

WHAT WE KNOW

1 John 5.18-21

We know a lot of things. We learn more each day.

Don't sweat the petty things, and don't pet the sweaty things.
Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.
Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.

One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor.
The older you get, the better you realize you were.

John lists a bunch of things we know...*important things*:

Starting with last week: we know we have the witness of God in our lives.

This Word is His witness, His testimony. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (Rev 19)

“Discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing, comforting, or revealing

The testimony of the Word reproves, admonishes, comforts and reveals. (Thayer)

We know what marks the world tick...we know what sin does, etc

We know that we can trust God to supply, forgive, cleanse...

WE KNOW that we are OF GOD

- 1) We do not live a life of sinning. 2) We are free from the wicked one (devil)

We are no longer under the sway of the evil one. I do not do his bidding! (Revel in his lust; race to shed blood; hasten toward injustice)

BUT, I am very much under *the sway of my flesh*, (but not the devil).

Rom 7...this is mature Paul, struggling!

“I know that all God’s commands are spiritual, but I’m not. Isn’t this also your experience?”

Yes. I’m full of myself—after all, I’ve spent a long time in sin’s prison.

What I don’t understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise.

So if I can’t be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God’s command is necessary.

But I need something more!

For if I know the law but still can’t keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions,

I obviously need help! *I realize that I don’t have what it takes.*

I can will it, *but I can’t do it.* I decide to do good, *but I don’t really do it;* I decide not to do bad, *but then I do it anyway.*

My decisions, such as they are, don’t result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

It happens so regularly that it’s predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up.

I truly delight in God’s commands, but it’s pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight.

Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

Outside of Christ, I do not know the words of Romans 7: but in Christ, I know who I am and how much I need Him! ***And His forgiveness!***

Because I am of God now,

I see the battle,	I do NOT have to surrender...	I can win!
I see the weakness,	I do NOT have to cave in...	...be strong!
I see the sinful nature	I do NOT have to yield...	...overcome!

WE KNOW that we have UNDERSTANDING

-And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled (Col 1)

I am no longer an enemy in my mind by wicked works...

-Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind;

and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (Eph 2)

We can look back at our former life and understand why we did what we did.

We can look at our current life and now see why we do what we do.

I am no longer an enemy in my mind by wicked works...

I am no longer by nature a child of wrath...

But I also understand that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwells no good thing.

WE KNOW who is TRUE

1 John 2:27:

You know all things, and we do not need anyone to teach you.

Then why the five-fold gifts to the church? Why am I standing up here?

To remind us; stir up and provide help.

We all know basic truth.

There is a God; He has revealed Himself...

We know time+matter+chance is foolishness. Evolution is a concoction of evil minds...

We know there is a difference between a cow and human.

...if we see a dead deer by the roadside...common and we keep driving.

...if we see a dead baby by the roadside...horrible, all traffic stops.

We know man needs a power higher than himself

We know man does not have the answer to the human condition.

(Sure, we can create nifty things like light switches, blenders, coffee and cars)

But we cannot solve the sickness in our souls!

We know why that person does what they do...

BUT (the bottom line)

WE KNOW that we are IN HIM

Rom 15:12 And again, Isaiah says:

There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, *In Him the Gentiles shall hope.*

2 Co 1:20

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

2 Co 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness...

Eph 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Eph 1:11

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined

according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Php 3:9

and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law,
but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

COLOSSIANS: **IN HIM**

He is before all things, all things consist

...all the fullness shall dwell (Col 1) (didn't get it...)

...dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col 2)

...(I am) rooted and built up and established in the faith, abounding

...(I am) complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

22x in 1 John! In Him...Get it!?

What do we know?

With all of my Romans 7 problems; faults and failures; struggles...*I am in Him and He is in me!*

I am hidden with Christ in God!