

February 25, 2024
Things We Can Know
Reminding the Church Series

Text: Selected Scripture

Introduction: I was reminded of some interesting facts about the apostle John this week:

- John was most likely the youngest of the disciples.
- It may be that he was a cousin of Jesus, since Salome was his mother and the sister of Jesus' mother Mary.
- Some believe he lived to be over 100 years old, despite being boiled in oil and on another occasion forced to drink poison.

Most of us think of John as *the beloved disciple* or *the disciple whom Jesus loved*.

John began his gospel by introducing Jesus as the Word, the One who was God. This Word took on flesh and came to the earth and was heralded by John the Baptist.

John then went on to author an extensive account of Christ's life, showing us through the teachings and miracles of Jesus that Jesus truly was the Son of God. After his account of the crucifixion and resurrection, John wrote this:

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. **John 20:30-31**

John's message was sure. As we have been studying 1 John, we hear the same claims and truths. This morning notice with me several things that we can know with certainty.

I found that the word *know* is used 45 times, so I'll leave some of the treasures for you to find.

Things We Can Know

I. Our Salvation Is Secure. 1 John 5:13, 19a

Know ~ knowledge characterized by certainty.

John wrote to convince the Christians that embracing the truths the apostles taught would guarantee rebirth and eternal life.

In **verse 19** he placed himself alongside his church folk – “we.”

A. Only Jesus can provide for salvation. **1 John 3:5**
Jesus takes away our *sins* “past, present, and future” and Jesus is *sinless* “past, present, and future.”

B. Security is fostered in obedience. **1 John 2:3-4**
By this we know that we know Him...if we keep His commandments.

We know Him – perfect tense; describes the person who has come to know God maintains an ongoing relationship with Him through obedience.
ginosko – knowledge gained through experience.
To keep is to guard carefully as if a treasure.
Something considered precious is not treated lightly.

- Disobedient people prove they are liars. **1 John 2:4**
- The saved do not keep on sinning. **1 John 5:18**
- A proof of rebirth is love for the brethren. **1 John 3:14-15**
Inseparable connection between love for the brethren, love for God and obedience to his commands. **1 John 5:2**
- Another proof of rebirth is righteous living. **1 John 2:29**
Anyone who continually practices the righteousness which Christ displayed is demonstrating that he has received birth from God, stamping him with the divine likeness.

(TCBL, Hebrews-Jude, p. 387)

One's actions assure the heart. **1 John 3:18-19**

II. The Holy Spirit Indwells the Believer. 1 John 3:24; 4:13

- The Spirit confirms the relationship that has been established.
- The Spirit convinces us of the humanity of Jesus. **1 John 4:2**

III. Truth Can Be Known. 1 John 2:21

John reminded the church that they had received the truth – it was fully reliable.

- They could know all things through the Spirit. **1 John 2:20**
See also **2 Peter 1:2-4**.
- They can discern truth from error. **1 John 4:6**

IV. God Is Attentive to Prayer. **1 John 5:14-15**

It is rooted in understanding God's will and promises according to His Word and then praying those promises into action. For each prayer request, we should mentally or vocally ask, "What possible reason do I have to think that God will answer this prayer?" We should be able to answer that question from His Word. (Guzik)

Have the petition – present tense; God's answer is as certain as the actual event would be.

John 15:7 *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*

R. A. Torrey – *Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has is at the disposal of prayer. But we must use the key. Prayer can do anything that God can do and since God can do anything, prayer is omnipotent.*

Philippians 4:6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*

George Mueller (great man of faith and prayer, established orphanages in England) *Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of His willingness.*

V. Christ's Return Is Nigh. **1 John 2:18**

The last hour – describes the age just before Christ's return.

- False teachers/teachings will be rampant.
- Glorification will come. **1 John 3:2**

Psalms 17:15 *As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.*

So What? Summary Verse ~ **1 John 5:20**

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, 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.

On the walls of an old medieval castle, these words were discovered:

You call me Master and obey me not.
You call me Light and see me not.
You call me the Way and walk in me not.
You call me Life and desire me not.
You call me Wise and follow me not.
You call me Fair and love me not.
You call me Rich and ask me not.
You call me Eternal and seek me not.
You call me Gracious and trust me not.
You call me Noble and serve me not.
You call me Mighty and honor me not.
You call me Just and fear me not.
If I condemn you, blame me not!

With knowledge comes responsibility ~ a right response.

God has revealed so much of Himself and welcomes us to know Him more and more each day.

I believe this is a major reason John wrote 1 John.

Questions to Ponder Through the Week
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1. Most Christians have questioned their salvation at some point in their lives. Have you? To what do you attribute your uncertainty or why have you always had such assurance? How does one's response to God's commands affect one's feeling of security in Him?

2. What tests do you utilize to determine what is true in the world today? Can truth be established? How might the world receive Christians if they insist they possess the truth? Are there ways we can share truth that will be more acceptable than other ways?

3. What does it mean to ask God for intercession *according to His will*? How can we know God's will? According to 1 John 5:14-15, how confident can we be that God is hearing us when we pray and that He will answer our prayers? How do you acknowledge answered prayer?

4. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Compare and contrast those verses with 1 John 2:18-23. What will characterize the days prior to Christ's return? Are we seeing these signs today? How are you preparing for His return?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-57. Does 1 John 3:2 offer a similar teaching? When will these changes take place? Why do these changes have to take place? Does this mean we will not look like we have looked here on earth? Do these changes only pertain to physical features?

Sermon Topic for March 3:

Joshua in Moses' Shoes Joshua

With the death of Moses, Joshua truly had some *big shoes to fill*. He was given the task of leading the children of Israel over the Jordan River into the Promised Land. He led the armies to victory upon victory as God's favor flowed. What have you learned about Joshua's character in your quiet time readings that attributed to his successes and failures?