

1 John 5

Introduction.

- A. Illustration of faith (chair).
- B. Faith that leads to eternal life.
 - 1. Eternal life.
 - 2. Eternal death.
- C. Combatting the Gnostic belief in “special knowledge.”
- D. Closing assurances.

I. Find the proper object of faith (1-5).

- A. What we are to believe.
 - 1. Jesus is the Christ (Messiah).
 - a. God in the flesh (Is. 9:6ff.; Is. 53).
 - b. Proof of believe.
 - i. Love of fellow Christians.
 - ii. Love of God (obedience = love).
 - 2. Jesus is the Son of God.
 - a. Deity of Christ.
 - b. Proof: overcoming the world (only Christians).
- B. Results: born of God (cf. 2 Co. 5:17).

II. Find the proper basis of faith (6-12).

- A. Testimony of history (6-8) (Note the Erasmus comma).
 - 1. Water -- physical birth (cf. John 3).
 - 2. Blood -- crucifixion.
 - 3. Spirit -- Pentecost, result of the resurrection (cf. Jn.14:16-17).
- B. Testimony of God (9-12).
 - 1. Internal.
 - 2. After believing in Christ.
 - 3. Greater than all other testimony.
 - 4. Eternal life.

III. Closing thoughts (13-21).

- A. Confidence of salvation (13).
 - 1. Believe -- total commitment.
 - 2. In the name.
 - a. Acceptance of Christ's person and mission.
 - b. Eternal life (cf. Jn. 1:12).

B. Prayer (14-17).

1. According to God's will (Lk. 22:42).
 - a. Dag Hammersjold: Your cravings as a human animal do not become a prayer just because it is God whom you ask to attend to them.
 - b. Hear = to answer affirmatively.
 - c. Gives us security.
2. Some things must be left to God (16-17).
 - a. No agreement of interpretation.
 - b. Restoration of a sinning brother (Gal. 6; Mt. 5; Mt. 18) (false teachers are not brothers 2:19).
 - c. Mortal sin.
 - i. Spiritual (Jn. 16:9).
 - ii. Physical (1 Co. 11).
 - d. Connection with "unpardonable sin?"

C. Assurance (18-20).

1. Sin is not characteristic of the believer.
2. Eternal security of the believer.
3. What we know.
 - a. We are children of God.
 - b. The world is dominated by Satan.
 - c. The incarnation.
 - i. Gives understanding.
 - ii. Gives eternal life.

D. Idolatry (21).

1. Summary of the book.
2. Anything that is valued more than God.

IV. Key points of 1 John.

A. Person of Jesus.

1. Fully human.
2. Fully God.

B. Relationship with God.

1. We become his children.
2. We love God.
3. We love fellow believers.

C. Assurance of eternal life.