

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 5:18-21

Lesson 22

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. How is what you learned about prayer in I John 5:14-16 operative in your life today?
 - a. In what way does the word *will* in I John 5:14b relate to I John 5:16a?
 - b. In the context of this letter, who might the *sin unto death* refer to?
2. Observe the words *we know* in the concluding paragraph of I John. Through these verses John summarizes truths he has emphasized in this letter with three strong indisputable affirmations or assurances. Mark this paragraph, I John 5:18-21, and record the first phrase of each verse beginning with *we know*:
 - a. verse 18: We know _____
 - b. verse 19: And we know _____
 - c. verse 20: And we know _____
3. We know that the conclusion of a letter of this consequence will be powerful and relevant. Therefore, we want our understanding and our hearts to be prepared by prayer to receive all the Lord has for us in these closing verses. Write your prayer concerning this lesson here. Use I John 5:14, 15 as a faith-builder for the answer to your petitions.

*And since we know that He hears us,
whatsoever we ask,
we know that we have the petitions
that we desired of Him.*

I John 5:15

SECOND DAY: Read I John 5:18

1. Taking time with I John 5:18 will be time well spent. The truth and comfort of this verse is reassuring or convicting depending on whether *you are born of (begotten of) God* or not. Read this verse over several times. For clearer understanding, capitalize the word *he* and draw a line through the word *self* of *himself*. What are *we to know* - be assured of - from this verse? Answer by completing the following three phrases:
 - a. We know that whosoever _____
 - b. (we know) that He that is begotten of God _____
 - c. (we know) that wicked one _____

2. Observe the words *sinneth not* in I John 5:18. We know this does not mean that a Christian never sins. The verb tense used here indicates continuing action. We could paraphrase this as *does not continue in sin* or *habitually practice sin*. Pastor Chuck says concerning this verse: *It is one, thing to be overtaken by a fault. If the believer sins, he has an Advocate. It is quite another thing to be controlled by sin. Why does one born (begotten) of God not habitually practice sin? Answer in your own words from the following scriptures:*
 - a. I John 5: 18b
 - b. I John 5:18c
 - c. I John 3:6
 - d. I John 3:9
 - 1) To Whom does His seed refer?

3. Print the word *keepeth*. Selah - pause and think about this.
 - a. We sing: *If you know the Lord is keeping you, whatcha got to worry about* and yet, we often ignore that it is *the Son of God Who keeps us* when we feel the enemy is pressing in on us. The Greek verb for *keepeth* in I John 5:18 is not the same as for the word *keep* in I John 5:21. *Keepeth* means to keep an eye on; keep safe; to guard from loss or injury; to isolate; guarded, protected, preserved. Focus on this from Jude 24 (25). What does this verse say to you?

 - b. Behold our Lord's incredible *keeping* power from Psalm 121:4-7. Meditate on these verses as you write key phrases here.

 - c. What does *keepeth* mean to you now?

4. Why do we need to be *kept* by the Lord? I Peter 5:8

5. Contemplate the phrase (1 John 5:18c) *and that wicked one (evil one) toucheth him not, Toucheth* is defined as *does not lay hold on him or to assault with the intention of severing the vital union between Christ and the believer*. Write the last phrase of I John 5:18 in your own words.
 - a. *No one who has become part of God's family makes a practice of sinning, for Christ, God's Son, holds him securely and the devil cannot get his hands on him.* (I John 5:18 TLB) Do you know this today? Delight, joy, exult (leap for joy) in this truth by reading Romans 8:38, 39. What does it reveal that amplifies I John 5:18?

6. Write a thanksgiving to the Lord for the assurance I John 5:18 gives you.

Challenge: Believers know that nothing can come into their lives except the Lord allows it. We see this illustrated through the Shepherd standing guard over the gate of the sheepfold. The source of the calamity might be the enemy, but the Lord allows it for eternal purposes. Explain this by Luke 22:31, 32.

*O Protector of my soul,
You will stand against the foe:
In the dark You'll be a light for me,
O Protector of my soul.*

-Anne Barbour

THIRD DAY: Read I John 5:19

1. Compare the following version of I John 5:19 with the KJV: *We know that we are children of God and that all the rest of the world (system and mankind) around us is under Satan's power and control.* (I John 5:19 TLB) What do we know from this verse?
 - a. Recall from our study of I John what the following scriptures reveal about the world:
 - 1) I John 2:15-17
 - 2) I John 4:4
 - 3) I John 5:4, 5
 - 4) Which of these scriptures speaks most powerfully to you today about the *world*?
2. What does the phrase *the whole world lies in the power of the evil one* (NASB) tell you about anyone who is not born of God?
 - a. The word *lies* seems to suggest that the world is asleep, doesn't struggle against sin - just relaxes and is content in it. Christians, though, seem to be *encircled by hostile forces whose policies and practices endanger their very existence* (Ephesians 6:12). Why is this so? Use scripture to support your answer if possible.
3. What is your greatest struggle with the *world* (system which is in opposition to God and ruled by Satan)?
 - a. How does understanding I John 5:19 help you to not in any way be conformed to it?
4. Meditate on Jesus' prayer for His disciples and for us in John 17:(13, 14) 15 (16-21). Make it your prayer for you and for those dearest to you as well as for all Christians.

