## First John 5:13-21

- 1. The closing of the book.
- 2. The restatement of John's purpose for writing: "That you may know that you have eternal life."
- 3. Believers may know their prayers are heard and answered.
- 4. John restates his main points:

First John 5:13 – "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."

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- 1. Purpose of writing the Gospel was also given John 20:31
- 2. Corrupted teaching and additional philosophies had led John's believers to wonder if they really had eternal life. John says, "Yes."
- 3. Eternal life is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- 4. Note "life" and "eternal" are separated in the Greek which adds emphasis.

First John 5:14 – "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us."

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- 1. Result of believing is confidence before God. Here, it is in prayer.
- 2. Conditions:
  - a. Remain in Jesus and his words remain in you (John 15:7
  - b. offered in the name of Jesus (John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23-26)
  - c. Accepting God's will as Jesus did in Mark 14:36
- 3. God's will does not need to be seen as specific and static as if every detail is foreordained and destined to happen. If we consider God's general will, then our prayers and how we achieve his will are highly depended upon us.

First John 5:15 – "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."

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- 1. We pray now knowing that things have changed. The answer or the results of our prayer are still future.
- 2. God provides the empowerment and the gifts now to fulfill our requests in the future First John 5:16 "If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that."

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- 1. Sin that can be forgiven is the sins of believers failing and giving into temptation. Pray for your fellow believers.
- 2. Sin that leads to death is the sins of the unbeliever that have been mentioned in this book and are not the sins of a believer:
  - a. Denial of Jesus
  - b. Refusal to obey God's commands
  - c. Loving the world and the things in the world
  - d. Hatred of the believing brothers

## First John 5:17 – "All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death."

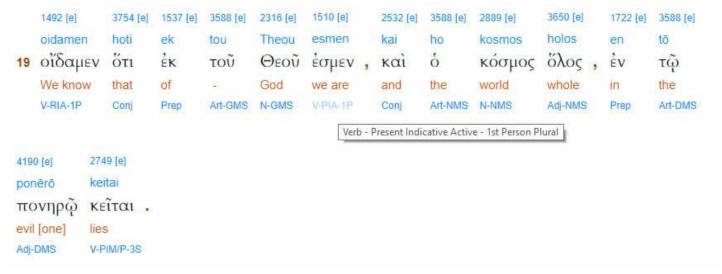
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First John 5:18 – "We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him."

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- 1. 5:13, John wrote: "I write these things to you so that you may know." Now he begins to identify in a series three things that we know to be Christian facts:
  - a. Anyone who is born of God does on commit sin (5:18)
  - Mankind is divided into two groups: believers delivered from sin by Jesus and unbelievers who remain under the control of the world (5:19)
  - c. God's Son has come into this dark, hopeless world to bring Truth, Light and Life (5:20)

## First John 5:19 – "We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."



First John 5:20 – "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life."

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- 2. Jesus brought knowledge of the Truth so we could be delivered
- 3. This is not Gnosticism (which was based on knowledge), but Christianity based on God's revelation of the Truth in the dark world.

## First John 5:21 – "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."



1. "Idols" refers to the false teaching the believers are being tempted with and having to reject even as the world embraces the false concepts of Jesus, Christianity and God.