

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

July 2016

True Christianity

INTRODUCTION

What makes people doubt their salvation?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 1 John 5:13-21

Note: John wrote this epistle to provide his readers with certainty about all that God has revealed concerning salvation. The formal argument of the letter ended in 5:12, and verses 13–21 are its postscript. John’s concluding remarks are not a collection of random thoughts, however, but form a powerful climax to all he has written. Throughout the letter, John has recycled tests to identify who is a true Christian. Those tests serve a polemic purpose; they expose the phony believers and the false teachers—the deceiving antichrists. But they also serve a pastoral purpose, giving increasingly stronger confidence and assurance to the genuine believers.¹

1. Notice that John is now writing in the first person. To whom is he writing? Vs 13
2. Why has John written this letter? Vv 13, 18; **1 Jn 1:4; 2:1; Jn 20:31**
3. Would John say that eternal life is a present possession or more of a hope for the future? **Jn 5:24**
4. What is the value of *knowing* that you have eternal life? **Heb 4:16**

Note: It has well been said that prayer is not a way of overcoming God’s reluctance but laying hold of His willingness. If we know God’s will, we can pray with boldness. This is “praying in the Spirit” (Jude 20), allowing the Spirit to give us the inward witness of God’s will, supported by the witness of God’s Word.²

5. How do you know if you are praying in God’s will? **Jn 15:7; Ps 66:18; Jn 14:13; James 4:3**
6. What is the sin that leads to death? Vs 16

Note: It may have been obvious to John’s readers what this sin was. It may have been the spiritual death of apostasy (Matt 12:31-32) where a non-Christian rejects the wooing of the Holy Spirit for the last time. 1 Sam 2:25 Heb 10:26-27 It may also have been the physical death of a believer such as Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).

7. How would you counsel someone that was afraid of committing the sin that leads to death? Vs 18
8. What is the consequence of a believer living in an unbroken pattern of sin? **1 Jn 3:9**
9. What are John’s three affirmations that someone is a Christian (child of God). Vv 18, 19, 20

APPLICATION

What golden nugget have you found in this study of 1 John?

*These closing verses (20-21) finally bring the epistle full circle. John began with the coming of the Word of Life (1:1–4); now he closes with the certainty that the Son of God has come. The present tense of the verb *hēkō* (come) indicates that Jesus has come and is still present. The Christian faith is not theoretical or abstract; it is rooted in the practical truth that God became man in the person of Jesus Christ.³*

¹ ² MacArthur, J. (2007). *1, 2, 3 John : MacArthur NT Commentary* (201–202; 209–210). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 778). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

MacArthur, J. (2007). 1, 2, 3 John : MacArthur NT Commentary © Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.