

I John 5:14-21

REVIEW...

- **God is LIGHT – I John 1-2**
- **God is LOVE – I John 3-4**
- **God is LIFE – I John 5**
 - o Obedience to Jesus...
 - ANYONE who puts their FAITH in Jesus Christ – is BORN again...
 - ALL who are BORN again – keep TWO commands – LOVE God and LOVE others...
 - ALL who have FAITH – have VICTORY over the lies of this WORLD!
 - o Evidenced for Jesus...
 - On EARTH – the Water – Blood – and Spirit – all TESTIFY Jesus is the answer...
 - In HEAVEN – the Father – Word – and Spirit – all TESTIFY Jesus is God...
 - God the Father – spoke and TESTIFIED – we should LISTEN to Jesus...
 - Our LIVES – are a TESTIMONY to how Jesus can save!
 - o LIFE in Jesus...
 - ALL who have the SON have LIFE – those who do not have the SON are DEAD...
 - We have the WORD – so we KNOW we have LIFE – and continue to BELIEVE!
- **LIFE in God...**
 - o We have seen believing in God – is what brings LIFE...
 - o Now we will finish up this section – and the book – by seeing what LIFE in God looks like!

LIFE IN GOD...

- **WHAT WE SEE ...**
 - o 1st – TWO words...
 - The word KNOW – comes from TWO different GREEK words...
 - KNOW [γινώσκω] 25x in **I John** - indicates a relation - knowing a person...
 - KNOW [εἶδω] 17x in **I John** – speaks of observing something with our eyes!
 - o 2nd – To SEE...
 - The word KNOW [εἶδω] is used 6x in - **I John 5**
 - We noted last week - we SEE – we have eternal life by FAITH in Jesus – **I John 5:13**
 - We will note today – FIVE additional things we SEE – that define our LIFE in God!
- **1ST – GOD HEARS... vs. 14**
 - o 1st – Our CONFIDENCE... vs. 14
 - **Now this is the confidence that we have in Him:**
 - The FIRST thing we SEE [εἶδω] – is that God HEARS us – **I John 5:15**
 - Because He HEARS - we have CONFIDENCE [παρρησία] – fearless – boldness!
 - **Those who are LOST in the WORLD – do NOT know if God is real...**
 - **Even if He is real – they do NOT know if He will LISTEN to them...**
 - **But we are CONFIDENT – Jesus is REAL – and we can go to Him ANYTIME in PRAYER...**
 - **We can BOLDLY walk into His throne room – and find HELP whenever we need it!**
 - **Hebrews 4:16 – “Let us therefore come BOLDLY [παρρησία] to the Throne of Grace...”**
 - o 2nd – His WILL... vs. 14
 - **If we ask anything according to His will - He hears us!**
 - There is a CONDITION to God HEARING our prayers...

- IF [subjunctive] we ASK [αἰτέω] for something – that is according to His WILL [θέλημα]!
- **James 4:3** – “You ask and do not receive - because you ask amiss...”
- If we ASK God for SELFISH things – SILENCE will be His ONLY reply...
- ONLY as we LIVE for Jesus – can ASK for anything - and God WILL give it...
- Because we are going to be asking for the things that God knows are best!
- **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. By this My Father is glorified - that you bear much fruit.”
- **2ND – GOD ANSWERS... vs. 15-17**
 - 1st – If we ASK...
 - SINCE we KNOW that He hears us - whatever we ask [in His will]
 - We KNOW that we have the [REQUESTS] we have asked of Him!
 - The SECOND thing we SEE [εἶδω] – is God will ANSWER us...
 - IF [subjunctive] we ASK [αἰτέω] – we will get whatever we REQUEST [αἴτημα]!
 - Life can have a tendency to throw challenges - problems our way...
 - We tend to spend a LOT of time WORRYING about these problems...
 - The problem is WORRYING about our problems does not help – it makes things worse!
 - **Proverbs 12:25** – “Worry weighs a person down...”
 - WORRY is the opposite of TRUST – we are WORRIED because we are not TRUSTING God...
 - Instead of worrying we should come to the LORD who LISTENS...
 - Because when we ASK God - we find our WORRIES disappear...
 - Our perspective changes - we see our circumstances in a new light...
 - We no longer see our problems - instead our God who is greater than ANY problem!
 - **Philippians 4:6** – “Do not WORRY about anything – instead ASK God about everything... [and] let your REQUESTS [αἴτημα] be made known to Him.” [my translation]
 - 2nd – What to ASK for... vs. 16
 - If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death...
 - He will ask - and [God] will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death!
 - Do NOT miss this – we are told WHAT the WILL of God is that we are to ASK [αἰτέω] for...
 - If [subjunctive] we see a believer [ἀδελφός] who is LIVING [present] in SIN [ἀμαρτάνω]
 - We are to ASK [αἰτέω] God to SAVE them – and He will give that person LIFE...
 - So that their SIN [ἀμαρτάνω] – will not LEAD to DEATH!
 - There is a tendency in our culture – to avoid confrontation...
 - If someone does something wrong – the accepted response is to IGNORE it...
 - We can even EXCUSE it and say – God will deal with it – we do NOT need to!
 - Ignoring SIN – is NOT the solution for SIN – we are CALLED to HELP...
 - When we see a brother or sister caught up in the world – not living for Jesus...
 - It is our responsibility to come alongside them to see if we can encourage them...
 - If they want to continue in SIN - we pray God CONVICTS them...
 - If they are overwhelmed by their SIN – we can help to carry their burden!
 - **Galatians 6:1-2** – “If a man is overtaken in any trespass - you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness... Bear one another burdens - and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
 - 3rd – Unforgivable SIN... vs. 16
 - There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that!
 - This is where things get HEAVY – there is a SIN that leads to DEATH...
 - If someone is committing this SIN – we are NOT [subjunctive] to PRAY [ἐρωτάω] for them...

