

1. *The Apostle John concludes his letter with a string of thoughts (one author likened it to a postscript). It seems apparent that he wanted to make sure he has said all that he needed to say. Pastor Patrick likened this to a father sending his kids off to college (i.e. out of the nest). Discuss the affection apparent in John’s letter. Can you relate? In what ways?*

2. *Read John 20:30-31 and compare to 1 John 5:13. What are the differences apparent in these two similar passages? What are the similarities?*

3. *John states his motivation for writing is so that his audience would “know” that they have eternal life. What does the word “know” suggest? Why is this important? How does this relate to faith (see Heb. 11:1)?*

4. *John then jumps to the topic of prayer. How does this connect to the knowledge of eternal life?*

5. *How do you respond to the idea that God hears our prayers? Read Ps. 66:16-20 and discuss. What strikes you with this Psalm? How does it make you feel?*

6. *What does it mean to pray “according to his [God’s] will” (See James 1:5-8, 4:2-4 for contrast)? The late John Stott wrote, “Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or for bending his will to ours, but the prescribed way of subordinating our will to his. It is by prayer that we seek God’s will, embrace it and align ourselves with it. Every true prayer is a variation on the theme ‘your will be done.’”¹ What are the implications of this understanding?*

7. *Read 1 John 5:18 and discuss. What is John saying and why is this so important for the Christian?*

8. *What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?*

¹(John Stott, *The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: The Letters of John* [Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988], p.