

THINGS WE KNOW: CHRISTIAN CERTAINTIES — 1 JOHN 5:13-21

1. We Know We Have Eternal Life

1 JOHN 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. (1Jn.5:13)

- We know we have eternal life because of what has been written.
- The “glory” the world does not yet see is already in us and awaits “the revealing of the sons of God (Ro.8:18-19).
- This is not simply about a duration of life, it is about a quality of life.
- If you believe the gospel, you may know that you NOW possess eternal life.

2. We Know God Answers Our Prayers

1 JOHN 5:14-17

¹⁴Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. ¹⁶If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. ¹⁷All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death. (1Jn.5:14-17)

- In the meantime, we have needs, problems, and concerns to deal with.
- We are confident enough as believers to go right into the presence of the eternal God and boldly ask, ‘according to His will,’ for what we need (He.4:16; Jn.14:13-14; 15:7,16; 16:23-24; Ps.37:4).
- This illustration (vs.16-17) is only in the most extreme case where there is already a final determination about the destiny of that person, and it is that they’re going to die. But the point is that we can boldly come and be heard.

3. We Know We Have Victory Over Sin

1 JOHN 5:18-19

¹⁸We 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. ¹⁹We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

- Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness (1Jn.3:4)
- Sin is incompatible with the work of Christ (1Jn.3:6-7)
- Sin is incompatible with the ministry of the Holy Spirit (1Jn.3:9-10; Ro.6:17-18)

4. We Know That Christ is The True God

1 JOHN 5:20-21

²⁰And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. ²¹Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. (1Jn.5:20-21)

- You have come to Christ, all others are imposters. Everything else is an idol.