

Lessons From I John

Certainties We Must Know

(I Jn 5:18-21)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Moring,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John."
 - a. We have looked at a number of great lessons from I John.
 - i. We will be finishing up I John today.
 - b. Throughout the book of I John we have discovered many "we knows."
 - i. In fact we find it fourteen times there.
 1. We know we are to keep God's commandments.
 - a. **I Jn 2:3**
 2. We know we have passed from death to life.
 - a. **I Jn 3:14**
 3. We know are prayers are heard.
 - a. **I Jn 5:15**
 - c. Today John writes three "Certainties We Must Know."
 - i. Three things that will keep us from sin and keep us looking to the Savior.
 3. With that in mind let us look at these three certainties...

I. Christians Should Be Certain Of Sin (18)

- A. First one must be born of God
 1. One doesn't understand the depth of sin without being a Christian.
 - i. Not even those that claim to be Christians in the denomination world.
 - a. They would rather feel good than be good.
 - b. I'm ok you're ok, or it's ok to agree to disagree. This is purely a desire to feel good rather than be righteous.
 1. **Jn 4:13** "Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again"¹
 - c. One can't understand the depth of sin with a desire to know God who is spirit and truth.
 2. A Christian on the other hand realizes the deceptive nature of sin.
 - i. So they must rightly divide the Word of Truth.
 - a. **II Ti 2:15** "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (NKJV)
 - ii. So they must reason accurately in the Word.
 - a. **Is 1:18** "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Lessons From I John

- iii. So they must test the spirits to see if they are right with the Word.
 - a. **I Jn 4:1** "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."
- B. Second they must be unwilling to sin willingly
 - 1. The one born of God doesn't keep on sinning.
 - 2. The reason for this is simple, Christians keep themselves or protect themselves from the evil one.
 - i. They do this with the armor of God.
 - a. **Ep 6:11** "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."
 - ii. They do this with their spiritual weapons.
 - a. **II Co 10:3-6** "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete."
 - iii. They do this by constantly examining themselves.
 - a. **II Co 13:5** "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"
 - 3. This is done from a desire to love and keep God's Word.
- C. Bottom line Christians should be certain of sin so that they can avoid it

II. Christians Should Be Certain Of Satan's Power (19)

- A. The evil one has great power in this world
 - 1. Since the time of Satan's fall he has had power in this world.
 - i. **Ac 26:18** "to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."
 - 2. He has the power to tempt us even Jesus.
 - i. **Mk 1:13** "And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him."
 - ii. **I Th 3:5** "For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain."

Lessons From I John

3. He has the power to deceive us.
 - i. **Gn 3:1-4** "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."
 - ii. **Mt 26:34-35** "Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." 35 Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same."
 - a. **Mt 26:69-75**
 4. He has the power to use others against us.
 - i. **Rv 12:17** "Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea."
 - ii. **II Th 2:9** "The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders"
- B. The evil one has great power in this world but so do we
1. We have the one on our side that is greater.
 - i. **Ro 16:20** "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."
 2. We have that which is needed to not be outwitted by Satan.
 - i. **II Co 2:11** "so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs."
 - ii. **II Ti 3:16-17** "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
 - iii. **II Pt 1:3** "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence"
 3. With these two we are greater than Satan who has great power.
 - i. **Ph 4:13** "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
 - ii. **Ja 4:7** "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

III. Christians Should Be Certain Of The Son Of God (20-21)

- A. We should be certain the Son of God has come
1. The world is certain that other great men have lived.
 - i. Alexander the Great
 - ii. Julius Caesar
 - iii. Plato
 - iv. Nebuchadnezzar

Lessons From I John

2. The world cannot deny Jesus lived either.
 - i. The reason we know these others lived is the written evidence telling us of each of them.
 - ii. However if you combined all of the evidence of these four men it would not add up to all the evidence of this one man Jesus the Christ.
 - a. The sheer volume of evidence proves the Son of God came to earth and lived amongst us humans.
 - b. **Ro 12:2** "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
 3. The Scriptures are proof text as well to the Son of God coming.
 - i. The Bible is easily proven to be from God and thus divine.
 - ii. It's perfection proves itself and thus proves Jesus as having come.
 - a. **Jn 20:30-31** "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."
- B. We should be certain the Son of God has given us understanding
1. Christ is so great that not only does He give us the knowledge we need but He gives us the understanding.
 - i. We have the mind of God.
 - a. **I Co 2:10, 16** "these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God... 16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ."
 - ii. We have the promise of wisdom/understanding give to those that ask for it.
 - a. **Ja 1:5** "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."
 2. The only question is by what mode do we get this wisdom?
 - i. Is it just given to...zap to us?
 - a. No this would be a miracle and those have ceased.
 1. **Mk 16:20** "And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen." (NKJV)
 2. **I Co 13:9-10** "For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away."
 3. **Ja 1:25** "But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

Lessons From I John

- ii. If not miraculously given then how is it providentially given?
 - a. Through testing us.
 - 1. **Ja 1:3** "for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."
 - 2. **He 11:17** "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son"
 - 3. **I Th 2:4** "but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts."
 - b. Through disciplining us.
 - 1. **He 12:7-12** "It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees"
- C. We should be certain of the Son of God and not idols
 - 1. After examining the facts, the substance and evidence of Jesus, we will be certain of the Son of God and have no need for idols.
 - i. **He 11:1** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (NKJV)
 - ii. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
 - 2. This doesn't mean we don't need to be on guard.
 - i. **I Pt 5:8** "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."
 - 3. It means we are growing in such a way as that we are more on the offensive against sin than defensive avoiding it.
 - i. **Lk 11:24-26** "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' 25 And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. 26 Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first."

Lessons From I John

- D. For the diligent student there is no doubt in Jesus as the Christ
1. There is only the desire to make Him proud of us.
 - i. **Jb 1:8** "And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?""

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren there are certainties in life and these three we must be certain on.
 - a. We must be certain of sin.
 - b. We must be certain of Satan's power.
 - c. We must be certain of the Son of God.
2. If we are certain in these three we will be able to be confident in our preparation for the life to come.
 - a. Let it be said of us that we are confident in the life to come because of our preparation here on earth for the eternal home above, heaven.
3. Question: Are you certain of where you stand today if today was the day the Lord was to come back?
 - a. If so continue in that confidence through the constant reliance on Him who has done so much for us always growing all the more as the day approaches.
 - b. If not why not. It is up to you as to whether or not you have this confidence and if you don't fix it now by repenting and coming back with stronger than ever relying on our great and awesome God.
4. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**