- a. If you see a Christian being attracted to the *world*, what have you learned from I John you must do?

I believe that one reason the church has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.

-Spurgeon

FOURTH DAY:

Read I John 5:20

1. Review what *we know*, are assured of, from I John 5:18, 19 with an attitude of deep appreciation. Now John completes the summary of the main themes in this letter. Write the third affirmation from I John 5:20a.
 - a. What evidence does John give of this:
 - 1) I John 1:1-4
 - 2) I John 5:6-8
2. What has He given us?
 - a. Why has He *given us an understanding*? Print your answer.
 - 1) See this verse as a strong affirmation of the Deity of Christ. View the *antichrists* of chapter 4 and Cerinthus' philosophy concerning Jesus in light of our *understanding* of Who Jesus is. *True* is a word John uses often in the Gospel of John and in I John. He was determined that the readers would know the *true* (genuine) God and His Son. He uses the word *true* three times in I John 5:20. Define the word *true*. Use synonyms if you desire,
 - 2) In a world littered with false gods and antichrists (counterfeit christs or opposers to His Deity) what does it mean to you today to know you have *an understanding that you may know Him that is True*?
3. We not only know Him that is *True*, but *we are* _____ *that is True, even* _____.
 - a. We are united to Him. We belong to Him. We are *in Him Who is True*. To be *in the Son* is to share His very life. Consider this from Acts 17:28a and write your own definition of (*we are*) *in Him*.
 - b. Contrast our being *in Him* with those of John 5:19b. With what words would you describe them?

4. *To know Him that is True, the Incarnate God, is to know Christ. Who is truly God and eternal life. Affirm this by writing the last sentence of I John 5:20.*
 - a. *Our knowledge of the Incarnation, God becoming man, and of God's work through Jesus Christ, when properly understood, leads us to a personal knowledge of Christ, who is truly God and so to eternal life. How does John 17:3 support this statement?*
 - 1) Behold God's Son in Whom we have eternal life from Hebrews 1:(1) 2, 3 (4), What do you see?
 - 2) Why do you think I John 5:20 is important to us today?

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 5:21

1. Record John's last command to his dear children in I John 5:21. Note that the word *keep* in verse 21 is translated elsewhere *guard*.
 - a. *Dear children, guard yourselves from idols.* At first glance this seems a very unusual way to close this letter that taught so much about fellowship and love. In John's time Asia minor was saturated with the worship of idols. Their influence permeated the atmosphere. Ephesus, the city from which John was writing this letter, was almost totally given over to the worship of the goddess Diana. See Acts 19:(23-26) 27 for a glimpse of this in Paul's time. The Temple of Diana in Ephesus was one of the wonders of the ancient world. So prevalent was idol worship that almost every home had little statues of gods or goddesses, and huge temples had been erected as places of worship to them. Why was John's admonition so urgently needed that he felt impressed to close the letter this way?
2. Christians in the 21st century might be apt to dismiss this scripture with a shrug because they define an *idol* in terms of these little statues. How does the following paraphrase make I John 3:21 relevant to all of us: *Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts?* (1 John 5:21 TLB)
3. *An idol is anything in this life which men worship instead of God, and which men allow to take the place of God.* A man may make an idol of his money, career, status, appearance, possessions, intellect. or pleasure. Every believer must heed John's warning. What is God's command for this? Exodus 20:3 (4, 5)
 - a. What other things do we need to be aware of that can become idols in our lives?
4. How will adherence to Jude 21 help you be obedient to I John 5:21?

5. We need to allow God to turn His searchlight on our hearts in this area of idolatry. We can be oblivious or deceived about this. The all-consuming idolatry in our culture, not just restricted to unbelievers, that makes sex and appearance priority to the extreme of AIDS and anorexia is an example of this deception. How do these verses speak to this?
 - a. Proverbs 31:30
 - b. I Timothy 4: (7b)8
 - c. Romans 1:(21)24-27

6. Use Deuteronomy 6:5-9 as a preventative medicine for the invasive virus of idolatry.
 - a. Share practical ways you will carry out this assignment of Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

*Dead idols may have no appeal
but beware of the living ones,
especially thyself*

-selected

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 5:18-21

1. Write the three assurances from I John 5:18-20.

2. What did you learn about Jesus from this study?

3. Share a specific verse, phrase, or insight from the lesson that ministers to you,

4. What steps do you take to *keep* (guard) yourself from idols?
 - a. Review the statement in Question 3, Fifth Day. Examine your life in light this. If you recognize an idol in your life in response to I John 5:21, what will you do?

5. How does his lesson fit into your life?

6. With what significant word does John close his letter and what does it mean?

*To keep Your lovely face. ever before my eyes
This is my prayer. make it my strong desire
That in my secret heart, no other love competes
No rival throne survives and I serve only You.*

-G. Kendrick