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# WHAT BELIEVERS CAN BE SURE 2

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WHAT DOES JESUS LOOK LIKE



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GREATER NEW ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH  
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## What Believers Can Be Sure Of – Closing 2?

1 John 5:13-21 (18-20)

Last week we started this look at the closing thoughts of John in his epistle.

For all intents and purposes the heart of the letter is behind us. Now John is simply reviewing that which we should have learned.

You see it 7 times in these final verses:

“You may know” or “we know” or “we may know”

These are the things we should have learned. These are the things that we can be sure of.

- I told you last time that John gives 5 of them here in these final 9 verses.
- I actually might amend that a little and call it 6.
- We may look at the final verse independently. We are looking at those things which believers can be sure of. Assurance is a good thing and assurance is something which God intends for believers to have.

We saw the first two last time.

### **Believers can be sure**

#### **#1 THAT WE ARE SAVED**

**1 John 5:13**

#### **#2 THAT WE ARE HEARD**

**1 John 5:14-17**

So we saw those two last week.

As believers in Jesus Christ we can be sure:

- That we are saved
- That we are heard

Now let's move on tonight to the next matter before us and that is:

### **3. THAT WE ARE SECURE**

**1 John 5:18**

Here we have another verse that has been subject to many different interpretations and applications.

SO WE NEED TO DO OUR WORK ON IT AS WELL!

In verses 16-17 we were clearly dealing with a brother who sinned.

So in one sense it SEEMS STRANGE

That John would say in verse 18 that, “no one who is born of God sins;”

For starters,

We are well aware of how John started his letter:

TURN BACK TO: 1 John 1:8

We could, I suppose, then say that we are talking about the habitual practice of sin.

And we could say that “no one who is born of God lives in the continual practice of sin”

That is, after all, what John spoke of back in chapter 3?

TURN TO: 1 John 3:7-8

AND WHILE THAT IS TRUE, I’m NOT certain that this is what John is referring to here.

THE CONTEXT of the verse sheds the needed light on the subject.

John says, “We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him”

From the context it is apparent that what John is referring to here is the specific sin of apostasy, or falling away from the faith.

If you’ll remember, that was a major issue for the recipients of this letter.

They were confused as to why some were abandoning the faith and leaving the church.

**JOHN EXPLAINED IT VERY CLEARLY IN THIS LETTER.**

**TURN TO: 1 John 2:18-20**

John had a simple explanation as to why some people were abandoning Christ and leaving the church.

The reason is because “they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us”. Those who are not genuine believers are

NOT secure. They are prone to deception and selfish desires which pull men from the church. **IT IS THE SIN OF APOSTASY!**

But John reminds the true believers here that they need not fear ever committing such a sin. WHY?

“He who was born of God keeps him”

This is another point of debate among commentators.

- Some say this is referring to Jesus
- Some say it is not Jesus, but rather the believer himself

The latter’s argument is that Jesus is never referred to as One “who was born of God”. But that’s not true.

John 1:18 “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Jesus is the “only begotten Son” and Jesus was “born of God”

And that is the real distinction in this verse. It is found in the verb tenses.

You see the difference between the word “is” and “was” Referring to the believer and John calls him “one who is born of God” indicating a present condition.

Referring to Jesus John call him “He who was born of God” indicating a past reality.

Beyond that even, we are well-aware that it has never been us who keeps ourselves. It has always been Christ who keeps us. (John 17:11-15) “(John 10:27-29) the security of the sheep has always been because of the strength of the Shepherd, not the strength of the sheep.

Christ protects His own and Christ keeps His own. (Hebrews 7:25)

Christ is a faithful High Priest who always lives to make intercession for us.

He is forever pleading our case before the Father.

(Read Romans 5:8-10)

There Paul speaks of The IMPLICATIONS of the resurrected and now ascended Jesus.

If His death could reconcile us to God then certainly His life can keep us reconciled.

THAT IS THE POINT:

- Those who believe in Jesus are secure,
- We are absolutely certain of this,
- We “know” this,

2 Timothy 1:12 “For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”

Jude 24-25 “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

AND JOHN WANTED YOU TO KNOW THIS.

There may be some who leave the church and deny Christ, but that is only because they were not genuine believers. TRUE BELIEVERS ARE KEPT!

And John says, “The evil one does not touch him.”

Think of it rather as “lay hold of”:

- We know, for example, that Satan sifts the wheat as he did to Peter.
- We know that he prowls seeking whom he may devour.
- We know he tempts
- We know he accuses the brethren

But he is NOT allowed to claim believers ever again.

