

EPC Sermon – “In Conclusion”
September 7, 2025

Psalm 139:1-12

Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
- 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.
- 7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.
- 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,”
- 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

1 John 5

Overcoming the World

- 1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.
- 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.
- 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
- 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
- 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Testimony Concerning the Son of God

- 6 This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.
- 7 For there are three that testify:
- 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

EPC Sermon – “In Conclusion”
September 7, 2025

9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

That You May Know

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God[a] will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

EPC Sermon – “In Conclusion” September 7, 2025

Opening

1 John 5

Overcoming the World

- 1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.
- 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

Faith – “to believe” – believer is the child of God – faith and love are bound together, intertwined, they exist in us together, faith and love are not separate!

Love – Comes from the Father, flows through us to others, we show our faith by loving others and loving God, show love to God by ...

Obedience – we obey God’s commands

John is summarizing the Christian life not as a series of individual characteristics, but as a web of Faith, Love, and Obedience. Shown to God (faith / love / obedience), Shown to others (love / caring / concern), Shown to us (from God faith / love / rejuvenation (transformation)) (from others – love / caring / concern)

- 3 For this is the **love of God**, that we keep his commandments. And **his commandments are not burdensome**.
- 4 For everyone **who has been born of God** overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—**our faith**.

Love & obedience

Reminded of Matthew 11:30 (Words of Jesus)

“For my yoke is easy and my burden light”

We are different “born of God”. We are part of God’s Kingdom / Family. This is here and now – not a future event. Following Jesus is not drudgery or a system setup for failure – like the system of Laws set-up by the Pharisees. Following Christ is a journey / process where the believer is constantly improving, learning – becoming the person that God intended you to be.

EPC Sermon – “In Conclusion”
September 7, 2025

We live in this world but are not part of it.

5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. Who overcomes – only the believer who states that Jesus is the Son of God!

Testimony Concerning the Son of God

6 This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

7 For there are three that testify:

8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

What is meant by “water and blood”

- a. When spear pierced Jesus on the cross – out flowed water and blood – proof that He died on the cross. Does not explain why Jesus came.
- b. Reference to the sacraments of baptism and communion. Came by water can refer to baptism. It makes sense that the term blood could refer to communion. But “blood” is not used anywhere else in scripture to refer to the act of communion.
- c. Water refers to Jesus’ Baptism by John (historical fact). Blood refers to Jesus’ crucifixion (historical fact) – death on the cross.

John was refuting a lie – that Jesus was not divine (Son of God), that He was only human. The divine Christ entered the man Jesus when he was baptized but left before his death on the cross. John is stating clearly that Jesus was both human and divine at his baptism and crucifixion (historical facts) and by God himself (Spirit). The coming of the Spirit was foretold by Jesus himself.

Spirit – Baptism – Sacrifice ... God’s work to redeem us!

9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

With the preceding verses and this one John introduces us to the Trinity! God (the Father) – His Son (Jesus) – the Spirit. All flows from the God (father) John 3:16?

EPC Sermon – “In Conclusion”
September 7, 2025

10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.

Belief in Jesus as the Son of God is central / important. Disbelief means you didn't get the message at all.

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

That You May Know

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Because we have fellowship with Christ (has the Son) we have eternal life. (not of this world). A gift from God eternal life NOW! Not a future event. Expect to experience aspects of Godly life / eternal life now as we live our lives with Faith, Love and Obedience.

John says “these things” meaning the entire letter so that his readers can have confidence in their salvation.

14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

We can bring our praise and petitions / prayers to God with the confidence that He will hear them and answer them ... in His time according to His will.

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

EPC Sermon – “In Conclusion”
September 7, 2025

We as people “born of God” our desire is to not sin, we know we have the protection of Jesus through the Spirit, we also know that Satan (evil one) no longer has any power over us (Verse 18). The reality is we continue to sin and need to confess and repent. John is reminding his readers / us that if we see a fellow believer fall into sin we should pray that God will help him see the error of his actions. John is talking about two types of sin. Non-lethal and lethal. John is specifically addressing non-lethal sin. Sin that does not put the believer’s salvation in question. But a sin where a gentle push will cause them to repent. Lethal sin would be unbelief in Jesus.

19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

John reminds us again of what we already know. We are children of God, We are not of this world, but we still live in the world.

Jesus is the Son of God.

Do not follow false gods (idols), false teachings, be on guard and stay in the truth.

From NT Wright – The true God. The one Jesus. The life of the age to come. Love given, love passed on. This is where we stand. This is the witness of John.

(transition to communion)