

THINGS WE KNOW (1 John 5:18-21)

I. We know our relationship with sin (18).

- A. The child of God no longer lives a life dominated by habitual sin.
 - 1. This is the meaning of the phrase "sinneth not."
 - 2. It does not mean that we do not sin because this would contradict what John stated in chapter 1.
 - 3. This is an idea already presented to us by John (3:9).
- B. Instead, a child of God keeps himself from sin.
 - 1. How does he do this?
 - 2. As 3:9 says, the seed remains in the person.
 - a. What is the seed?
 - b. The seed is the word of God.
- C. This is why study of the Bible is so important.
 - 1. It keeps us from sin.
 - 2. The Psalmist know that long ago (119:11).
 - 3. The word tells us of the effects of sin.
 - 4. It tells us the rewards of faithfulness and it gives us the strength we need to keep from sin.
 - 5. 1 John 3:3 + 1 Peter 1:22.
- D. When we rely on God's word Satan cannot harm us.
 - 1. James 4:7.
 - 2. Satan is a coward when confronted with God's word.
 - 3. He knows that he cannot overcome it.

II. We know our relationship with God (19).

- A. We know that we are of God.
 - 1. John has already given us ample evidence that we are saved (5:13).
 - 2. This is what it means to be of God.
 - 3. John wrote so that there could be no doubt as to who is of God and who is not.
 - 4. When we read this epistle we ought to come away with a knowledge of whether or not we are saved.
- B. Apart from God we would lie in wickedness.
 - 1. The world stands for all that are outside of God.
 - 2. Christians are of God and all else are of the world.
 - 3. Those that are in the world are eaten up with wickedness.
 - 4. This is the picture Paul paints for us in Romans 1.
 - 5. If we look at our world, this is easy to see.
- C. Our relationship with God keeps us out of wickedness.

III. Our relationship with Christ (20-21).

- A. The Gnostics disputed the coming of Christ, but those that are of God know that Jesus came.
 - 1. We know it by the witnesses that John has given us.
 - 2. 1:1-4; 5:6-10.
- B. By giving us these witnesses and the ability to know that Jesus came we

- have an understanding about Jesus and who He is.
- C. It allows us to know Jesus and to be in Him.
 - 1. There is no excuse for someone not to know Jesus.
 - 2. All the things we need have been given us to know Him.
 - 3. When we come to know Him, we will come to know how to be in Him.
 - D. When we know Him and are in Him, we will have eternal life.
 - E. This is reminiscent of the words of Jesus in His prayer with the apostles (John 17:3).
 - 1. When one knows Jesus, he has eternal life.
 - 2. Without knowledge of Jesus we are hopelessly lost.