He cannot lay hold of us again and he cannot enslave us again.

We are protected by Christ.

1 Peter 1:3-5 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

It really is as simple as that. You did nothing to get yourself saved and you do nothing to keep yourself saved.

Your soul is guarded by Christ, because he has purchased you and of those the Father gives Him. He loses nothing.

John 6:39-40 “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I myself will raise him up on the last day.”

**John clearly wanted to remind the church of this:**

- **Don’t let the apostates confuse you.**
- **Genuine believers are kept by Jesus.**

**We know that we are saved**

**We know that we are heard**

**We know that we are secure**

**Now the next idea is:**

#### **4. THAT WE ARE SET APART**

##### **1 John 5:19**

You can see that John has been addressing various issues that no doubt caused confusion for the church. Another one of those issues was that of being hated or persecuted.

IN THIS LETTER John had referenced the sort of attacks that the church had come under by the world.

**He mentioned DECEPTION**

**TURN TO: 1 John 2:26**

**He mentioned HATRED**

**TURN TO: 1 John 3:13-14**

**He mentioned REJECTION**

**TURN TO: 1 John 4:4-6**

All of those can be confusing issues for people to face.

- When someone continually argues with you about your beliefs
- And continually tries to get you to believe their doctrine...
- When someone grows to hate you for your beliefs...
- When someone refuses to listen to your message...

It can cause some doubt and uncertainty.

But John desired to make sure we understand that the reason for the animosity is NOT because we are doing something wrong.

Jesus fully explained in the upper room why there is a sharp division between us and the world.

John 15:18-21 “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. “But all these things they will do to you for my name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent me.”

Believers are hated very simply because they are set apart and they have been chosen out of the world. And this is why they are maligned and attacked and hated.

This should help you as it has me when it comes to being disliked and hated!

Jesus would talk about just how hostile this division could become.

John 16:1-4 “These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. “They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. “These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. “But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.”

In His High Priestly prayer Jesus addressed the issue before the Father.

John 17:14-19 “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. “As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into

the world. “For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.”

Jesus was well aware of the issues,

- We are no longer “of the world”
- But we have been sent “into the world”

And this reality is cause for hatred and animosity and rejection. And when this happens believers should not let such a reality be a source of confusion and doubt.

Instead, such a reality should be cause for great CONFIRMATION of our salvation. “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

The fact that the world hates us is only a confirmation that we are no longer with them.

1 Peter 4:3-4 “For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;”

God has saved you out of their circle and that is why they attack.

Colossians 1:13-14 “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Titus 3:3-7 “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

You see it everywhere in Scripture don’t you.

God has done remarkable things for you.

- He has saved you from sin.
- He has transferred you to His kingdom.



- He has filled you with His Spirit.
- He has called you His child.

That is why there is such hatred for you by the world. That is why they lie to you and malign you and hate you and reject you and ignore you.

They do that because they lie to and malign and hate and reject God.

They lie “in the power of the evil one.”

- Their father is the father of lies.
- Their father is adversary against God.
- Their father is the accuser of the brethren.

When they do those things, they are just doing the deeds of their father.

But you have a new Father now and are no longer in that family.

You are set apart and this explains the animosity.

This is one of those things John wrote about that you should know.

TURN TO: 1 John 3:10

John wanted you to be sure of that.

So as believers we are sure:

- **That we are saved**
- **That we are heard**
- **That we are secure**
- **That we are set apart**

**And the next thing we come to in this lesson is:**

## **5. THAT WE ARE CORRECT**

### **1 John 5:20**

Oh everyone loves that one!

WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE RIGHT.

And I know, you're not supposed to be so dogmatic in this day and age.

But as we talk about how you can be sure that you are correct,

I was listening to a sermon the other day and this is a quote from it:

This pastor preached a sermon called: “A Certain Uncertainty”

As part of his introduction he said this:

“One of the most disastrous developments in Western society since the end of World War II has been the loss of certainty. It’s not politically correct these days to hold strong opinions, to be convicted—to hold convictions about especially biblical truth; and that’s ironic because one of the founding documents of the American way of life, the Declaration of Independence, opens with a short preamble that’s followed by these famous words: “We hold these truths to be self-evident.” But in postmodern America, no truth is self-evident. We’re not even supposed to be sure what a person’s gender is until that person tells you his, her, or their pronouns, or until the kindergarten teacher figures it out...