- The obvious question is – what is the SIN that leads to DEATH!
- **Matthew 12:31** – “Every sin... will be forgiven men - but the blasphemy against the Spirit will NOT be forgiven men.”
- When we SIN – it is the SPIRIT who tugs at our heart to REPENT – **John 16:8**
- At which point we have a CHOICE – if we CONTINUE to sin - we start to HARDEN...
- We AVOID anything that reminds us of God – CHURCH – BIBLE – FELLOWSHIP – PRAYER...
- The danger is we can end up preferring to live in SIN – and REJECT God – **Hebrews 3:12**
- For that PERSON – who has so HARDENED their heart – they do NOT want God...
- There is NO HOPE of salvation – because there is only ONE way to heaven...
- The unforgivable sin is to die having REJECTED Jesus as our Savior!
- **Hebrews 10:26** – “If we sin [present] willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth - there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.”

- When should we STOP asking...
 - ONLY God sees the heart – He is the ONLY one who knows – **I Samuel 16:7**
 - Meaning we NEVER stop asking for God to SAVE someone from their SIN!
- Have we COMMITTED the SIN...
 - The simple answer is NO – not if we are ASKING...
 - Because the person who ASKS – is still thinking about the LORD...
 - Someone who has COMMITTED the SIN that leads to DEATH – does not CARE...
 - They are so hardened to God – they no longer even think about Him!

o 4th – All other SIN... vs. 17

- All unrighteousness is sin - and there is sin not leading to death!
- ALL [παῖς] – every KIND of UNRIGHTEOUSNESS [ἀδικία] – to BREAK the LAW of God...
- Is SIN [ἁμαρτάνω] – to wander away from God...
- Every time we BREAK the LAW of God – we have SINNED and wandered away from God!
- There are no LEVELS of SIN when it comes to God – venial or moral...
- It is no different if we tell a white LIE – or if we murder...
- How many SINS does it take to make us a SINNER – just one!
- **James 2:10** – “For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of Gods law.” [NLT]
- We can agree the LAW of God is good – and even desire LIVE it – **Romans 7:12**
- But it is NOT possible for us to live a HOLY life on our own...
- No matter how hard we try – we are doomed to FAIL – we will WANDER...
- We are not SINNERS because we SIN – we SIN because we are SINNERS...
- But that is why Jesus came to DIE – so we could be FORGIVEN...
- And all we have to do is REPENT – and our SIN will NOT lead to DEATH!
- **I John 1:9** – “If we confess our sins [ἁμαρτάνω] - He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [ἀδικία].”

• 3RD – No SIN... vs. 18

o 1st – Born of God...

- We know that whoever is born of God does not sin!
- The THIRD thing we SEE [εἶδω] – is we STOP sinning...
- This is NOT talking about theology – this is practical – what we actually SEE...
- We SEE [perfect] – ANYONE [παῖς] who is BORN again – does not LIVE [present] in sin!
- **I John 3:9** – “Whoever has been born of God does not sin - for [Jesus abides] in him - and he cannot sin because he has been born of God.”
- When by FAITH we receive the LOVE of the Father – and Jesus comes to ABIDE in us...

- We are BORN again – giving us a NEW life – that is free from SIN...
- Not only do we have no SIN [noun]– we are forgiven through Jesus – **Hebrews 10:17**
- Being BORN again – means we no longer have the POWER [δύναμις] to LIVE in SIN [verb]
- Because we have Jesus LIVING in us – and He will NOT let us LIVE [present] in sin!

o 2nd – Untouchable...

- He who has been born of God GUARDS himself - and the wicked one does not touch him!
- Those who are BORN again – constantly [present] are on GUARD...
- Because they do not want to give an OPPORTUNITY for the WICKED one...
- THE [definite article] WICKED [πονηρός] – a reference to our enemy – Satan...
- Who wants to TOUCH [ἅπτομαι] – to CLING to someone!
- **Genesis 4:7** – “If you do not do well - sin lies at the door...”
- When the offering of Cain was rejected by God – the Lord encouraged him...
- He needed to do GOOD – be on GUARD – because SIN was at his DOOR...
- And it wanted to CLING to him - RULE over him!
- Satan would love nothing more than CLING to us – RULE over us...
- But with God on our side – he cannot TOUCH us - **Romans 8:31**
- Yet Satan is smart - he knows we are SAFE so long as we ABIDE in Jesus...
- So he tries to get us to COMPROMISE our walk with the Lord...
- If satan can trip us up with SIN - he can get us to walk AWAY from the protection of God!

