



Week 11 Study Guide

Read the text: 1 John 3:19-24

3:19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Study the Text

- Make some observations...what jumps out to you? What are key words/phrases? Any repeated words? What questions does this passage raise?
- This text is related to what was previously said (by this we know...) so what did John say in the preceding verses? How is that related to what he is saying now?
- How do our hearts condemn us?
- How does Satan condemn/accuse Christians? How does that relate to what is happening in this church? *Look at Job 1:6-12. Notice that Satan accuses Job of only loving God because God has been good to him. Look at Revelation 12:10. In this context the false teachers who John calls antichrists are accusing these Christians of not really knowing God.*
- Remember that John's aim in this letter is to offer assurance to his readers that they know God. Look again at 1 John 5:13. How is this current passage related to that John's overall purpose?
- How do we as Christians find assurance?
- What does John mean by "God is greater than your heart and he knows everything"? How is this verse encouraging especially when we often look at our lives and see our shortcomings?
- Look at 1 John 5:14-15. How does this verse help us understand what John says here in verse 22?
- How does assurance of our standing with God give us confidence in prayer? Do your prayers give evidence of confidence before God?

- Look at verse 23-24...what are the signs that we have been discussing that show that someone knows God and can have confidence in his or her salvation?
- What does this passage teach us about God?
- Verse 24 contains the first mention of the Spirit in this letter. What does John say about the Spirit of God? Look at Ephesians 1:13-14 and 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. What do these passages say about the Holy Spirit? How do those passages shed further light on how John connects the Spirit of God with having assurance?
- Notice the goodness of God in this passage and this letter...He doesn't just want us to know Him but to know that we know Him. Discuss God's goodness in providing us with a way to have assurance.
- Consider how you can apply this passage. What are you to think, feel, do?

Prayer (follow the same model of praising God, confessing sin and making requests)

- How can you pray more boldly as individuals and as a group? What are ways that you can pray boldly for each other because you have God as your Father?

Mission

- Easter is almost here! Who are you inviting?