People nowadays just don’t believe that it’s possible to know with any kind of certainty what’s really true, and so they just have one bedrock belief. This is their key presupposition: that anyone who is certain about anything is just arrogant, because if you don’t believe it’s possible to know anything for sure, how can you take seriously any truth claims, especially truth claims coming from someone so unenlightened as to believe that God has revealed truth in Scripture...

Postmodern wisdom therefore suggests that simple humility should keep us from ever claiming that we know anything for sure. That is the fundamental idea that’s actually driving human society right now: It’s the belief that no one, no one anywhere, has the authority to declare that anything is absolutely true. You can express your personal opinion as much as you like, but only if you acknowledge that it’s merely your opinion. You cannot make any universal truth claims, and if you do, you’ll be challenged. In fact, if you do, you might be forced off Twitter.

Now as Christians, you ought to recognize instantly, that is not humility, that’s unbelief.”

He would go on to quote:

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

The very essence of your faith...

The very essence of being a believer expects that

You will be a person of assurance and conviction.

God did not give you His word so that you could vacillate.

God gave the truth of His word so that we could be dogmatic.

Or as Steve Lawson (preacher) likes to say, “Bulldogmatic”

We battle this issue known as Post-Modernism today.

If you are not familiar with the term.

It used to be that we battled what is called “Modernism” which was the belief that all truth must be verified by science. If science didn’t verify it then it wasn’t true. And when the church fell into modernism we eventually fell into liberalism and finally apostasy.

When people started disregarding the Bible because it didn’t make sense to them scientifically (like Jesus walking on water or multiplying the loaves and the fishes) it led to unbelief.

But our culture is no longer a “MODERNISTIC” culture.

Now we have moved into post-modernism where the culture no longer believes in absolute truth (even scientific truth).

That is why an entire generation can argue about things like gender or whether or not  $2+2=4$ , It’s because they believe it impossible to know truth.

AND NOW WE ARE IN THIS POST-MODERN CULTURE, whereas the preacher I as listening too noted the only real error that you can commit is to be dogmatic because that is seen as arrogant.

And if you step out and say, “This is true” or “That is true” immediately the backlash will fall down on your head and you’ll be called arrogant or unloving.

THAT IS WHAT WE FACE.

Now in John’s day certainly it wasn’t post-modernism.

In John’s day it was **GNOSTICISM**. (Remember this back in the first lesson)

- John was dealing with people who had a higher knowledge than you.
- They had supposedly had some sort of spiritual encounter that gave them enlightenment that you didn’t have.

It must have been really hard to debate people like that.

I think to probably best give you the feel it would be like if you find yourself in a college classroom debating a professor or some PhD.

You know, they're educated and you aren't so you aren't qualified to correct or argue with them. I think that is probably a little more what it felt like for John's people. And I think you can see how intimidating this must have been.

Is it not intimidating for you when you are sucked in to some debate only to know if you disagree or state the truth they are going to malign you?

IT'S HARD.

No one likes to be called arrogant and no one likes to be called unloving  
BUT...

WE KNOW!!!

"And we know that the Son of God has come"

- We know Jesus is fully God.
- We know He came to this earth in human flesh.
- We know He is the Savior.

"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. This is the true God and eternal life."

Did you catch all the "we know"?

Did you catch all the "true"?

Listen class, they may malign you, they may call you uneducated and stupid  
Or they may call you arrogant and unloving.

But that doesn't change the fact that we are correct and because we have the truth! How can you say that Pastor Jackson?

John 8:31-32 "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

John 17:3 "This is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

1 Timothy 3:14-15 “I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”

We have the truth!

We know the truth!

Don't let them bully you and don't let them silence you.

We are the light in the world, not them. We have the truth, not them.

And this is one of the reason John wrote. TURN TO: 1 John 2:14

TURN TO: 1 John 2:21-24 TURN TO: 1 John 4:1-6

THE WHOLE IDEA OF THIS LETTER WAS TO TAKE REGULAR BELIEVERS LIKE YOU AND ME WHO WERE BEING SILENCED BY LIARS! Who had convinced them that they knew what you didn't, AND TO CONVINCE US THAT WE HAVE THE TRUTH!

WE DO Greater New Antioch and others!

We have the word of God.

It is true, every word is true and it cannot pass away.

Believe it and stand on it and proclaim it.

And this also John wanted you to know.

Now I know there is one more verse, but I am compelled I think to deal with it on its own next week.

But Christian if you believe in Jesus you can be sure:

- **That you are saved**
- **That you are heard**
- **That you are secure**
- **That you are set apart**
- **That you are correct**

**See you next week in Wednesday in the Word!!!!!!**