● 4TH – TWO TEAMS... vs. 19

o 1st – Team God...

- We know that we are of God!
- The FOURTH thing we SEE [εἶδω] – is that we BELONG [ἐκ] to God...
- I LOVE football – where I was raised it was the main SPORT...
- Unfortunately – the TEAM from the area I grew up – has NEVER been very good...
- So because I have the wrong TEAM – I never seem to WIN...
- You would think I would just CHOSE a better team – but it is HARD to CHANGE!
- There are only TWO teams we can belong to – TEAM God – and TEAM satan...
- We came into this world belonging to the LOSING team...
- Before we received the LOVE of God – we were the CHILDREN of Satan – **I John 3:10**
- But now we SEE – since we are BORN again – that we have CHANGED...
- We have been ADOPTED into TEAM God – and have VICTORY over our ENEMY!
- **I John 2:13** – “You have overcome the wicked one.”

o 2nd – Team satan...

- The whole world lies *under the sway* of the wicked one!
- We also SEE [εἶδω] – the ENTIRE world [κόσμος] – STANDS [κεῖμαι] with satan...
- The words – *under the sway* – are in italics meaning they are not in the original text...
- But it is a GOOD addition – because everyone who is not on TEAM God – is still on TEAM satan...
- He is the god of this AGE who blinds the minds of those who do not believe – **II Corinthians 4:4**
- He is the prince of the power of the AIR – who deceives the world – **Ephesians 2:2**
- It is no accident that TV and WIFI are transmitted through the AIR...
- Because satan certainly is the power behind the MEDIA...

- We turn on the TV and see advertising showing all the things you NEED to buy...
- We see add of people in scantily clad clothing – telling us how to look – what to look at...
- Satan uses it all to twist and pervert minds - keep them in bondage to his TEAM!
- **5TH – THE TRUTH... vs. 20-21**
 - 1st – We have Understanding... vs. 20
 - We know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding!
 - The FIFTH thing we SEE [εἶδω] – is the TRUTH...
 - We SEE [perfect] that Jesus – the SON of God – became a MAN – **Isaiah 7:14**
 - So that He could give [perfect] us UNDERSTANDING [διάνοια]!
 - People have had ALL kinds of ideas about WHO God is – and WHAT He wants...
 - But the ONLY one who actually KNOWS God – and KNOWS His desires – is Jesus...
 - Therefore Jesus came to so we could SEE – WHO God is - and WHAT God wants!
 - **Ephesians 1:18** – “The eyes of our understanding [διάνοια] being [opened] - that we may know what is the hope of His calling - what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”
 - 2nd – The Truth... vs. 20
 - We may know [THE truth] - and we are in [THE truth] - in His Son Jesus Christ.
 - This is THE true God and eternal life!
 - What does God want us to UNDERSTAND – He wants to KNOW the TRUTH...
 - KNOW [γινώσκω] – to have a RELATIONSHIP [subjunctive] with...
 - THE [definite article] – TRUTH [ἀληθινός]
 - Because TRUTH is NOT an idea – it is a PERSON – it is Jesus Christ!
 - **John 14:6** – “Jesus said... I am the way - the truth [ἀληθινός] - and the life.”
 - When we have a RELATIONSHIP with Jesus – we also KNOW the TRUTH...
 - The TRUTH is that Jesus Christ is the TRUE God...
 - And only when we are in Jesus – who is God – do we have eternal LIFE!
 - **John 17:3** – “This is eternal life - that they may know You - the only true [ἀληθινός] God - and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
 - 3rd – False gods... vs. 21
 - Little children - keep yourselves from idols. Amen!
 - Since Jesus is the TRUE God – and the only way to have eternal LIFE...
 - Little CHILDREN - [τεκνίον] – 7x in **I John** – a term used by teachers for their disciples...
 - GUARD yourself from putting our TRUST in IDOLS [εἰδωλον] – FALSE gods!
 - IDOLS have NO power - they are neither harmful nor helpful...
 - Therefore it is foolish to TRUST in them or PRAY to them!
 - **Jeremiah 5:10** - “Do not be afraid of them - they cannot do evil of good...”
 - CANNOT save...
 - **Isaiah 44:19-20** - “The person who made the idol never stops to reflect - Why it is just a block of wood! I burned half of it for heat and used it to... roast my meat. How can the rest of it be a god. Should I bow down to worship a chunk of wood!” [NLT]
 - We might LAUGH at the idea of putting our TRUST in an IDOL...
 - But we tend to forget what our money is made of – paper is a WOOD product...
 - We look to Roxas [P100] - Aquino [P500] - Santos [P1000] – to SAVE us!
 - Make us DUMB...
 - **Psalms 115:8** - “Those who make them – [become] like them.”
 - If we are trusting in something FALSE - then we are not looking to the TRUTH...

- Where God has the power to save us – this WORLD can do nothing...
- So if we are trusting in IDOLS rather than Jesus – we do NOT have LIFE..
- Which is why we can say with John – GUARD against anything but the TRUTH – AMEN!