

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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KNOWING AND GROWING

I JOHN 5:11-21

Growing up I loved to hunt and often when I got home from school would get my 410 and head for the hills to squirrel hunt. I have hunted most of my life and would still enjoy hunting if I could find a place to hunt. Story of the lawyer, a doctor, and a preacher who went hunting together.

Friends, in order for us to know and to grow, we have to make sure that Scripture does not go in one ear and out the other. **The Apostle John wants to make sure he's hit the target so he gives five final blasts.**

Have you noticed that we live in a culture that affronts anything that's dogmatic? In our politically correct climate, there is no tolerance for exclusive truth claims. It seems to me that we have more and more knowledge but less and less certainty. Many churches have caved as well, with some "emerging" leaders saying that you can't know anything with any certainty. **This religion of "certain uncertainty"** is causing many to bail on their beliefs, leading some to become spiritual shipwrecks.

What do we know for sure? Can we be certain of anything? As we've seen in our series in I John, God wants us to know so that we can grow and understand **Genuine Christianity**.

When I did a search this week, I came up with **26 different times** that the words "**we know**" is used in I John. Here in our Scripture passage the phrase "**WE KNOW**" is used five times here. Like shotgun blasts, we'll go through them rather quickly...I just hope they don't go in one ear and out the other.

I. CERTAINTY OF SALVATION Vs.11-13

Last week we learned that **belief** leads to new **birth** which must affect our **behavior**. I believe it's so important for believers to have the certainty of their salvation that we should memorize **1 John 5:11-12**: Let's break this down...

- **Eternal life is the present possession of believers**
- **Eternal life is also a future fact**
- **The only way to have eternal life is through the Son**

If you're saved but you're struggling with knowing with certainty that your salvation will never be taken from you, then **1 John** is the book for

you and the verse for the sureness of our salvation is **5:13**.

The second truth that we **KNOW** is...

II. CERTAINTY OF ANSWERED INTERCESSION Vs. 14-17

- **Pray with confidence - Verses. 14-15**
- **Pray with compassion - Verses 16-17**

I'm always challenged by these words spoken by Samuel in

1 Samuel 12:23: "*As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you.*"

The third truth that we **KNOW** is...

III. CERTAINTY OF VICTORY V-18

Christ keeps you safe. The word "**keeps**" means "*to attend carefully and to guard what is owned.*" He prays for you and protects you because you are His possession.

The fourth truth that we **KNOW** is...

IV. CERTAINTY OF BEING IN THE FAMILY OF GOD V-19

Again, we see two contrasts.

- **Children of God**
- **Children of Satan**

The fifth truth that we **KNOW** is...

VI. CERTAINTY THAT JESUS IS GOD V-20

Notice that the Son of God "**has come**"(NKJV) and He is true, and He is the true God, meaning He is genuine and authentic.

Final Warning Shot V-21

The very last verse in this book seems both abrupt and a bit out of place. It's as if John reloads and pumps one final slug into the chamber. And then he squeezes off a warning shot that actually makes total sense when we ponder it. Let's look at **verse 21**. An idol represents that which is false and empty; and a person who lives for idols will himself become false and empty.

Few people today bow to idols of wood and metal. Nevertheless, other idols capture their attention and affection. Idols like: *Covetousness*, for example, is idolatry (**Col. 3:5**), your bankbook or stock portfolio can be worshiped just as fervently as a so-called heathen worship his ugly idol. It also might be a phone, computer, or video screen.

An idol is a temporal *thing*, Jesus Christ is eternal God. "*For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal*" (**2 Cor. 4:18**, NASB). What do you think about, dream about and devote your time and energy to? John says, "**Little (dear) children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.**" So, John's admonition, "Keep yourselves from idols," can be paraphrased, "**Watch out for the imitation and the artificial and be real!**"