

**1 John: The Heart of a Pastor
The Assurance of Believers
1 John 5:13-21
Sunday a.m. 11/19/2017**

■ **We can have assurance of eternal life (1 John 5:13)**

• **The purpose of the letter (13)**

- ❖ John wrote this epistle, “these things”, so we can know that assurance of eternal life is possible
- ❖ John wanted his readers to have absolute certainty of eternal life, not a superficial understanding
- ❖ John addressed this issue because some struggled with assurance
- ❖ This struggle still exists today and will continue to be a struggle
- ❖ The word John uses for “know” means absolute, certainty, assurance
- ❖ John closed his gospel and this epistle with the same statement concerning eternal life

John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 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.

• **The recipients of the letter (13)**

It is written to “you who believe”, Christians

- ❖ The first chapter makes a definite statement that this letter is written to the church

1 John 1:8-9

✧ **Anyone who believes in the name of God's Son receives forgiveness of sins and eternal life**

❖ Assurance is not necessary to receiving salvation

✧ **John says we can have assurance, it is possible; it is not a hidden jewel that cannot be found**

2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV)

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble

■ **We can have Assurance that God Hears Our Prayers (1 John 5:14-17)**

• **Prayers for self (14)**

- ❖ Salvation gives us the privilege to pray to God
- ❖ Assurance of salvation is key to knowing our prayers are heard

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

❖ We can have confidence, fearless trust, when we pray

✧ **But, there is a condition; we must pray according to God's will**

❖ Jesus prayed according to the will of his father

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

✧ **We must be willing to except that our prayers will not be answered if they're not according to God's will**

- ❖ Prayer is not us trying to change God's will about a situation
- ❖ God answers prayers for what we need, not what we want

James 4:3 (NKJV)

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

❖ Living a righteous life is important in prayer

James 5:16 (NKJV)

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

He hears - A combination of hearing and granting **(15)**

✪ **God wants to answer our prayers, but we are the problem**

Dr. Curtis Vaughan

“He is more ready to here then we are to pray.

• **Praying for others (16-17)**

➤ **The sin not unto death (16a, b, 17)**

- ❖ John says three times that there is a sin that does not lead to death
- ❖ The death John speaks of is spiritual death

✪ **John is stressing that we pray for our Christian brother/sister that is in sin**

✪ **John says that when we see a believer in sin we are to ask, to beg, for his spiritual life to be restored**

James 5:20 (NKJV)

let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

✧ **Our desire should be to see a believer restored back to fellowship**

- **The sin unto death (16c)**

✧ **The sin unto death is rejecting Jesus Christ, God's Son**

Matthew 12:31 (NKJV)

“Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.

❖ **Do we not pray for these?**

John 17:9 (NKJV)

I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

❖ John's focus is on the false teachers that he has been writing about

❖ We are to pray for their salvation, but not blessings for their “ministry”

Note: there is not a certain sin that a believer may commit that would lead to the losing of their salvation

- **John's summary of his first epistle (1 John 5:18-21)**

- **A lifestyle of sin is not part of the believers life (18)**

1 John 3:6, 9

- ✦ Satan is unable to harm the believer
- ✦ Satan has no control over our life

We are in God's hands

Satan asked God for permission to sift Job and Peter

- **We know we are children of God (19)**

❖ We know the world is under Satan's control

❖ Satan does not own the world for he did not create it

• **We know Jesus gives us understanding (20)**

❖ John uses another word for know

❖ He uses the word for a relationship

✪ **Jesus gives us understanding, insight, into His Father, so we can have fellowship with God**

❖ We are in the Father in the Son

❖ He is the true God and He is eternal life

Close

❖ Stay away from idols, anything that takes the place of God