



"If Only I Knew Now What I Knew Then"

1 John 5:13-15

Introduction

- The gospel of John is written to unbelievers, and as it says in John 20:31, John wrote it, ***"so that they might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."***
- 1John is written, not to unbelievers, but to believers, to bolster their wavering faith.
- David French, a Christian political author said this, **"As our culture changes, secularizes, and grows less tolerant of Christian orthodoxy, I'm noticing a pattern in many of the people who fall away (again only Sampson knows his heart): They're retreating from faith not because they're ignorant of its key tenets and lack the necessary intellectual, theological depth but rather because the adversity of adherence to the increasingly counter cultural doctrine grows too great. Put another way, the failure of the church isn't so much of catchesis but of fortification – of building the pure moral courage and resolve to live your faith in the face of cultural headwinds."**
- 1 John 1
 - I saw Jesus. I touched Jesus. He is the Word of life, and I proclaim Him to you that He is eternal life and He, alone, gives eternal life.
 - ***"we are writing these things to that our joy may be made complete."***
 - Doctrinal truth of the holiness of God and the reality of sin.
 - Lies of the darkness versus the truth in the light of Christ.
- 1 John 2
 - He is our righteous Advocate before the Lord
 - Moral evidence of eternal life as obedience to God's commands
 - Relational evidence which is loving God and loving others.
 - He speaks about their previous faith in Christ
 - Children you believe that your sins are forgiven
 - Young men you have overcome the evil one
 - Fathers you know the Father who is from the beginning.
 - Do not love the world even as the world is squeezing in on you.
 - That which is antithetical to Jesus is pressing in on you. Go back to that which you know.
 - Abide in that truth that you heard and believed...Christ alone is where eternal life is found.
- 1 John 3
 - The love of God for us led Him to make us His children
 - J.I. Packer - **"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all."**
 - Christ made us children through laying down His life for us, now we have the privilege of doing so for one another.
- 1 John 4
 - Test the Spirits. If a teaching confesses anything other than Christ, who He is and what He has done, it's a lie.
 - Remember that God first loved us through Christ

- The trouble in this world is real, but it can be overcome in Christ and through Christ because we have true life in Him.
- 1 John 5
 - Those who are born of God will overcome the world through faith in Him.
 - Eternal life has broken through to you in time and space and it's Jesus.

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal LIFE."

- Knowing that you have eternal life fundamentally changes the way you live LIFE.
 - Security is not found in this world: COVID, Currency, Constitution, Congress, Commander and Chief, Family, Friends.
 - Trying to find security in this world is an attempt to self-protect which results in worry, fear, anxiety, despair, depression and condescension toward and condemnation of others.
 - Knowing you have eternal life means that you are free to give your life away.

"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him."

- God is sovereign
 - Ephesians 1:11, ***"In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of His will."***
- God's will is perfect
 - Romans 12:2, ***"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."***
- God's will is good
 - Romans 8:28, ***"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."***
- If you have confidence that you have eternal life, then you have the same confidence in the giver of that eternal life. Then you will seek that which is the sole driving principle of Christ's life, that is yours: the Father's will.
- With a growing knowledge of His character, His truth and His ways we ask. If He says yes, we know that was His will and we thank Him.
- With a growing knowledge of His character, His truth, and His ways, we ask, and if He gives us something else, we pray, align my heart with yours. I trust you, and I bend my will to your perfect will. And so, either case we get what we ask for.

Romans 8:32 ***"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"***

Hebrews 4:16 ***"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace in our time of need."***