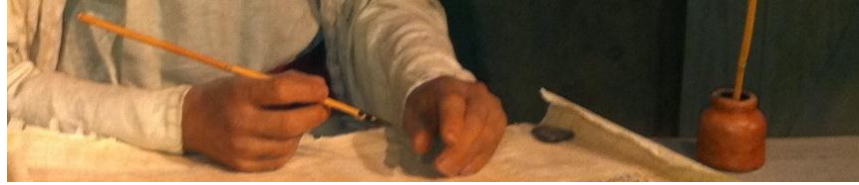


The 1st Letter of

John



Lesson 5-Living by the Pure Saving Faith of God

Focus: 1 John 5:1-21

➤ The Power of Christ for Overcoming the world (v.1-5)

- (v.1) Those who have received Jesus Christ as the Messiah are also people who have received new life from Heaven! Their hearts and minds have been converted to God. They are been “born of God,” or “**born again**” as Jesus put it in John 3:1-8.
- (v.2,3) The children of God **love God** and they keep His commandments! Jesus said that if we love God, then we will keep His commandments (**John 14:15, 21**). And His commandments should never be a burden to us! If we are converted to God then His commands should not be a burden, but rather a joy!! They are not some arbitrary list of rules, but rather they are Love for God and Man defined and spelled out clearly. They are the natural demands of love for God and for man. They are simply the expression of pure love and what it should look like! If we are fighting against God and we do not have pure and growing love for Him then maybe we will be having a hard time, but if we love God, and desire His will, then **His words should NEVER be a burden to us, but a joy!!**
- (v.4,5) To overcome the world and its sinful things then we must have the power of Christ. By faith, we must overcome. By faith, we may connect with the power of God and be overcomers! Jesus said that we can do nothing without Him (John 15:4,5), and that’s true! We cannot overcome, both loving God and man, as we should, without the power and help that comes through Christ Jesus! “All things are possible to them that believe.” **See Mark 9:20-29.** *The results which come from the power of God are incredible. By God’s power, things can be done, which NEVER could have been done on our own. God heals and restores us from our wretched conditions.*

➤ Powers of Heaven and Christ’s Coming by Water and Blood (v.6-8)

- Part of Verse 7 and part of verse 8 here in the KJV Bible has some troubles. These cannot be found in the original early texts. **See the following comments** on Erasmus’ mistake of including that portion in the Textus Receptus:
- *“Among the most controversial verses of the Bible is what some consider an explicit reference that supports the doctrine of the trinity, the Comma Johanneum, (1 John 5:7–8). Although verse 7 does not appear in any version of the Greek text prior to the ninth century, it appears in most of the Latin manuscripts, especially in the Vetus Itala (Old Latin predating Jerome). According to some textual critics, it was subsequently translated into Greek and added to later Greek manuscripts. It was later included in the King James Bible, something Isaac Newton commented on in An Historical Account of Two Notable Corruptions of Scripture. This is sometimes used as evidence to counter the King-James-Only Movement. Bart Ehrman suggests in his book Misquoting Jesus that the King James*

Version would not have included the passage if Desiderius Erasmus had not given in to pressure to include it in the Textus Receptus even though he doubted its authenticity.

The majority of modern translations (for example English Standard Version and New American Standard Bible) do not include this text. Albert Barnes (1798–1870) said regarding its authenticity:” [See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Epistle_of_John]

- The text portion of verse 7 and 8 that is not in most modern translations, and should belong there, reads, “7 ...*the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth...*”
- Jesus poured out blood and water at the cross (See **John 19:34**). Also, He was testified of by the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 3:16,17**). The evidence for Jesus’ place as the Messiah is very strong! The Spirit testified to it. His blood testified to it, which was shed for us (like Isaiah 53 said it should be). And the water of His baptism also testified to Him being the anointed one! The Spirit gives us life (Job 27:3), and the blood is life, and water gives life (Leviticus 17:11; Revelation 22:17). He wants to cleanse us by His blood, and by the washing of water, and by the work of His Holy Spirit (John 16:8).
- **Confidence in Him (v.9-15)**
 - We must trust and believe in Him! He is our power and our life! We can KNOW that we have life through Him and also we can KNOW that He hears and answers our prayers by the virtue of what Jesus Christ has done for us! So, when we ask in His name, according to His will, then we can KNOW that He hears us and that He answers according to His blessed and most perfect will! **We are to have life through His name!** (See Matthew 21:23-32’ **11:16-19**...where Jesus rebuked the unbelieving who could not be satisfied with the evidence).
- **Living as those who will have life (v.16-21)**
 - Finally this letter ends with some instruction on living to save those who can be saved and on living the righteous life for God, while the whole world is yet lost in sin. Let us seek to know and to follow God’s way! And let us help others to follow God’s way too!
 - (v.17) A “sin unto death” is sin that such as ignoring the Holy Spirit, refusing His voice, and refusing to repent of sin. For that type of stubborn sin there can be no forgiveness (See Matthew 12:31,32).

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you seek to KNOW God and to find confidence in His eternal, life-giving power?_____